



National Pg 3

'Chamwino's Uhuru Hospital almost complete'



National Pg 4

PM to grace international graduation



National Pg 6

TALIRI to enhance production of hay bales



Ten pupils dead in fire outbreak, RC shuts dorms

Death toll likely to rise, says village chairman

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday sent condolences to the management of Byamungu Islamic English Medium Primary School in Kyerwa District, Kagera Region, following the death of 10 pupils in a fire outbreak in a school dormitory on Sunday night.

President Magufuli aired the condolences yesterday when addressing a rally at the Mazaina grounds in Chato District, Geita Region.

"I am saddened by the death of the pupils who died after fire burnt a dormitory at Byamungu," he said, leading the gathering in observing a one minute of silence to honour the deceased.

Kagera regional commissioner Marco Gaguti said the fire broke out on Sunday at around 11pm, destroying a dormitory which

accommodated more than 70 pupils in Itera village. The school is for boys only.

RC Gaguti said the 10 victims were burnt beyond recognition and three of the seven injured pupils are in a critical condition.

He said the deceased, aged between six and 12 years, were critically injured and had inhaled smoke after the children were overpowered by the flames.

"We've appointed a probe team, also involving police and fire department officials to conduct thorough investigations into the accident," he said.

The source of the fire was in the dormitory where 74 children were sleeping, he said.

The children found themselves helpless amid the heavy smoke that engulfed the building where they were trapped, he said, noting that all boarding services at the



TRAGEDY AT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Residents of Itera ward in Kyerwa District, Kagera Region, pictured yesterday viewing what remained of the Byamungu Islamic Primary School dormitory after it was gutted by a midnight fire. The incident left ten pupils dead and six injured. Photo: Correspondent Lillian Kugakingira

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SAU prefers govt of national unity

By Guardian Correspondent

SAUTI ya Umma (SAU) Union presidential candidate Muttamwega Mugaywa (pictured) has said if elected he will form a government of national unity (GNU) to allow Tanzanians from different political affiliations to contribute to the country's development.

Mugaywa was speaking over the weekend at the official launching of his party's general

election campaign at the Ukonga suburb of the city of Dar es Salaam, also unveiling the party's election manifesto.

"Our government will adopt changes to the Constitution in order to form a unitary cabinet since it is important to work together so that everyone contributes to the country's development," he stated.

Mugaywa noted that he would like to get a prime minister like Kassim Majaliwa saying he is a hard worker, underlining that the premier has set a good example in the government by making follow ups on President John Magufuli's directives.

Tanzanians want development and in that process, every individual without regard for their political affiliations should take part towards achieving this goal, the presidential aspirant emphasized.

He said the CCM government has accomplished a lot, "but it would not be bad if it stays aside and let the opposition continue

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EU grants Dar 70bn/- to ease COVID-19 impact

By Guardian Reporter

THE European Union (EU) is to provide Tanzania with 70bn/- in grant aid to combat effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country's economy.

The pledge was given by the President of the EU Council, Charles Michel when receiving credentials from Tanzania Ambassador in Belgium who is also accredited to the EU head offices in Brussels, Ambassador Jestas Nyamanga.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation said in a statement



The EU is ready to increase its cooperation with Tanzania and other African countries in the fight against Covid-19

yesterday that the event was held at the EU headquarters.

President Michel said part of the money will be used to construct electricity and water infrastructures in government hospitals, health centres and dispensaries.

The EU was stepping in to support efforts by of the Tanzania government in wake of the coronavirus pandemic, noting that the issuance of the funds was in the final stages of being effected.

"The EU is ready to increase its cooperation with Tanzania and other African countries in

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'CCM is decided that no more donor dependency'

By Henry Mwangonde, Chato

CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli yesterday said his government has been implementing giant infrastructure projects with intent to build a strong economy and get rid of donor dependency.

Addressing a campaign rally at Mazaina grounds in his home district of Chato in Geita Region Dr Magufuli said he was seeking re-election so that this dream becomes a reality.

He however, said though the projects may not bring immediate results, hopes are alive that by



CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally

the next ten to 20 years, Tanzania will have a strong economy free of donor dependency.

"I have heard some people saying if elected they will implement projects with funds from donors. Sometime I ask myself for how long will we depend on donors? This country is rich," he declared.

Major projects launched by the government include the Julius Nyerere hydropower project, the Standard Gauge Railway from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza, construction of new airports and purchasing new planes for the

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Ten pupils dead in fire outbreak, RC shuts dorms

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school have been suspended as a precautionary measure.

"We ask parents whose children have been residing there to take them home until further notice," he said.

The regional authorities had also instructed the relevant departments to inspect other schools with boarding facilities to establish if they observe safety standards, and take stern legal action against schools offering boarding services to students without valid permits.

Munakara Mohammed, the Itera village chairman, told journalists that efforts to rescue the children failed as the fire spread rapidly.

The death toll was likely to rise as some of the injured children hospitalized at the Kyerwa District hospital were in a critical condition.

"My prayers go to the families of the

children who died this morning. This is a tough time for the families of the victims and all the people in Kagera Region," he said.

Back in June, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa had directed the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) to take thorough precautions against fire accidents by intense inspection of residential facilities for pupils and students countrywide.

Such infrastructure must be installed with working protective devices against fire outbreaks for students safety, the premier had emphasized.

He was speaking in Dodoma at a function to receive a school constructed by the National Assembly through funds raised by women legislators organized by the Tanzania Women Parliamentarians Group (TWPG).

Lissu pledges to make Iringa the hub of modern furniture manufacturing in EA

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA Presidential candidate, Tundu Lissu yesterday said if elected, his government will invest more efforts to make Iringa Region a hub of modern furniture manufacturing in East and Central Africa.

According to him, the region has been blessed with plenty of timber trees but the potential is yet to be exploited due to lack of committed leaders.

Addressing a public rally as part of his ongoing election campaigns in Mufindi North and Mafinga town, Lissu said that despite being rich in timber trees as well as tea farming, the region and its people have remained poor.

"Iringa has a good number of natural resources, and all these should have been used to transform lives of this area, but majority of them are living in abject poverty, if I will be elected as president of this county, I make sure that many timber factories are built here to stimulate trade and economic growth," Lissu said.

He added that the region's populace will benefit immensely from various investments which will be initiated by his government aiming to address

various challenges facing the area.

Lissu said his government would change the governance system to allow Tanzanians in particular in surrounding areas to fully own the available natural resources, instead of being enjoyed by people from other parts.

He also said he would remove all taxes and levies that tree and tea growers have been paying to enable them benefit from their toils and improve their welfare.

He said the region has continued to face various challenges including poor road networks despite having abundant natural resources. "If you elect us, we will create a system to manage the available agricultural resources including timber and tea plantations in Iringa Region.

Mufindi is one of the leading districts with a variety of tree and timber resources, but yet its people are poor," said the presidential candidate.

Lissu assured the residents that Chadema will address all the challenges in the region and make sure that residents benefit with the resources. He highlighted the need to re-write the country's constitutions to be able to make some changes that bars people from owning resources found in their respective areas.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pays his last respects to former first Attorney General Mark Bomani, who died at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam on Thursday aged 88 and was buried in the city yesterday. Bomani Photo: PMO

SAU prefers govt of national unity

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from where it has reached. In that we quest shall form a national unity government that will also incorporate CCM," he affirmed.

He said in case he becomes Union president, he will ensure his government has 12 cabinet dockets, insisting the number is quite sufficient. "There are no reasons for a multitude of ministries," he declared.

"In our government there will not be the Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB). We will instead establish a board which will

ensure every Tanzanian gets higher education," Muganyizi said, pointing at the numerous challenges facing HESLB at present.

He also promised to purchase 30 planes and create 1.8m jobs every year, with the minimum wage in the public sector increased to 1m/- per month while those in the private sector pocket 500,000/- minimum per month.

"When we come to power we will not forget the farmers. We want them to start practicing modern agriculture with modern farming tools such as tractors to benefit from their toil. My

government will ensure better prices for farmers' crops."

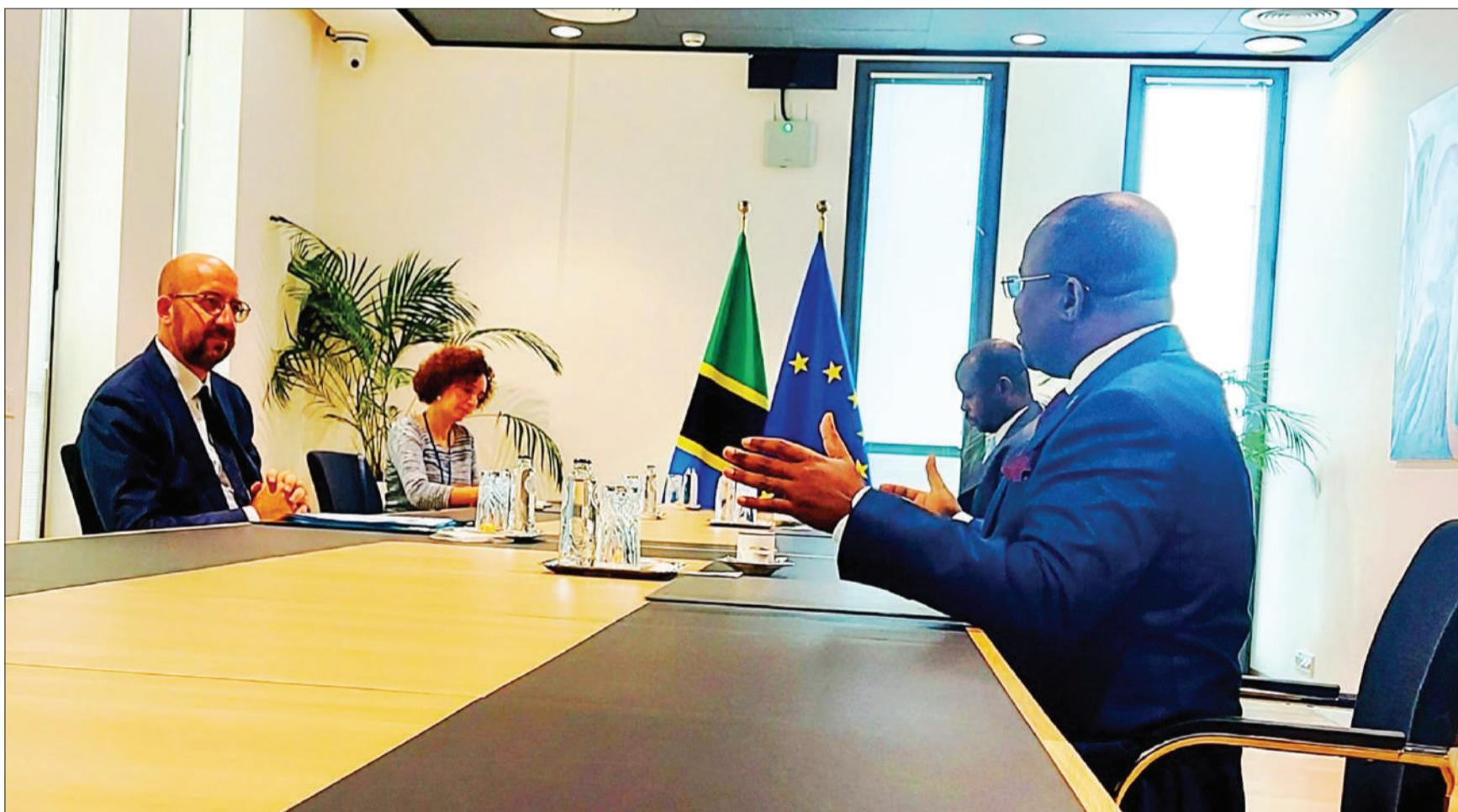
The SAU government will provide 1m/- loans to small scale entrepreneurs including food vendors to improve their businesses, he vowed.

Tanzanians will go to the polls to vote for the president, legislative representatives and ward councilors on October 28, by the time schedule issued by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

NEC data shows that about 29m people have registered to vote in this year's election, compared to some 23m voters in 2015.

The electoral body had cleared 15 candidates to vie for the Union presidency in the forthcoming polls, who are John Magufuli (CCM), Leopold Mahona (NRA), John Shibuda (ADA-Tadea), Mutamweya Mgaywa (SAU), Jeremiah Maganja (NCCR), Cecilia Mbaga (DM), Prof Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) and Philipo Fumbo (DP).

Others are Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo), Queen Sendiga (ADC), Hashim Rungwe (Chaumma), Khalfan Mazrui (UMD), Seif Maalim Seif (AAFP), Twalib Kadege (UPDP) and Tundu Lissu (Chadema).



Jestas Abuok Nyamanga (R), Tanzania's Ambassador to Belgium who is also accredited to Luxembourg, the European Union Commission and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat, makes remarks on Tanzania and the ACP Secretariat to European Council president Charles Michel (L) in Brussels yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CCM is decided that no more donor dependency'

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national carrier, Air Tanzania.

Dr Magufuli admitted that the country experienced various challenges ranging from security worries and social disturbances but a lot has been done to address them.

Directing his attention to those who have castigated him for not travelling outside, he said he wants to build strong relationships with Tanzanians

who voted for him before going anywhere.

"I have not travelled beyond this continent for the last five years and I will not go anywhere until I finish plans that I have for Tanzanians," he told an enthusiastic gathering.

Elaborating, he cited the security challenges in the killings in Kibiti district in the Coast region where scores of local government officials and CCM leaders were killed, along with up to 10 police officers.

The incumbent president listed airports that have been renovated and expanded in the last five years as Mwanza, Musoma, Iringa and Chato, shifting to higher education where he said his government spent 450bn/- funding the loan system.

Dr Magufuli who is seeking re-election similarly noted that his government has spent 1.09trn/- to finance free education from primary to secondary school level.

Earlier, CCM Secretary General Dr

Bashiru Ally Kakurwa refuted reports that CCM was planning to get more parliamentary seats in order to change the Constitution and let Dr Magufuli add more years to his presidency.

Dr Bashiru said this was the last time he was speaking on the matter saying at no time will the president pursue such objectives.

"Those who are furnishing these rumors are people who have run short of ideas," he added, motioning that they should be ignored.

EU grants Dar 70bn/- to ease COVID-19 impact

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the fight against Covid-19 and its effects on the economy," he said.

Ambassador Nyamanga applauded EU member states for allowing air travel to countries that have experienced intense reduction in Covid-19 infections, including Tanzania.

This aid extension shall help the country scale up tourism and other sectors, the envoy noted.

On August 20, Constantine Kanyasu, the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism asserted that the tourism sector is facing a

hard period, like never before since independence.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the second quarter of the year the number of tourists to various sites of attraction had plummeted, noting that the sector depends on income from tourist visitations by 95 per cent in its operational income.

The more affected institutions are the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority (NCA), the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS), he added.

'Women's empowerment and gender equality is ADC agenda'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ALLIANCE for Democratic Change (ADC) presidential candidate Queen Cuthbert Sendiga has said gender equality and women's empowerment has been ADC's agenda which enabled her to contest for the top most position.

Speaking to this paper in Zanzibar, Sendiga said women have great ability to become leaders and it was not good to reserve the top most post to men alone.

The candidate called on women to support her and vote for her in disregard to party affiliations so as to let women lead the country, saying she has the capability to do so.

She called upon various institutions defending gender equality to support her since her aim was to ensure women voices reach all groups in regard to the challenges faced by women folk.

"I am saddened to note that not even a single women institution has come up to give me support since I collected

nomination forms and later endorsed by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

She said in case she is elected to be president, she will ensure the existence of equality in democratic space and adherence to human rights.

She said President John Magufuli achievements are in road infrastructures that as enabled people to conduct business activities for economic development.

She also said when her party comes to power it will concentrate more in strengthening the agricultural sector because infrastructures for transporting farmers' crops to markets already exist.

"I am saddened to note that not even a single women institution has come up to give me support since I collected nomination forms and later endorsed by the National Electoral Commission (NEC)."



Tusumuke group chairman Christopher Dioniz (2nd-R) and ward community development officer Asha Chogohe (R) distribute foodstuffs to needy people at Nzuguni in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

My special task is to revive grapes production, says Professor Lipumba

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Civic United Front (CUF) presidential candidate Prof Ibrahim Lipumba has assured Dodoma grape farmers that if elected he will invest more efforts to revamp and transform farming and find a reliable market for the crop.

According to Lipumba, his government will invest in searching reliable markets while educating the public on the importance of seeking markets online.

Addressing a public rally as part of his ongoing election campaigns in Chamwino, Dodoma, Lipumba said that once entered into power, his party will ensure that grape farmers reap big from their sweat and thus fight poverty.

He said that the country is still lagging behind in the agriculture sector due to poor investments and commitment.

"The current government has failed to invest much in the sector. Majority of our farmers are still poor despite spending much of their energy and funds on farms, I will transform the sector and make sure that farmers benefit from their sweat," Lipumba said.

According to him, in the party's 2020 election manifesto, is to conduct major transformation in the agriculture and livestock sectors to benefit the majority.

"We are going to ensure that our farmers adopt and use modern farming practices so as to get more yields and income," he said.

He said sorghum and millet have huge market demand in the world as

some countries use the crop for animal feed.

"These crops have a huge market locally and abroad, if we put in place a strong system, our farmers will reap big. The Chinese need a lot of tonnes of sorghum to feed their livestock," he said

Prof Lipumba noted that Tanzania needs to put in place a good system so as to make sorghum a commercial crop move which will transform lives of millions of farmers.

On animal husbandry, the candidate said cattle are being raised locally instead of using modern technology to get good quality cattle who will be able to win national and international markets.

"Majority of our livestock keepers do not have knowledge, skills and technology on how to modern keep their animals, we are yet to utilize the potential we have in the livestock sector, so all these areas will be addressed by my government," he said.

Prof Lipumba further said that his government will create strong systems and policies to protect the country's environment so as to fight climate change impacts.

Chamwino constituency candidate Diana Simba said that the economy in the area has deteriorated, poverty has increased due to poor infrastructures such as roads.

"If elected I will make sure that I make proper use of the constituency Fund to address various challenges facing the public, so do not make a mistake in the forthcoming election, go and vote for CUF so as to bring you development," she said.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Construction of Chamwino's Uhuru Hospital 87 pct complete - engineer

CONSTRUCTION of Uhuru Hospital in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region is 87 per cent complete following the government's injection of 2.3bn/- provided by Bharti Airtel from India for construction.

This was announced by the project's engineer Girimu Kanansi during the visit at the hospital by Airtel Tanzania's communication officer, Jackson Mbando

Kanansi said the completed wing has been built professionally by SUMAJKT, a departure from the usual practice when contracts for such big projects were often awarded to foreigners.

"The work going on now is putting up the floors, electrical system and wall plastering, and I thank the government for extending sending health services nearer to the people, especially in Dodoma Region, the nation's capital," said Kanansi.

He said the building was expected to be completed in May this year but was not possible due to heavy rains that delayed delivery of many construction equipment to the project site.

Mbando said his company has the practice of visiting the project site from time to time to see its development, because it is part of the country's development project.

Speaking to reporters when Airtel Tanzania was handing its dividend to the government, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Finance and Planning Dotto James said Tanzania government initiated investigations over the ownership of Airtel Tanzania

and later held talks with its parent company, Bharti Tanzania of India in 2018 that saw the government control 49 per cent of shares.

He said the agreement was aimed to benefit the two sides, which culminated in the chairman of Bharti India Sunil Mittal providing 2.3bn/- to the government as a way of thanks ushering the beginning of new agreement beneficial to both sides.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Seif: My administration's top priority remains enhancing economic growth

ZANZIBAR ACT-Wazalendo presidential candidate Seif Shariff Hamad says if he will be elected he will ensure the 'Isles' economy is strengthened by looking for new sources of incomes including building a new port and a modern international airport.

Hamad was speaking at a mammoth election campaign rally at Kibandamaiti grounds in Zanzibar.

He said Zanzibaris have no need to live in poverty and pledged that if elected he will make Zanzibar become 'Dubai' of Africa.

Hamad said Zanzibar was rich with many income sources but lacks creativity in utilizing them, and promised to develop infrastructures in ports and airports to spur economic growth, as the islands were well located geographically.

He said his government will put in place friendly environment for investment in Zanzibar, while also pledging to improve agricultural and industrial sectors.

"If elected I will make ensure all Zanzibaris were happy because every person will be able to access to all social services," he said.

He called on the youth in the Isles who are yet to get married to prepare themselves for marriage and those already married to add another wife because once he becomes president, the economy will be strengthened.

Hamad who is vying for the presidency for the sixth time in a row since multiparty democracy was adopted said he

will improve the education sector and will provide education for free up to university level to enable the country have adequate experts to spur development.

He also said he would ensure to put in place a new constitution that will answer to aspirations of all Zanzibaris.

He said as for now the doors to the State House were open after the Zanzibar Electoral

Commission endorsed his candidature, adding that he would never agree to be robbed of victory in this election and called on supporters to guard their votes.

The leader of ACT-Wazalendo Zito Kabwe said if the party wins it will ensure the formation of a joint income account for the Union to enable Zanzibar benefit from the Union's incomes,



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Majaliwa to officiate at the second international graduation for students from foreign varsities

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is on Saturday expected to grace the second International Graduation ceremony for students who studied in universities abroad.

Abdulmalik Mollel, the director of Global Education Link (GEL) told this paper that over 400 graduates who studied in different universities abroad will be awarded with certificates and different awards in a unique ceremony to be held in Dar es Salaam.

He said that the event will involve a graduation ceremony, businesses and job fair which will be exclusively conducted by the invited local and international investors, employers, recruitment agencies and financial institutions to exhibit potential employment and financial opportunities to graduates.

He said the intention of the graduation ceremony is to make sure those graduates know their positions and contribute immensely in the development of the nation through their skills.

"Our aim is to make sure those who study abroad do not feel lonely due to the fact that they are regarded as heroes of the nation who abandoned different job opportunities abroad and return back to help their country," he said.

According to him, GEL's intention is also to connect the graduates with different government, private institutions and investors to build networks among them after they have stayed abroad for a very long time.

Mollel said that over 3,000 students who were enrolled through Global Education Link have successfully graduated from various overseas universities in various fields including medicine

and allied sciences, engineering basic sciences, business law, arts and humanities," he said.

"For the first time in Tanzania on August 11, 2019 GEL held the first graduation ceremony for 300 students who successfully completed their studies abroad. The event involved 2,000 participants, including families, employing institutions, education stakeholders, business entities and various government officials.

He said that this year's ceremony will provide opportunities for GEL, families and friends to pay special tribute to graduates for the outstanding efforts they have shown in earning their diplomas or degrees.

"We conduct their graduation ceremonies in the country because most of our students fail to attend their graduation in their respective colleges abroad due to various impending factors," Mollel added.

He said the factors include challenges on visa extension for graduates, unfavourable expenses for return air tickets especially when families were to be included to accompany the graduates abroad and time consuming for graduates to travel back to their respective universities to attend the ceremony.

Mollel said during the graduation graduates will share the excitement and importance of their academic accomplishment with fellow students, families, friends and there will be awards in recognition of outstanding overall in academic performance, leadership, innovation and creativity and best business proposal.

He added that graduates will also get a chance to qualify for a startup business loan by showcasing their business proposals and innovation to investors and financial institutions.



Ahmed Akbarali (R, in white T-shirt), Vodacom Tanzania's Lake Zone acting head of sales, briefs Musoma district commissioner Dr Vincent Anney Naano (L) shortly after the launch of a Vodacom shop in the district at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

RURAL Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) says water supply situation in Tanga Region has continued to improve through construction and/or repair of water projects.

Speaking here yesterday to reporters, RUWASA manager for Tanga Region Upendo Lugongo said the supply of piped water in the region was now at 62.5 per cent and 54 per cent in small towns, saying it was the result of the government's policy that requires people not to be more than 400 metres from piped water.

She said during the fifth five phase of government a total of 54 projects

Tanga Region piped water supply stands at 62.5 pct, says RUWASA

costing 19bn/- were implemented and 64 projects costing 27bn/- were ongoing.

She said there are 30 projects dubbed 'Lipa kwa Matokeo Makubwa' (BVR) that have been implemented this year and that this year alone they had received 1.2bn/-.

"In 30 projects will be implemented, five will be constructed, 10 will be refurbished and 15 will be have their water supply coverage expanded,"

Upendo said.

She said Handeni District has three big water projects costing 28bn/- that will address water supply challenges, and whose supply is currently at 40.5 per cent.

She said Kilindi, Mkinga and Muheza districts have 7 big projects, while Pangani District has 10 projects valued at 100bn/- and Tanga City has two water projects valued at 360m/-.

She called upon all people to take

care of water infrastructures including sources and reminded that the new water law imposes a fine of between 100,000/- to 5m/- fine for anyone who had destroyed water infrastructures including water sources.

RUWASA manager for Pangani District Rajabu Yahaya said the formation of Water Consuming Communities and Executive Councils had helped in the increase of revenues from water consumers.

Sculptors lament decline in sales amid Covid-19 crisis

By Beauty Mwakatobe, TUDARCo

SCULPTORS at the Mwenge market in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region have associated the drop in business with the outbreak of the novel coronavirus as most of their customers are

foreigners.

They are concerned that the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in lockdowns and suspension of air travels has seen most of them selling a few products compared to previous months.

Speaking on behalf of other

sculptors at the Mwenge woodcarvers' market, Liston Marunda told The Guardian that they have had a difficult period since the outbreak of Covid-19 was confirmed in the country in March this year.

"Our daily sales have gone

down; almost 80 percent of our product buyers are foreigners. The lockdown measures as well as other travel restrictions imposed by various countries have largely affected our business," he said.

Marunda who has been in the business for 18 years, said before

the pandemic outbreak they were selling a lot of products enabling them to take care of their families.

Marunda said that through the business, he has been able to pay school fees for his children, construct a house and provide for his family.

He acknowledged the support from the Ministry of Industry and Trade as well as the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) whereas they have been linked to markets within and outside the country.

He added that through TanTrade they have been able to participate in a number of local and international exhibitions including the China and Shanghai Expo in 2010, Korea Yeosu Expo in 2012, Italy Milan Expo 2015 and the Beijing Expo last year.

"Taking part in these exhibitions has helped me to establish business links with international buyers; I have expanded my business and I can now export my products to different countries," he said.

He however explained some of the challenges that sculptors face as too many taxes and charges by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, complexity in obtaining permits for foreign buyers.

He said the law requires foreign buyers to secure permits from the ministry before leaving the country with the handmade sculptures.

He said that sometimes foreign buyers don't purchase the products to avoid inconveniences at the airport.

"The government should think of easing our business, there should be simplified procedures for foreign buyers to travel with the products. Easing the procedures will boost our business," said Marunda, urging that if well developed, the industry is likely to contribute immensely in

government coffers.

According to him, the Ministry of Industry and Trade should invest more in promoting the wood carving business through advertisements at airports and installation of billboards across the country. He said promoting the business would also increase the number of local buyers.

"Tanzanians should build a culture of loving and buying locally made handcrafts, we have a variety products which are sold at reasonable prices," said Marunda adding that prices differ for local and foreign buyers.

He also appealed for tax relief especially during this period when most economies are recovering from the effects of Covid-19.

Covid-19, the highly contagious, pneumonia-causing illness which was firstly reported in Wuhan, China has infected millions of people across the World.

Tanzanians should build a culture of loving and buying locally made handcrafts, we have a variety products which are sold at reasonable prices

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4	Welding m/c 250/ Inverter	250 / 522 / 3- phase	Good	Not paid
2	Table Circular Saw machine	ZBV -450	Good	Not paid
4	Floor cutting machine	Petrol Engine Honda	Good	Not paid
5	Converter Poker Vibrator	LAIE 2	Good	Not paid
3	Multi stage pump	11Kw / 15 - HP	Good	Not paid
4	Terrazzo Grinding machine	3 phase	Good	Not paid
12	Assorted Terrazzo Machine	Vacuum cleaner & Polisher	Good	Not paid

All items may be inspected at BAM International Batching plant & Weigh bridge area Dar es Salaam, from September 16th to 18th, 2020 from 10:00 am to 4:00pm

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

1. The winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 5 working days by September 25th 2020 at 4:00pm into the BAM bank account as will be directed. For the payments not made within 5 working days, the items will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
2. All items are sold on "as is, where is" basis with no guarantee.
3. Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
4. Bidder will remove the items after all payments and duties
5. All persons entering the premises **must obtain a Bid Number** at the entrance.

For further information contact:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA) DAR ES SALAAM
CELL NO: 0754 284 926 E-mail: universalauction@hotmail.com

Igunga man, wife arrested for allegedly marrying off their two daughters

By Guardian Correspondent, Igunga

TWO parents at Mwalala village in Igunga District, Tabora Region have been arrested for allegedly forcing their teen daughters to quit school and get married for a dowry of 41 cattle.

The parents, Salum Gwitoga and Chai Mayanza destroyed the education dream of their 16 years aged girls, the Form-One students at Nguvumoja secondary school which is located in Singida Region.

The village's chairman Dabuya Njile confirmed the incident saying that the parents were arrested soon after they had admitted to committing the offence.

"In the incident, one of the parents (Mayanza) received 21 cows and Gwitoga received 20 cows. Mayanza sent off her daughter to be a wife of 19-year's old man at Wanzugi village," Njile said.

Gwitoga said that she received the 20 cattle as dowry claiming that she had earlier communicated with the school's management and ward's executive officer who blessed the marriage.

Acting education officer for Igunga district Rashid Bundala also confirmed to receive the report of the teen marriages and he had already written a letter to the school's headmaster Peter Kinyasi.

"I want the school's headmaster to furnish me with a list of students who have been married off and absentees so as to work on the cases," he said

Bundala expressed his sadness that there are still some parents who do not encourage their children to study even as the government is providing free education.

Recent report by the World Bank shows that currently one in three girls marry before they reach the age of 18 and almost one in four have their first child before the age of 18.

It says that fruitful efforts to end child marriages in Tanzania can generate almost \$5 billion in annual benefits within 15 years by reducing fertility rates and population growth.

Titled: "The Power of Investing in Girls," the 11th Tanzania Economic Update by the World Bank revealed that economic benefits for the country from ending early child marriages are high, both to girls and the wider society.

'Hotel Rwanda' hero charged with terrorism, funding rebels

KIGALI

PAUL Rusesabagina, whose actions during the genocide inspired the Oscar-nominated film "Hotel Rwanda", was charged Monday with terrorism and other serious crimes in his first court appearance in Kigali.

Rwandan investigators announced last month the surprise arrest of Rusesabagina, a high-profile government critic who had been living abroad for years, to stand trial in his homeland for allegedly creating and sponsoring armed militias.

There was a heavy police presence as Rusesabagina, who is credited with saving more than 1,200 Rwandans during the genocide by sheltering them in a hotel, arrived at a courthouse in the capital flanked by his lawyers.

The presiding judge read out 12 charges against Rusesabagina including terrorism, financing and founding militant groups, murder and arson.

The defendant, wearing a face mask, a chequered blazer and khaki trousers, did not address the court but spoke only to his lawyers, who rejected the charges against their client.

"The charges against my client are not consistent. He should not be accused of crimes committed by other parties even if he had entered partnership with them," his lawyer, David Rugaza, told Kagarama Primary Court.

"It is on this ground that he should immediately be released provisionally."

Rusesabagina is the leader of an opposition group, the Rwandan Movement for Democratic Change (MRCD), which is said to have an armed wing called the National Liberation Front (FLN).

His family say the charges against him are politically motivated, and allege he was kidnapped while in Dubai for meetings and brought to Rwanda against his will.

The Rwanda Investigation Bureau has said international cooperation was involved in detaining Rusesabagina -- who has lived abroad since 1996 and holds both Belgian citizenship and a US Green Card -- but refuses to disclose further details.

Human Rights Watch said last week that Rusesabagina, who was portrayed by American actor Don Cheadle in the 2004 film, was a victim of enforced disappearance.

President Paul Kagame has denied he was kidnapped and suggested he was deceived into returning to the country.

After the genocide, Rusesabagina -- a Hutu -- became increasingly critical of Kagame's Tutsi-dominated government, accusing his ruling party of authoritarianism and anti-Hutu sentiment.

In the years since the release of "Hotel Rwanda", some survivors of the slaughter that left 800,000 people dead have questioned Rusesabagina's heroics, and accused him of profiting off their misery.



JOB VACANCIES

Mazars (Mazars Wiscon Associates) is an internationally integrated partnership, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory, tax and legal services. Operating in 91 countries and territories around the world, we draw on the expertise of 40,400 professionals – 24,400 in the Mazars integrated partnership and 16,000 via the Mazars North America Alliance – to assist clients of all sizes at every stage in their development.

Mazars Tanzania is looking for candidates to fill following positions.

1) TAX MANAGER

JOB ROLE

As part of our efforts to strengthen the Global Tax Service Line, Mazars is looking for an internationally minded Tax Manager. Reporting to the partners in charge of Tax and working closely with the other Global Tax Offices, the ideal candidate will coordinate and follow up with all actions of the Tax Line projects. In more detail, the position will cover the following activities Tax Global Tax Service Line - Support the Global Tax leader with daily tasks & (strategic) projects.

- Support the Global Tax leader with daily tasks & (strategic) projects
- Be a central contact-point for the Mazars Tax community and manage business requests
- Lead specific projects
- Work together with the Global Marketing Tax colleague on marketing projects
- Manage budgets - Work on other ad-hoc projects in relation with the Global Tax Service Line
- Ensure achievement of quality tax work through the development and use of tax technical skills and business knowledge to resolve work issues effectively.
- Plan, perform and review straightforward tax compliance work
- Work on tax deliverables and ensure the timely completion of tax work
- Work closely and nurture ongoing relationships with clients
- Assist in the preparation of tax returns for larger and/or complex entities
- Manage all tax compliance
- Prepare transfer pricing documentation
- Resolve queries on tax issues from clients or the tax authority
- Tax dispute resolution where required
- Manage International taxation for clients
- Prepare tax updates and provide trainings
- Perform any other duties tax related duties as assigned by the Firm

REQUIREMENTS

- The ideal candidate should have at least 5 years' experience in a medium / large practice environment on taxation management
- CPA or equivalent qualifications, strong academic background
- Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy or taxation discipline, tax law credentials would be an added advantage
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong oral, presentation and written communication skills
- Able to work independently and under pressure
- Possess strong communication skills to service clients and work as a team

2) TAX SENIORS (2)

JOB ROLE

The Tax Seniors are required to support Managers in executing tax engagements and delivering high quality tax services. The applicant contributes to the achievement of quality tax work through the development and use of tax technical skills and business knowledge to resolve work issues effectively.

The major responsibilities include:

- Plan, perform and review straightforward tax compliance work
- Work on tax deliverables and ensure the timely completion of tax work
- Work closely and nurture ongoing relationships with clients
- Assist in the preparation of tax returns for entities
- Manage all tax compliance
- Prepare transfer pricing documentation
- Resolve queries on tax issues from clients or the tax authority
- Tax dispute resolution where required
- Work closely with tax manager on duties listed above

REQUIREMENTS

- The ideal candidate should have at least 3 years' experience in a medium / large practice environment;
- CPA or equivalent qualifications, strong academic background
- Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy or taxation discipline
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong oral, presentation and written communication skills
- Able to work independently and under pressure
- Possess strong communication skills to service clients and work as a team

3) SENIOR IT RISK & ADVISORY CONSULTANTS

JOB TITLE

Mazars IT Risk & Advisory team is explosively growing and is searching for IT Risk & Advisory senior consultants ready to undertake the challenge to implement and develop IT related projects for all our main national and international clients and with the drive to work in an entrepreneurial environment.

Compliance (such as EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 "GDPR"), Processes Digitalization, IT Audit of new technologies and Cyber Security are only some of the big challenges we are facing for our clients.

Responsibilities include the following:

- Managing Privacy/Security/IT Audit/IT Governance and IT Solution projects;
- Building strong working relationships with clients, ensuring any problems or requests are dealt with promptly;
- Overseeing activities of junior consultants.

REQUIREMENTS:

- The following requirements are essential for the right candidate:
- Master Degree in Security, Engineering, IT or similar with good grades;
 - From 2 to 6 years of experience in a major consultancy firm as a functional analyst, IT auditor or IT security expert
 - Fluency in English and Strong business communication skills;
 - A team player willing to support a team in achieving its goals and objectives;
 - Ability to work independently with minimal supervision.

4) TRANSACTION ADVISORY SERVICES – MANAGER

JOB ROLE

The FAS Manager will report to the line Partner of Mazars Tanzania. The focus of the role will be the management of client assignments and relationships, the leadership of the FAS team and business development activities.

In more detail, the position will cover the following activities

- Client assignments and relationship:
- Manage teams to review and analyze financial information, hold interviews with management of acquisition targets and formulate views
 - Understand client's key business drivers, agree approach and value measurements with clients and provide value through insights, conclusions and advice
 - Project management teams, review deliverables, reports and presentations, plan and monitor progress
 - work closely with other FAS services and other service-lines both in Tanzania and internationally to form multi-disciplinary team
 - Develop and maintain client relationships
 - Be a true business advisor to the client and establish yourself as key client contact

Team leadership:

- As a team leader, demonstrate commitment to quality, manage team output, provide support and communicate on progress
- Support and coach team members in their development and create a positive learning culture, lead recruitments
- Share technical and other knowledge with team

Business development:

- Identify opportunities based on the firm's capabilities
- Build on and develop internal and external networks to create new business opportunities

REQUIREMENTS

The ideal candidate will have not less than 5 years' experience in accounting and transaction services, ideally acquired in the Financial Services sector and an international environment. We are looking for an exceptional manager with an international mindset and the ability to adapt to new environments as well as strong interpersonal skills and business acumen.

Further experience and skills required for this job include:

- Exceptional managers with transaction experience in the financial services sector and strong counselling skills
- CPA or equivalent qualifications, strong academic background
- Strong commercial awareness and business development experience
- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to work well in a team and build relationships at all levels
- Strong project management skills
- Very good analytical and IT skills
- Effective written and verbal communication in English.
- Strong work initiative and the ability to adapt to new challenges and ideas
- Effective time management and ability to work under stress and tight deadlines

5) AUDIT SENIORS (5 posts)

JOB ROLE

Mazars TZ is seeking high performing Audit Senior Associates for our dynamic, diverse growing audit practice in our local office. As an Audit Senior Associate, you will be responsible for providing the highest levels of client service excellence while working with other tax professionals and interacting with clients in a range of markets and industries

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Plan, execute and manage the financial audit engagements for assigned clients
- Assist in the design and development of the audit plan used on client engagements
- Documenting work-papers and following up on client document request lists
- Perform audit testing on complex areas of clients' financial statements under applicable standards
- Supervise and review the work of other audit staff and provide timely feedback
- Interact with client personnel to discuss field audit issues discovered during the audit engagement
- Researching technical guidance to provide Managers and Partners with appropriate solutions
- Develop and maintain an effective working relationship with clients during engagement and throughout the year
- Stay informed of current economic developments relevant to each client's business and industry
- Evaluate the audit staff performance on the audit engagement and complete timely performance reviews
- Contribute to in-house educational initiatives where appropriate

REQUIREMENTS

- The ideal candidate should have at least 3 years' experience in a medium / large practice environment;
- Currently working as a senior or experienced audit associate in a practice environment;
- fluent English with excellent oral and written communication skills;
- experience of operational supervision of assignments and managing of client relationships;
- excellent interpersonal skills;
- ability to work in a team environment;
- excellent organisational and planning capabilities;
- ability to provide guidance to others;
- strong technical background;
- ability to work to deadlines and deliver under pressure.

6) QUALITY & RISK MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

JOB ROLE:

Mazars Tanzania seeking an experienced audit professional for a newly created position – Manager of Professional Engagement Standards - for our Quality & Risk Management (Q&RM) Team.

This role will focus on assisting the firm in establishing, monitoring and reporting both firm level policies and attest engagement specific policies required to comply with engagement standards. This will also involve interaction and consultation with our audit and attest service teams to ensure professional standards compliance. The position will report to the Q&RM Partner Practice Lead Partner.

Professional Responsibilities:

- Stay current on industry developments related to engagement standards that impact our business
- Be an active participant in engagement standard setter activities, which may include conference attendance, task force participation, professional response to comment letters, etc.
- Develop strategies and materials to implement both new and changed standards efficiently
- Develop policies and procedures related to the firm's system of quality control as required under the IFAC/ MAZARS GLOBAL/ NBAA's Quality Control Standards
- Implement detailed policies and procedures that support compliance with professional standards and other applicable laws and regulations.
- Continuously consult with firm personnel regarding compliance with professional standards matters
- Monitor firm compliance with the quality Control Standards and engagement standards.
- Manage the firm's annual internal inspection process, which addresses both firm level policy compliance, and audit and attest engagement standards
- Manage the firm's global reporting requirements to Mazars Group
- Perform Engagement Quality Control reviews on professional standards issues
- Maintain and update the firm's Quality Control Manuals
- Participate in both regulatory and global control inspections
- Multitask, perform well under pressure, and deliver quality service with accuracy and in a timely manner.

REQUIREMENTS:

- CPA or equivalent qualifications, strong academic background
- Bachelor's degree in accounting or a Business-related field of study
- 7+ years of relevant audit experience in a public accounting firm or a professional services firm
- Knowledge of the Quality Control, Ethics and Independence Standards
- Subject Matter Expert (SME) in engagement standards
- A demonstrated commitment to excellence in compliance with engagement standards
- Ability to perform technical consultations and reviews
- Ability to research and document complex accounting and engagement standard issues
- Ability to translate high-level technical literature into commonly understood language and usable data
- Excellent communication skills (oral/written)
- Excellent presentation and writing skills

DEADLINE

Interested candidates should submit their applications to contact@mazars.co.tz or Mazars Office Apex Tower, Lugoda street Box 78999 Dar es Salam by **5 October 2020**

Banks' ATM systems yet to satisfy needs of people with disability

By Marc Nkwame – Arusha

REDUCING the 'digital divide' gap separating men and women, should be the core focus in the current technological development and improvement in the country, experts have pointed out here.

Participants of the recently held 'Arusha Women School of Internet Governance,' also insisted that digital and technological facilities should accommodate people with disabilities, something which most financial institutions are falling short of.

Mwalimu Linda Malisa who teaches pupils with physical disabilities at Ilboru Primary School lamented that, digital technology advancement is leaving behind handicapped children, on that there are limited facilities developed to suit their needs and accommodate their shortcomings.

"Take financial institutions for instance, there are no dedicated equipment to serve people with disabilities," said Mwalimu Malisa, pointing out that things like 'automated teller machines' (ATM) in banks, do not consider people with impaired sight (blind), those without lower limbs and the ones without hands.

"Local women need to be actively involved in the development of the country's digital technology platforms so that their inputs can be included in the end results, to make them active players in the sector," stated Dr Tupokigwe Issayah, an Information Communication Technology (ICT) trainer from the Mzumbe University.

She was speaking at the three-day, 'Arusha Women School of Internet Governance,' a training session which involved female participants from various institutions, organisations, public offices, legal practitioners, disabled groups and lady journalists.

The don was of the view that, unless the female population contributes in

reshaping technological developments in the country, the gender oriented digital divide gap will continue to widen.

"There are many digital tools, devices and software that have been abandoned because few people know how to make use of them, therefore it is important to provide them with regular training sessions and awareness raising programmes," Dr Tupokigwe maintained during the training.

The training was organised by Kuza Africa and the Center for Youth Empowerment and Leadership under support from the Localisation Lab, Facebook, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Regional Internet Registry for Africa (AFRINIC).

It was also observed that, most women are put off by obscene, insulting and threatening contents found on the World Wide Web as well as other online platforms, something which makes them shun technology altogether.

Of which Esther Mengi the founder of Serensic Afrika an organization which deals with security on online platforms assured that the internet is also being patrolled and that any emerging negative report, insulting posts or obscene pages can always be reported to be taken down.

"Still, there are plenty of women who have started to take advantage of the internet and digital platforms to transform their lives and initiate changes in society," pointed out Mengi.

One of the training coordinators, Peter Mbando, said the seminar was organised to prepare the community in wading into the digital technology world.

"We are especially focusing on girls and women empowering them to be in position to harness the power of digital technology and use it to improve their lives, education, business and communication," said Mbando.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) officials attend to a customer (L) at an event organised in the city by Temeke municipality yesterday to enable members of the public to air their grievances on services offered by various public agencies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bugorora residents decry poor telecommunication services

By Correspondent, Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

RESIDENTS of Bugorora ward, Missenyi District in Kagera Region have appealed to authorities in the telecommunication sector to improve network accessibility to enable them to communicate and make use of other services.

In separate interviews recently, the villagers said that they own more than one SimCard yet they complained of experiencing problems related to unstable network coverage for a long period.

Illuminata Method (36) is an entrepreneur who said that the poor mobile phone network coverage affects her business since she cannot communicate with some of her customers.

Illuminata who sells milk said: "It is sometimes difficult to reach my customers residing far from this area, this has been resulting in losses because the products don't reach buyers on time," she said adding that such loss contributes to her failure to repay loans.

A community health worker at the Ngorongoro dispensary, Arnold Gasto (37) said that network problems affect's

his work performance because at times, he cannot send the reports on time.

According to Arnold, he is supposed to go through households where he tracks children to know their academic performance, but also talk to expectant mothers and encourage them to attend antenatal services at recognised hospitals and health centers.

Frederick Kamugisha (72) said: "My children bought me a cellular phone, but it is unfortunate that I cannot use it to promote my business. The network becomes unavailable even when you want to inform people on the new

products." Last year statistics from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) indicates that the country's internet penetration increased from 40 percent in 2017 to 43 per cent in 2018. The increase was attributed to an increase in mobile phone subscription, which made it easy to access the wireless internet.

TCRA statistics show that the number of Simcard subscribers grew from 40.08 million in 2017 to 43.62 million in 2018. Data shows that among the 23.14 million internet users recorded in 2018, at least 22.28 million people were using mobile wireless.



Chadema presidential running-mate Salum Mwalimu (C, foreground, in cap) waves to Moshi residents at the weekend moments after addressing a campaign rally in the municipality. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt directs TEMESA to repair all ferries with defects

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications Eng Elius Mwakalinga has instructed Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) to repair all government ferries with defects.

Speaking here when opening TEMESA Workers Council meeting Mwakalinga said many ferries in the country's various areas are reported with defects but so far TEMESA has not been repairing them in time.

"You have remained quiet without doing any repairs on them, you must be serious, you are not supposed to be playing with people's lives, as anything can happen," he said.

He noted that the Pangani ferry in Tanga Region and the MV Misungwi in Mwanza Region have been reported with defects for some time now, but no step has been taken by TEMESA.

"TEMESA must have its own dry docks instead of using those owned by private people which when you find using them for building ships for other countries, you have to wait until when they are available, while your vessels remain grounded," he said.

He also directed the agency to ensure they install electronic revenue collecting system to do away with current revenue loss.

"The Kigamboni ferry is among the ferries with huge revenue collection, and had I been in TEMESA, I would have shifted my office there because people

even buy complimentary tickets, but if you install the news system you will collect a lot," he said.

He said the government was in the process of installing electronic revenue collection system at its workshops and all ferries to eradicate embezzlement.

The PS also called on the council's leadership to ensure it is at the forefront in the war against corruption by some workers.

He said as for now there have been rampant fraud especially in the purchase of spare parts for vehicles and various plants and machinery at inflated prices that have been found to be of poor quality.

He also called on the council to ensure it endeavours to discuss various issues including workers' complaints

some of who claim salary arrears for over six months.

The chairman of TEMESA Workers Council Japhet Maselle said in the Fiscal Year 2019/20 they have embarked on various projects for the construction of berths, purchase of ferries and infrastructures thereof which are at various stages of implementation.

In regard to building new ferries, he said TEMESA has completed the construction of MV Ilemela which has already started operations.

He said in FY 2020/21 they expect to make repairs to MV Musoma, MV Nyerere and MV Kilombero II, adding that the agency was in the process of purchasing five boats that are in various stages of construction.

TALIRI out to enhance production of hay bales

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) is planning to expand its production of hay bales from the current 100,000 per each annual dry season to at least 200,000.

The envisaged plan, will involve increasing acreage for the production of a mixture of grass- legumes in all of the institute's centers within the country, with focus being to support the pastoralists who practice zero grazing to feed their cattle with highly nutrient fodders.

Hay is grass, legumes, or other herbaceous plants that have been cut and dried to be stored for use as animal fodder, particularly for large grazing animals raised as livestock, such as cattle, horses, goats, and sheep.

It is also fed to smaller domesticated animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs. Pigs may also be fed hay, but they do not digest it as efficiently as herbivores.

In an exclusive interview with The Guardian, Dr Jonas Kizima, Senior Researcher from TALIRI headquarters expressed that the development is projected to play a vital role in improving productivity in the country's livestock sector.

"Most pastoral communities face pastures challenges especially during dry seasons; this programme is being implemented to enable them contain the situation," he said.

He noted that, increased human population and activities has pushed to increasing deficit of grazing lands, a challenge which suggests for increased production of hay bales.

The institute, according to Dr Kizima, has for years been producing hay bales of between 18 and 20 kilogrammes from Chloris Gayana and Cenchrus Silirias grass species.

The fodders are sold to pastoralists at a reasonable price of 3,000/- per bale, he stated.

"Future plans are to expand production and start producing hay bales from a mixture of grass and legumes in order to get improved fodders with high forage to support productivity of dairy and meat cattle,"

he added.

He named the centers that are currently producing hay bales as TALIRI- Uyole, TALIRI-Tanga, TALIRI-Mpwapwa, TALIRI -West Kilimanjaro and TALIRI Mabuki- Mwanza.

Dr Kizima insisted that the initiative will go in tandem with implementation of the project on 'Adaptation and Association Mapping Studies on Tanzania Brachiaria Ecotypes, which among others, targets to help the government reduce high expenditures it uses in importing brachiaria varieties from abroad.

According to him, the government orders brachiaria from Brazil where a kilogramme is currently sold at US \$ 40.

The vital programme, implemented under the programmes of Bio- sciences East and Central Africa (BeCA) Hub, involves collection of brachiaria of different ecotypes from at least 20 regions targets through conduction of on- station evaluation of the collected brachiaria of different ecotypes, in terms of their genetic characteristics and morphological assessments, with an eye to get the best varieties with high potential for livestock forage.

Involved regions include Mtwara, Lindi, Morogoro, Coastal, Tanga, Dodoma, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Singida, Kagera, Mara, Mwanza, Kigoma, Geita, Rukwa, Tabora, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Katavi.



Most pastoral communities face pastures challenges especially during dry seasons; this programme is being implemented to enable them contain the situation

Group donates items worth 7m/- to needy households in Dodoma

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

DODOMA-BASED youth entrepreneurs group Tusumuke has donated various items worth 7.3m/- to ten poor households in Nzuguni ward, Dodoma Region.

Speaking yesterday during a handing over event, Chairman of the group, Christopher Dioniz said the support is part of the group's corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Dioniz added that they are giving back to the community because they had also benefited with a 30m/- loan from the government. He said money was used to expand and improve their businesses whereas they are now getting a good profit.

Some of the donated items include soaps, beans, rice, maize flour and other necessary culinary items.

He added: "As a group we have jointly agreed to use part of the attained profits to support Tanzanians living in poverty in the particular ward."

The group chairman noted that they are planning to expand their support to cover more poor households. He insisted that what they are doing supports the government's poverty eradication efforts.

Dioniz commended the government for initiating a loan scheme for women, youth and vulnerable groups including the disabled. He said through the loans, they empower a good number

of young Tanzanians as well as women entrepreneurs, hence poverty eradication.

He expressed satisfaction with the treatment they received from local leaders at the area, as well as the help in identifying the poor families.

He said through the group, they have been able to establish local chicken rearing projects and production of local chicken breeds using modern incubators with a capacity to produce 31,000 chicks per month.

Representing the beneficiaries, Javan Subeth called upon other groups including public and private institutions, to assist them because most of the families in the ward live under difficult conditions.



Dar es Salaam Rotary Club (Oysterbay) president Maryanne Mugo (R) presents textbooks to Bernard Mchomvu, chairman of the city's Oysterbay Secondary School board, at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

Dar school gets new boost

THE Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam Oysterbay has donated over 300 textbooks worth 4m/- to Oysterbay Secondary School in Kinondoni District so as to support smooth teaching and learning and thus raise students' performance.

Speaking during the handover ceremony over the weekend, President of Rotary club of Oysterbay, Maryanne Mugo said the club's core zeal is to support the government's efforts towards enabling provision of quality education in the country.

Mugo said the club hopes that students will embrace the support which aimed to increase their performance where he called upon students to increase the tendency of reading those books so as to acquire new knowledge.

For his part, the Chairperson of the local government of Oysterbay, Harrison Lukosi thanked the Rotary Club for the aid they donated to the school and called upon other stakeholders to join hands with the

government to help solve various challenges in schools and provide conducive environment to students to learn and increase academic performance.

Lukosi said the donation of books helped to minimise the shortage of books in the schools among other challenges including desks and water shortage.

He said the school was established in 2008 after a government declaration which required each ward to have a secondary school to reduce the congestion of students in one school.

Director of Public Relation of Rotary Club, Abdallah Singano said the donation has come from money collected from the goat race competition held last year.

He said Dar es Salaam Rotary Goat Race event has been focusing on efforts towards enriching, enhancing and promoting services in local communities through initiatives such as scholarship, provision of facilities

and education on hygiene and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and community development. "We haven't conducted the goat race this year because of the Corona pandemic and we failed to start preparation because we didn't know when the pandemic would end, and therefore we decided to relocate the fund to local government activities," said Singano.

One of the beneficiaries, Bryan Wilbard, a form four student, thanked the Rotary Club for the support of books which was one of the biggest challenges in the school especially in the field of science and arts books such as English and chemistry, promised to use them well in their studies and do well in their exams.

The Rotary Club of Oyster Bay was founded in 2009, and currently has 75 members. It is the largest of the nine Rotary Clubs in Dar es Salaam and supports the community with a wide range of projects.

Temeke District in 'One Stop Jawabu' campaign to solve people's problems

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TEMEKE District in Dar es Salaam Region is today starting a fourteen-day campaign which will among other things include listening and solving people's problems.

The campaign christened 'One Stop Jawabu' was held at Mbaghala Zakhem grounds in the District. It will be conducted in two phases whereas the first begins today until September 20th at Mbaghala Zakhem and September 22nd to 28th this year at Mwembe Yanga grounds.

Speaking to journalists over the weekend, Temeke District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe said the campaign is part of President John Magufuli's directives which require leaders to find solutions to the challenges facing people in their

specific areas. Gondwe said that over 30 government institutions and agencies will be present at both grounds whereas they will offer services to the residents. He called upon Temeke dwellers to make sure they visit the pavilions at the grounds.

Some of the public institutions which will provide services to Tanzanians include the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), National Identification Authority (NIDA), Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA), National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA).

Others are the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), National Housing Corporation (NHC), Immigration Department, Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA), banks,

financial institutions, mobile phone companies as well as officials from the various departments within Temeke District. Temeke District Executive Director, Lusubilo Mwakabibi said that medical check-ups will be conducted by cardiologists from the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI).

He said that authorities in the District have also invited lawyers from the The Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) to offer legal assistance to visiting residents.

"We will make sure that all the residents get the services conditionally", he said.

On July 7, this year when swearing-in newly appointed leaders, President Magufuli asked his appointees to report to discharge their duties efficiently and diligently. He urged them to go and solve all the challenges facing people in their districts and regions.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is a local non-government organization affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care organization that provides orphaned and destitute children with a permanent home and educational opportunities. Established 60 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International the umbrella organization, currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs the SOS Children's Village Programme which has two main arms, i.e. Family Based Care based at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programmes supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991, and implements its programs in the following locations Zanzibar, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Iringa. SOS Children's Villages Tanzania seeks to recruit suitably qualified candidate to fill the following vacant Position.

Job Title: Internal Auditor

Duty station: National Office- Dar es Salaam (1 post)

Reporting to: National Director/Board of Trustees

The main responsibility:

The Internal Auditor will be responsible for auditing SOS Children's Villages Programmes/ Projects and facilities located in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. Internal Auditor position is to provide an independent and objective assurance on overall support and assistance to the organization regarding leadership, management and supervision. S/he is required to ensure timely, appropriate and informed planning, organization, coordination of the risk management and internal audit activities for the organization, direct and control the functions of internal audit and Risk Management Unit. She/he is responsible for assessing existing risks in the organization using up to date risk assessment methodology, assist and advise SMT about current and emerging risk exposures, based on the assessment, rank them in overall organizational perspective. S/he Will be required to disclose growth areas and application problems and suggests applicable solutions for exceptions and problems disclosed. The Internal Auditor will provide regular advisory services to senior management team and ensure that organizational resources are properly managed and utilized. Ensure the technical integrity and clear presentation of audit and risk findings and recommendations, providing advice on policy and implementation of audit recommendations throughout the organization.

Roles and responsibilities:

- Maintain and follow the SOS-Kinderdorf International auditing policy and procedure guidelines and accepted auditing standards, prepares and submits Internal audit procedures for the approval of the SOS Tanzania Board of Trustees with prior information of SOS Tanzania Management with input from the IOR ESAF regional internal audit team.
- Lead the review and appraisal of the system of internal control within the National Office to give reasonable assurance on adherence to accepted standards, policies, procedures, and legal requirements. It is the management mandate and responsibility to design and put in place policies and procedures, the role of the internal auditor is to identify lacking policies and procedure and advise management for development and provide input and feed back on those organizational policies and procedures.
- Develop an internal audit charter, annual audit plan, audit programs, audit engagement letters and update them when required.
- Prepare individual work plan and share with the supervisor for approval on annual basis.
- Regular review and verifying the existence and adequacy of internal control system in place to safeguard organizational assets to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in operations and ensure SOS Tanzania is operating within government regulations.
- Carries out planned auditing activities in the various functions and programs of SOS Tanzania to ensure adherence to policies, regulations and procedures in the execution of the respective tasks including employment, promotion, transfer, etc. of personnel, concluding of contracts, purchases, accounting practices, etc.
- Examines books of accounts to check the correctness and completeness of accounting documents, proper and timely recording of transactions.
- Examines and ensures the accuracy and completeness of financial and accounting reports.
- Checks and ensures the reconciliation of bank statements and book balances.
- Counts cash to ensure the existence of balance as per record in a surprised manner.
- Examines and ensures the existence and proper use of property.
- Checks whether purchase and contract agreements are made in accordance with the policies, regulations and procedures of SOS-CVT/Z.
- Checks and ensures that the sponsorship money gift is administered as per the policy, regulations and procedure therein.
- Examines personnel matters, including employment, promotion, transfer, leave, etc. to ensure adherence to SOS Tanzania personnel policies and procedures.
- Provides an advisory role as required for programs in establishing internal control system policy, regulation and procedural issues.
- Assesses external auditor's comments and suggestions and make sure necessary adjustments, corrections and amendments are made as suggested.
- Compiles and submit internal audit reports with necessary suggestions and recommendations for improvements.
- Formulate, presents for Board's approval and implement audit long term and short term plans and policies of the Audit Section which are in line with SOS functions.
- Reviews and report on proper control over receipts, custody and utilization of all financial resources.
- Be responsible for the audit of SOS Children's Villages Accounts and submits to the Audit Committee and National Director a report in every three months of a financial year.
- Undertake special assignments, including investigating fraud on duplication of effort, extravagance, fraud, and non-compliance with country laws, Government regulations, a statutory requirements in areas including but not limited to taxation laws, employment and Labour Relations Act, 2004 and any other applicable local requirements and advise the National Director and the Board of Trustees.
- In addition to carry any other functions assigned to him by the Board of Trustees or National Director on assignments that does not affect the independence of the auditor.
- Support and involve in the regional internal audit exercise

Knowledge, skills and abilities

- The ideal candidate should have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from reputable institution
- A professional certification (CPA) in a similar field and additional trainings in Auditing will be an added advantage
- At least 6 years relevant working experience in Accounting and Auditing from a reputable organisation/setting preferably in an NGO will be of great advantage.
- Good knowledge and sound understanding of the Internal Auditors International Professional Practices and Audit standards.
- Must have good analytical thinking skills.
- Must have sound judgement and exercise the principle of confidentiality at all times.
- Ability to work well in a team comprised of people with diverse cultural and disciplinary backgrounds. S/he should have strong leadership and good communication skills.
- The ideal candidate must be self-motivated, able to initiate new ideas and willing to travel across our project locations from time to time.
- Additional experience in Experience in administration, finance and accounting, procurement, HR is an asset.

To apply for this position, send your application by letter or email describing how your experience, qualifications and competencies make you the right candidate for this position Enclose a detailed updated CV, copies of academic & professional certificates, a passport size photo, telephone contacts and details of at least 3 referees to reach us to:-

The National Director
SOS Children's Villages Tanzania
P. O. Box 80462 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org

Please Note: SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and committed to keeping children safe from abuse and harm, therefore candidates applying for this post will be subject to child safeguarding recruitment procedures and checks.

Deadline for receipt of applications is one week from the appearance of the advertisement.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

The Guardian

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TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

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ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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Sheltering the vulnerable can't be business, but it can be costly

SOMETHING of a Gordian Knot in policy making is coming up concerning sheltering vulnerable groups of people caught up in the misfortunes of life and essentially needing a roof over their heads. That of course goes with a minimal supply of food, even if a care institution might not be able to afford three proper meals a day. Yet it is unquestionable that those who are admitted to such facilities ought to feel they are welcome, not exploited or put under duress.

That is what the government appears to be signaling to non-governmental organizations and individuals who have created foster care units of various sorts, some of them amply organized by SOS Children Tanzania, whose villages are grouped under the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation. It is unlikely that all those who make efforts at care giving will be amply facilitated essentially from foreign sources, as often benefactors want to see something on the ground first. So there comes a start up and viability problem, whether it is designed by gain and loss or just the cost of services.

A notice in that direction issued lately by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children unveiling new regulations to guide establishment and running of shelters for vulnerable groups was particularly emphatic on not turning such activity into a business oriented enterprise. It said the changes are aimed at enhancing security and quality of service to beneficiaries. Permanent Secretary (Community Development) Dr John Jingu said the new guidelines cover the establishment and operation of homes for the elderly and homeless as well as safe houses for victims of abuses and human trafficking. That is a broad range of persons.

Outlining reasons for moving changes in that sphere, he said that the shift is a result of private entities such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), religious organizations and even individuals offering the crucial services, starting to run the shelters as businesses. The new regulations require that such centres be established and run as service with the recipients benefiting and not operators, which opens up a problem, as to whether this is meant to operate in the relative case or in an absolute way. The details show it is meant to be a matter of principle.

To ensure that benefits aren't being pursued in offering shelter, the regulations say that no fees or contributions shall be charged on residents of homes for senior citizens, rehabilitation centres for children in behavioural difficulties, or safe houses for victims of gender based violence. This covers a wide range of categories and if they all seek shelter, their number won't just run into thousands of relief seekers but well beyond, as it includes victims or potential victims of female genital mutilation, rape, child pregnancy or those rescued from domestic abuse, not to speak of human trafficking. If the latter group is adequately sketched out, most housemaids fit into it.

Well over a tenth of the population would rapidly shift to such centres if everything was being provided and nothing is charged, and then other dimensions of eligibility will come up in that potential stampede. It is unclear how far all this has been worked out, with foreign benefactors (especially foreign NGOs) having but assured the relevant authorities that all needy individuals will be taken care of without charges. The UN agency for migration was all the same consulted, so it must be feasible, prima facie.

Cassava production in Africa: Turning minors to majors!

CASSAVA is one of the most popular and widely consumed food crops in Africa. Because it is such an important food in the region and an extremely versatile crop, it is commonly referred to as cornerstone of food security in Africa. The competing needs for cassava cuts across both human and animal consumption. It is fast becoming a popular raw material in industrial production and is now a preferred material for making biofuels. As Africa's population continue to grow rapidly, the demand for food staples like cassava has increased.

Africa is yet to fully exploit the huge returns from the global cassava trade. However, the price of cassava and its derivatives have increased sharply in the past few years. The population explosion in Africa has made it difficult to produce enough cassava to feed many 'common' Africans. In addition, the raging economic growth of China has made it the largest buyer of African cassava, which it uses to feed livestock (cattle, pigs etc.). China is currently responsible for more than 60 percent of global cassava consumption, and is still buying more from Africa.

Cassava is cultivated in around 40 African countries. Major producers include Nigeria, the Congo and Tanzania according to IFAD and FAO report of 2000.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and its partners are working to provide African cassava farmers with regular and reliable access to high quality planting materials to boost yields and incomes.

Speaking ahead of the launch of the Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System (BASICS) programme, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), said the programme provides a window of opportunity for cassava farmers to create new lines of income while at the same time

catalyzing the diffusion of new varieties. In June, this programme benefited from a new investment of \$14.3 million by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to consolidate and expand this work in both Nigeria and Tanzania under the project name of BASICS-II.

The goal of the project is to provide farmers with access to affordable, quality-assured seeds of the cassava varieties in demand by local food and processor markets through the establishment of a commercially viable seed value chain operating across breeder, foundation, and commercial seed levels.

BASICS-II will create a more efficient dissemination and trigger the adoption of new varieties to improve productivity; raise incomes of cassava growers and seed entrepreneurs; enhance gender equity and contribute to inclusive agricultural transformation in Nigeria and Tanzania.

According to Dr Alfred Dixon, IITA Director for Development & Delivery, and Technical Adviser to BASICS-II, "the coming of BASICS-II would not only create seed enterprises, it would also spark the diffusion and adoption of improved disease-free cassava varieties that would offer farmers higher yield."

Over the years, IITA and its national partners have developed over 40 cassava varieties but the diffusion and adoption of these varieties have been low due to the absence of a functional seed system to incentivize their multiplication, distribution, and sales.

The 5-year project will be led by IITA, working in partnership with Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC), National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IITA GoSeed, Umudike Seed, Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Ltd., Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), and Tanzania Official Seed Certification (TOSCI).

By Special Correspondent

A research and polling institute took to the airwaves by storm late last month with a rare survey in which public sentiments over politically controversial issues were measured. With the promise of a margin of error of two percent, a survey of 2,400 Ethiopians conducted a couple of months back by Afrobarometer has revealed findings that may help shed light on the "public mood."

Standing on its own, since such polling and statistical data to inform policymaking is rare, it would be hard to claim that this indeed is reflective of public sentiment. Some of the questions were also somewhat vague. Positive responses to designating an additional working language for the federal government do not say much, as it is not clear which would be added. Support or opposition to the contentious Article 39 of the Constitution does not reveal much, as long as the distinction between the "right to self-determination" and "right to secession" have not been defined, and the latter remains a great deal more controversial.

More interesting though was the response the survey received. Opposing groups of the political aisles saw it as a vindication of their respective views and causes. Some found proof that the multinational character of the state had been accepted in the eyes of the public given preferences to keep Article 39. Others saw the positive responses to amending the Constitution as cues that the current form of the state has not gained broader acceptance.

Once again, an issue was co-opted and made to serve political agendas of competing and often contradicting narratives. A multidimensional survey on political preferences was stripped down into the binary of good or bad and used as a tool to attack opponents. Straw man arguments, "whataboutisms", ad hominems and double standards have become the weapons of choice in politics. This is while scapegoating economic and political challenges on the backs of political opponents and portraying it as an element in a grand conspiracy. None are innocent in this modus operandi.

Manifesting this culture of engagement on the streets are the protests by the Ethiopian diaspora communities. Many of the protests have been peaceful. But there have also been sideshows that devolved into violence and increasingly recurrent uses of violent rhetoric against groups and communities. These occurrences should not be used to discredit the diaspora community's engagement in Ethiopia's politics; but, the fact that such tactics have come to be utilised is emblematic of what lies in the underbelly of political engagement. More so, these are mirror images of the polarisation and intolerance in society and demonising political culture of the



Political engagement in desperate need of new weapons of choice



various forces prevalent in Ethiopia.

The political opposition is feeble in checking the neo-patrimonial behaviour of those holding state power. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) administration should share as much guilt in the state of disorganisation in which the opposition finds itself. But the style of engagement seems to have been endorsed by the various leaders of the opposition as the only legitimate means of advancing interests. It is conspiratorial, ill-intentioned and selectively outraged. Each side of the opposition has come to reserve the benefit of the doubt for the government at the expense of the other. It is only under such circumstances that the administration tends to get notes of disapproval from each side only in shifts. It is a kind of engagement in binary, utilising endless either/or constructions that are opportunistic, as well as free of context and consistency.

This is by no means a new phenomenon in Ethiopia's politics. With talking points already chosen and ossified at least two generations ago, demographic changes, class dynamics, rapid urbanisation and the contributions of political changes in 1974 and 1991 seem to have had little impact informing the national discourse.

Understandably, as unfortunate as it may sound, this phenomenon is in response to making use of tried tactics to mobilise supporters. There is nothing like the "other" and the spectre of a hidden enemy to incense supporters. It becomes very easy to claim anything against opponents once they are portrayed as irredeemably bad

and their movements are characterised as inherently exclusivist. What follows is the creation of competing narratives, both of which hold falsehoods. It is the unfolding of a political battle designed not to impress and persuade the electorate to win elections. It is warfare in another form. The outcome is mutual deprivation of legitimacy to one another.

This is why disputes over boundaries are hard to resolve, which can serve as a convenient allegory to the contestations for historical accounts and the political scores that follow. One party claims that its possession of a piece of land at one time gives it ownership. The contending party reverts to a different time in history, which it says gives it full rights. Both sides have brought their selected "facts" to the table and deny the legitimacy of the other. Such disputes are impossible to resolve unless one party overpowers the other and forces it to accept its version of the truth - contemporary Ethiopian politics in a nutshell.

Such level of extreme polarisation in social forces and the toxic nature of their engagements - and the loss they cause to lives - comes as a result of weak constitutional institutions whose legitimacy to arbitrate contestations for power has been damaged. These institutions have been instrumentalised to advance and protect the partisan interests of those in power. The acts of violence that have often attended Ethiopia's politics and successive regimes' futile determinations for hegemony at the expense of their opponents have normalised such toxic engagement. It is often too hard

to blame the contending groups for assuming that their opponents are out to destroy them instead of engaging them. They feel that either they put into question the legitimacy and right to exist of their rivals and box them into convenient stereotypes or suffer the same fate themselves.

Both characterise their activities not as aggression but as a form of defence. Again, this is war in another form.

The capture of state power for the advancement of in-group interests further exacerbates this behaviour. The more insecure the opposition is made to feel, the more likely it begins to resort to obfuscation and extremism, hoping to balance the power disparities.

This may not absolve the opposition from behaving the way it does now. But it is a powerful reminder of where responsibilities mainly lie - with the custodians of state power.

It is apparent now that the state is going through so much, struggling to deliver public goods in security and justice. The Ethiopian state is going through a period where it loses the "capacity, accountability, or legitimacy to mediate relations between citizen groups and between citizens and the state," making it vulnerable to recurrent violence. The World Bank defines such states as "fragile states."

Indeed, the landscape has now degenerated into a political marketplace. There is a desperate need to help it evolve to common-interest state engagement to reach a comprehensive political settlement, an idea that has remained elusive ever since the formation of the Ethiopian "modern" state.

Rice farm Project: Building the capacity of women to alleviate poverty at family level

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

FOR Ester Makubeli Mtandi of Mapogoro village in Iringa District of Iringa Region rice farming is synonymous to her life, having engaged in the activity for 20 of the 35 years of her life. But for a good part of those years, farming was just a routine activity for women who could not engage in other income generating activities. They would work in paddies season after season, harvesting a maximum of six bags from one hectare which was not enough to feed a family for a year and sell part of the crop to meet other needs.

"Rice farming was a tradition that was conducted using age-old methods of seed selection, planting, weeding, harvesting and storage of the crop. The harvest was generally poor and the husband would still take some of the crop secretly and sell it to get money for booze," says Ms. Mtandi. "Women usually carried the heavy burden of taking care of poor families," she adds.

When the RICE Project was introduced in 2017, women smallholder farmers were among the first villagers to adopt new farming methods that enabled them to raise production and productivity of rice from the farms they had owned for years. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Tanzania (FAO Tz.) in partnership with the government and smallholder rice farmers.

It seeks to improve competitiveness and increase post-harvest management capacity of smallholder farmers in the rice value chain so as to reduce poverty by building their capacity to withstand competition in production and marketing.

Adopting new methods have simplified farming activities not only for women but for all smallholder farmers. "It took us almost two weeks to harvest one hectare of rice and transport it home for storage. This resulted in significant loss and wastage. Now we can do all the activities in one day with minimal loss and waste while maintaining good quality of the crop," explains Ms. Mtandi.

Perhaps the biggest achievement for women farmers is storing the crop in one building out of reach of their husbands because the rice bags can only be taken out of the stores with consent from both husband and wife. "There are two things here; one is that the project has enabled us to increase production so there is enough food for our families. The other thing is that since almost all farmers store the surplus under one roof, no wife or husband can sell their crop secretly. The prices are also good," she says, adding that life is now easy for women as they earn a good income from the sale of rice.

Ms. Mtandi is among founder members of Mapogoro scheme which currently comprises 400 members. She also keeps records of sales and manages the scheme's accounts, and has offered her house for use by members as a warehouse since the village is yet to build one. This has reduced costs that farmers have to meet because they would have to transport their rice to Idodi village for storage. Transport costs stand at 3,000/- per bag and add to this the storage cost of 1,000/-.

Addressing postharvest loss does not begin with the harvest season; it starts with preparation of the paddies. If the farms are not prepared well according to instructions given by experts then farmers are likely to waste irrigation water and even seeds. Selection of seeds is also important because poor seeds will result in poor yields and a low quality crop. Planting using modern technology is important for rational use of water and in reducing waste of seeds, thus all stages in the rice value chain have a bearing on reducing postharvest loss.

"We used to buy seeds from companies and individual breeders. Some of the seeds were of poor quality and so they gave us a poor crop. Seeds that were good were also expensive. Through the RICE project we have been taught to breed seeds that pass quality tests conducted by experts," says Margaret Alfred Mwitaga, a smallholder farmer and a seed breeder at Mapogoro.

She produces enough seeds to meet the demand of the village's smallholder farmers although initially some of them preferred to buy from other sources because they were skeptic about the quality. Formerly there were four breeders in the village but three opted out in the long run due to various reasons.

"It is a tedious job. It requires commitment and one has to divide time and effort between producing the rice crop and seeds. But I feel it is important to do both so as to raise the family's income, although rice seeds sell at about 1,000/- per kilogram only," explains Ms. Mwitaga.

However, demand for locally produced rice seeds is on the rise and Ms. Mwitaga plans to set aside two hectares for seed production next season instead of one hectare.

The RICE project has also raised the economic and social status of women as they are the major beneficiaries, taking centre-stage in all activities in the rice value chain. Women have also participated in production, marketing and administration work. "They have been given training in various fields; they have also been involved in educational trips which have not only increased their exposure but they have also been learning opportunities," says Clementina Andrew Kabaka, Senior Agriculture Officer in Iringa District Council attached to the RICE project.

The full participation of women in this project is behind the significant increase of rice production from less than one ton in one hectare before implementation of the project to eight tons this season which is the national target. "Some families have surpassed that target and produce up to nine and half tons from one hectare thereby raising family incomes and reducing poverty. The success can be traced back to participation of women across the rice value chain," adds Ms. Kabaka.

The status of women has changed significantly during



A smallholder farmer harvesting rice using traditional methods

the four years of project implementation. Formerly women did all the donkey work in the rice production chain but at the end of the day they had little to show for their hard work. Preparation of the farms, planting, weeding and harvesting were largely done by women while men played the supervisory role only and were most interested in selling the crop at prices that women never knew about. As a result men could spend the money as they wished while women bore the brunt of raising the family from meagre incomes.

The project has brought about two changes that have eased the women's burden and raised their dignity; schemes can now access tractors and other machinery for preparing farms and planting rice seedlings. Farmers have also been taught to use weed killers as a result of which women have been relieved the heavy burden of preparing farms, planting and weeding. "But through training and awareness raising we have managed to institute gender inclusivity whereby women and men participate in all activities in the rice value chain, including taking the crop to village warehouses. The family takes part in all activities," explains Ms. Kabaka. "There is transparency in purchase of inputs and negotiation of selling prices of the crop, this leaves no room for men to steal money from their families by whatever means," explains she adds.

According to the project brief about 1,500 women smallholder farmers have successfully managed to apply proper postharvesting methods while 46 women groups are undertaking various income generating activities along the rice value-chain. Women have also been trained in keeping records and accounts in the rice

production process so as to enable them to reduce waste and avoid losses at family level besides tracking income earned from rice farming.

Experience shows that some gains made during project implementation disappear when the project is over and community members slide back into poverty levels that are worse than when the project started operations. This might not be the case with the RICE Project in Iringa District.

"The project has built strong foundations at family level that have made members improve their lives significantly. The burden on women has now been reduced so that the can now play an important role in raising the economy of the family," says Ms. Kabaka.

Strong links have been established between farmers and suppliers of agriculture inputs and through their leaders, the former can negotiate good prices and buy what they need in bulk. They can also acquire loans from financial institutions or choose to buy on credit what they need.

With training and awareness raising campaigns, farmers have also moved from traditional farming methods to using machinery throughout the rice value chain in order to raise production and increase productivity. The leaders know where to get the machines, "and several youths have been trained in servicing and repairing these machines so that they don't breakdown. Most importantly, agriculture officers and other experts are all out to help smallholder farmers to ensure that they benefit from their work. There is no reason to fear that the gains attained will be lost when the project implementation period ends," notes Ms. Kabaka.



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We used to buy seeds from companies and individual breeders. Some of the seeds were of poor quality and so they gave us a poor crop. Seeds that were good were also expensive. Through the RICE project we have been taught to breed seeds that pass quality tests conducted by experts,

Life is precious but not priceless, economists say. So what's the value of each life lost to Covid-19?

By Robert Roy Britt

THE economic costs of the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States are staggering. Tens of millions of lost jobs, billions of dollars in lost business revenue and state tax revenue, trillions spent on stimulus and relief programmes. And in a few short days, 200,000 deaths.

But you can't put a price tag on human life, right? Life is, well, priceless. Actually, the government has for several decades put price tags on our lives. The Value of a Statistical Life (VSL) was set at \$9.6 million in 2016 by the US Department of Transportation, for example.

Yes, it's a crude - some might say offensive - way to think about a life, but it's a fact of governing that helps inform how judges and juries award damages, how businesses are regulated, and how your tax dollars are spent on things like public health and safety.

In short, the federal government routinely uses the dollar value of human life to make decisions about rules and regulations that have life-and-death consequences and also financial impacts on businesses and consumers.

Economists take myriad approaches to valuing human life, all fraught with limitations. Much of how VSL is derived was pioneered by economist Thomas Schelling in a 1968 essay that considered not the value of life but the risk of losing it.

VSL involves, among other things,

surveying people on how much they would need to be paid to accept a higher chance of dying of cancer or to work a riskier job. Alternately, wage data can be used to determine the premium placed on dangerous jobs.

Calculations then seek to look at risk from a societal perspective, considering the average value of any and all lives, rather than valuing any one group over another, such as rich over poor or young over old.

"All lives are precious, but they are not priceless," writes Howard Steven Friedman, a statistician and health economist at Columbia University and author of the book *Ultimate Price: The Value We Place on Life*, published earlier this year.

"Rather, they are priced all the time. Often the price tags are unfair. We need to ensure that when lives are priced, that they are priced fairly so that human rights and human lives are always protected," Friedman notes.

VSL informs decisions on everything from investing in safer roads to requiring seat belts in cars and warning labels on consumer products.

In the 1970s, the US Department of Transportation rejected a proposed regulation that would have put bars under the rear of big trucks to prevent cars from sliding under them in a crash. The reasoning? The cost would have been more than the value of lives saved, writes Austin Frakt, PhD, a health economist and associate professor at Boston University. By 1998, the



department had raised its VSL to a higher number - and the regulation was approved.

Simple math

The Department of Transportation's \$9.6 million valuation was last updated in 2016. Economist Alan Krupnick, a Senior Fellow at Resources for the Future, rounds it out to \$10 million, as does Vanderbilt Law School economist W. Kip Viscusi in his 2018 book, *Pricing Lives: Guideposts for a Safer Society*.

So, some simple math: 200,000 deaths times \$10 million in VSL equals \$2 trillion.

Of course the pandemic isn't over. Epidemiologists say that if we don't get a successful vaccine and if other preven-

tion efforts are insufficient to stop Covid-19 from spreading like it is now, we should expect at least a million US deaths. The VSL on that: \$10 trillion.

With hundreds of Americans dying from Covid-19 every day, should a VSL be used in making decisions about the pandemic response? Probably not until the deaths are reduced significantly, Krupnick said earlier this year in an interview.

He said VSL could be used to do, for example, a cost-benefit analysis of so-

cial distancing's effect on deaths and on the economy. But with such high infection and death rates, there's no sensible trade-off to consider, because "the economy just cannot get started again".

Krupnick acknowledges that decisions based on VSL are "fraught with ethical and moral dilemmas". He says that it also can be hard to calculate for something new like the coronavirus and that the extent to which people dread a particular type of death can drive VSL higher, but speculates that it might be \$20 million for Covid-19.

Meanwhile, based on effective pandemic responses and lower per-capita death totals in several other countries, experts say that at least 70 per cent of the US deaths could have been avoided had the federal government invested in a coherent mitigation effort from the get-go.

Instead, President Donald Trump admitted in early February that he knew the coronavirus was "more deadly" than the flu, but told journalist and author Bob Woodward in March: "I wanted to always play it down. I still like playing it down, because I don't want to create a panic."

The cost of playing it down? Incalculable. Each of the 200,000 lives lost and those we will lose in the future are, indeed, precious, if not priceless.

Author Robert Roy Britt is a science and health journalist.

The imperative to stop news deserts, with local journalism are under siege

By Evelyn Mateos

HERE is the hard truth. The current state of local journalism is dire. The devastating impact of Covid-19 has made advertising dollars plunge and closed more than 50 local newsrooms around the US, according to Poynter's Kristen Hare, who has been tracking the closures since March.

In addition, as newsrooms around the country continue to work remotely from home, Tribune Publishing recently announced that several of their local newsrooms (including the New York Daily News, Orlando Sentinel, and Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland) would close their physical offices.

But before Covid-19 hit the industry, local journalism was already in need of help. According to the "News Deserts and Ghost Newspapers: Will Local News Survive?" report published by the University of North Carolina (UNC) Hussman School of Journalism and Media and authored by Knight Chair in Journalism and Digital Media Economics Penelope Muse Abernathy, since 2004, the US has lost a quarter (2,100) of its newspapers - that includes 70 dailies and more than 2,000 weeklies or non-dailies.

The report also shared that at the end of last year, the nation had 6,700 newspapers - down from nearly 9,000 in 2004 - and more than 200 of the nation's 3,143 counties and equivalents had no newspaper and no alternative source of credible and comprehensive information on critical issues.

When the first news deserts report was published in 2016, Abernathy described it as "a tree falling in the forest and nobody in the industry realised except a few". But by 2018, the industry was beginning to understand what was happening to the health of the news ecosystem in communities across the nation.

"I think we're looking already at the potential rise of what I would call 'Saharas' across regions in this country," she told E&P.

The landscape

The News Reporter is a family-owned and operated newspaper in Whiteville, North Carolina. The twice-weekly publication was founded in 1896 and has been owned by the Thompson/High family since 1938.

Yet, it exists in one of the poorest counties as well as one of the most impacted regions in the South. Currently, the newspaper has 2,026 print-only subscribers and about 1,700 digital or digital and print subscribers.

Local newspapers, like the News Reporter, are vital in the news ecosystem. Abernathy looks at it as a three-tiered ecosystem with national newspapers at the top, regional newspapers in the middle and community newspapers as the base - which includes ethnic newspapers, small/mid-sized dailies and non-daily newspapers.

She explains that the 2,100 lost newspapers disproportionately affected the bottom tier of the ecosystem, and "as with any ecosystem if the bottom is wiped out, that will have implications all the way up".

Additionally, the loss of 36,000 journalists over the last decade has mostly been at the regional level. Thus, the news ecosystem faces a double loss.

In recent years, the News Reporter has worked hard to evolve in many ways to meet industry demands. They focused on innovation, invested in the newsroom and worked towards a business model centred on circulation revenue.

They reduced their assortment of 48 subscription plans down to two: digital-only and print and digital with print-only subscriptions grandfathered in. They implemented a 24/7 newsroom, and last year, they erected a metered paywall.

After launching a revamped website in 2018, the News Reporter originally planned for the website to be free for three months before putting up the paywall. However, owing to tech issues, it took eight months to get the paywall up and running.

"This ended up being a serendipity because we got people hooked on the free content that resulted in a successful launch in February 2019," publisher Les High said.

The revenue from the paywall and rise in circulation numbers offset what they lost in advertising in 2018 after Hurricane Florence wiped out many local businesses for several weeks. High said that "while digital hasn't replaced the print model, nor will it anytime soon, it literally helped them weather the storm."

To keep up with the demands of their readers who want their community news right away, editor Justin Smith said, the News Reporter



now operates with a digital-first approach with all its news coverage.

For example, the newsroom recently had reporters attend four important community meetings with a staff of about five people, and stories went up that night or the following morning.

Even though legacy newsrooms like the News Reporter have adapted to the times, the news desert report suggests that digital is not the saviour that the industry anticipated it would be several years ago.

"There was the initial hope that digital sites would fill the void and, unfortunately, the digital news sites are experiencing the same revenue problems that newspapers are experiencing," Abernathy said.

But for those who want to dive headfirst into digital, research should be done on the community first. Abernathy suggests that there are very few communities that could support a digital local news operation.

Even in the smallest markets, three quarters of the revenue is siphoned off by the tech giants, leaving very little digital revenue in terms of subscriptions or digital revenue.

Abernathy explained that many communities that would be served by these digital sites may not have access to the internet they need to see the content, or they may not be able to afford a news subscription or recognise or trust a news brand when it appears online.

She also noted in her report that

"although, 83 new local sites were added to the UNC database in 2019, an equal number disappeared, as sites that were active in 2018 went dormant". Additionally, non-profit startups face the challenge of funding, especially in economically struggling communities which are most likely to become news deserts.

Abernathy said that collaboration among news organisations will help in regions like where the News Reporter is located. One such collaboration is the Border Belt project made up of newspapers and news organisations in four North Carolina counties.

"All four of those counties are some of the poorest in the state," she said, adding: "They serve minority populations that are becoming a majority in the counties in which they live. What (the News Reporter) aims to do is bring journalism to adjacent communities that they've done so well in by pooling the resources, and coming together to get a proposal that serves a region - not just a community or a county."

Preserving local ownership

Since 2008, hedge funds, private equity firms and other investment entities have aggressively purchased hundreds of newspapers and chains - displacing the media barons of the previous century.

Abernathy said one could argue that through the end of the 20th century there were a few benefits to shareholders. If one market were struggling, it could often be com-

pensated with another market and good journalism could continue to be provided. The ability to bring national and international news down to the local level was another benefit.

But as the newspaper industry's revenue declined, these hedge funds began to aggressively cut costs by laying off staff, reducing benefits, consolidating editorial functions and more - eventually becoming known as "vultures".

In 2004, the largest 25 chains owned one-fifth of the 8,900 newspapers and less than one-third of the 1,472 dailies. At the end of last year, the 25 largest chains owned just one-third of the 6,700 surviving newspapers in the nation.

The most recent hedge fund to acquire a newspaper company is Chatham Asset Management. In July, a federal bankruptcy judge approved the \$312 million sale of McClatchy Co., who declared bankruptcy in February.

According to a McClatchy DC report, after a 30-day transition period, the new company will cut all ties with the founding McClatchy family, which had been in control for 163 years.

Abernathy wondered how the new company will prioritise getting information to communities that need it the most versus the very real business issues they are going to confront.

"Just trying to stay in business is not going to serve the needs of many communities," she said, adding: "So, the shape that McClatchy's papers are in three to five years from now will be determined by the strategic decisions that the new owners make."

High also shared his concerns about non-local ownership: "Hedge funds have seriously damaged the credibility of newspapers. We all know the drill. Despite protestations that there won't be lay-offs or reductions in the quality of reporting, there almost always is."

Although many local newspaper owners have been forced to make the decision to sell to these companies for the sake of saving the newspaper, High says he has no plans to do the same.

"We will do everything in our power to keep the News Reporter under local control and pray that folks from Whiteville to Washington understand and appreciate what a valuable role newspapers play in our communities and in our democracy," he said.

This is something High's daughter, Margaret, understands. She works at the paper as a writer and began an MBA programme at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School this autumn with the goal of working on models to save local journalism.

"There's gravity in being the fourth generation at the News Reporter," she said, adding: "I grew up watching the printing press and helping with inserts, so the staff very much feel like members of a family."

Most employees at the newspaper have been with the organisation their entire careers, so the workers who

greeted her when she was five years old are the same who greet her at 23, she said.

"Saving journalism isn't just about saving the backbone of democracy, it's also about honouring the sacrifices my family made before me," Margaret said.

Staying optimistic

The media landscape has certainly transformed since the first news desert report was published four years ago. And the report will continue to reflect these changes.

New to the 2020 report was ethnic media and public broadcasting. Two things motivated the addition of ethnic media in this year's report, Abernathy said. First, it was the notion that areas that had lost newspapers were often minority communities or economically struggling communities, and second was the fact that the census predicts that by year 2045, the US will be a majority minority nation.

Public radio was added because recently it has made efforts to help stop news deserts by adding journalists and stepping up their coverage of state and regional issues, such as the environment, economic and business, education and health.

More importantly, the report introduced four main concepts, one being that ensuring that no community is excluded because its residents lack access to critical information is the "journalistic challenge of the 21st century".

Two: the industry will need various models going forward and increasingly it appears the industry will need public funding allocated towards local news.

Three: technology capabilities will present several issues - such as many Americans do not have access to high speed internet and algorithms are determining what news consumers see - that requires the industry to evaluate what it can do versus what it cannot do.

And four: policies and regulations should be rethought as the policies that drive media governance and regulation today were set up nearly a century ago, when the industry was in a very different situation.

According to Abernathy, all four concepts are interconnected and must be reimaged or reinvented to thwart the rise of news deserts in the nation.

Looking ahead, the Covid-19 pandemic will continue to disrupt our industry. Just about every independent publisher Abernathy has spoken to since the 2020 report was released saw advertising drop as much as 40 to 50 per cent in the second quarter.

Many were able to employ people with the government assistance that went to small and independent publishers. However, they expect the third and fourth quarters to be sluggish, she said.

Abernathy anticipates that the industry will have several hundred fewer weeklies, and the industry will see many publications transition to digital-only, as nearly three dozen have already done.

The dailies will have to rethink the daily distribution of a print edition and cut back on the printing schedule. But the trouble with both methods is that if they are not done in a thoughtful manner, the news organisation risks alienating the readers they still have as well as their advertisers.

However, Abernathy believes that there will be survivors. There will be those that will figure out the best way to provide news and information that feeds democracy to their communities by thinking creatively and in a disciplined manner.

She also anticipates that the industry will continue to see publishers look for new business models. It will need to rely on the independent owners that have journalistic mission as a top priority to "try to figure out how to craft a business model that serves their community".

As for the 2021 news desert report, Abernathy hopes to focus on policies on a national and local level. She also wants to examine what kind of benefits partnerships and collaborations offer going forward.

Additionally, she wants to keep an eye on public funding, large media chains, the future of independently owned news organisations and other assorted media with the potential to play an important role going forward.

WAN-IFRA

Preserving food security in Africa's urban areas

By Isaiah Esipisu

IN Torit State, southern South Sudan, Margaret Itto is one of the farmers in Africa's youngest country who have invested heavily in agriculture. But she is not able to access the lucrative market for her produce in the capital Juba simply because of poor roads.

"Road infrastructure in this country is a big hindrance," said Itto. "Getting the produce from the farms to the stores, then to the market is very challenging. Many times, my workers have had to sleep in the bush because their vehicle got stuck," she said.

Itto, who grows groundnuts, sunflower, maize, beans and sesame, among other crops, has had to endure huge post harvest losses, especially when it rains as this makes roads impassable.

In sub-Saharan Africa 40 percent of staple foods fail to reach markets because of poor roads and market access limitations, according to the Food Sustainability Index (FSI) developed by the Economist Intelligence Unit and the Barilla Centre for Food and Nutrition (BCFN).

To this end, importers have taken advantage of the demand by supplying low quality food products to Africa's cities.

"Given our high cost of production, many urban dwellers end up consuming imported low quality food because they are far cheaper than locally produced food," observed Dr James Nyoro, the Governor for Kiambu County in Central Kenya.

Africa's rapidly-growing cities and food markets with a turnover of up to \$250 billion per year offer the largest and fastest-growing market opportunity to the continent's 60 million farms, according to a new report released alongside the ongoing virtual Africa Green Revolution Forum. But for African farmers to take advantage of the huge market opportunity there is a need for investment in non-urban road infrastructure, small and intermediary cities, improved urban food systems governance, and food safety regula-

tions and enforcement, among other things.

The Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR) – an annual findings of the state of agriculture on the continent which is authored by experts from the United Nations, various universities and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), among other institutions – highlights five key priority areas that must be taken care of.

"There will be need for improved urban food system governance, efficient urban wholesale markets, food safety regulation and enforcement, regional free trade and agricultural policy harmonisation, and agricultural research focused on high-growth, high-value food commodities," said Prof. Rudy Rabbinge, a Prof Emeritus in Sustainable Development and Food Security at Wageningen University, and one of the lead authors of the report.

Rabbinge's sentiments resonate with findings of an earlier report by the BCFN, that the most critical challenge are weak governance structures, insufficient or low resources and capacity, lack of professional training, and persistent conflict and lack of coherence between sectors, actors and jurisdictions.

These challenges, according to the BCFN report, are recognised in the new normative global sustainable development agendas agreed to by national governments, but they will have to be contextually relevant, locally adapted, better supported implementation efforts in food governance.

Daniele Fattibene, research scientist at the BCFN, said that it is crucial to launch policies and initiatives to preserve food security in African urban areas.

"COVID-19 has exposed many people in African urban areas to poverty and hunger. Most of them who were employed in casual labours lost their jobs during lockdown. While some have returned to rural areas where access to food was easier, others cannot go for this option, as they already escaped from violence or hunger," he said.

According to Andrew Cox, the chief of staff



Margaret Itto (R) on her groundnuts farm in Torit, South Sudan. She has had to endure huge post-harvest losses especially whenever it rains during the harvesting season because the inadequate roads means its difficult to get the food to markets.

and strategy at AGRA, a cohort of new, non-traditional actors – including city planners, mayors, district councils, trader organisations and public health professionals – are becoming key players in the implementation of agricultural policy at a time when Africa's agri-food systems are shifting increasingly towards urban areas.

This was echoed by Fattibene, who believes that African mayors should invest in urban agriculture, as a way to shorten food chains and preserve them from sudden external shocks as a medium and long-term intervention.

"In this sense, local authorities should support smallholders producers and SMEs to form cooperatives and encourage supermarkets and other grocers to source their products locally instead of importing products," he said, adding that they should develop tailored strategies to effectively map their food systems, taking as a reference other cities in the

Global South such as Quito in Ecuador, which has developed effective urban food resilience plans. "This may allow development of early warning tools to avoid food emergencies in urban areas," he said.

The AASR report also gives an example of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where access to markets is the weakest in Africa, raising farm production costs and reducing the scope for profitable trade and non-farm investments.

Another challenge is to do with cross border trade policies. This was heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, when countries across the globe decided to restrict food exports due to the pandemic, thereby exacerbating food insecurity, especially in Africa's urban areas.

Locally, restrictions at the border between Kenya and Tanzania for example saw perishable foodstuff go to waste during the height of the pandemic as truck drivers waited to clear

with authorities on both sides.

However, the AASR authors are optimistic that the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is moving forward and could mark a milestone in improved policy that allows scaling of investment in production, processing, and trade and much lower costs of operation.

As cities continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, Fattibene says that authorities should launch measures to protect those employed in informal sectors such as street food vendors in open air markets, who were seriously affected by the crisis, and as well support those children who rely on school meals as their main daily source of safe and nutritious food as an immediate short term measure.

"To implement all these measures, additional funding for local authorities will be required," he said.

Brewer launches smart drinking drive to buoy up clients to drink responsibly

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Breweries Limited (TBL) has launched a positive drinking campaign dubbed 'Pombe sio Chai, Kuniywa Kistaarabu' aimed at encouraging consumers to drink responsibly.

The campaign intendsto change the way consumers think by cultivating the difference between excessive drinking and drinking responsibly. This will be done through sharing tips and highlighting the benefit of responsible consumption through various

channels including but not limited to Radio, Print, Digital as well as consumer outreach activities.

Speaking during the launch, Managing Director at TBL Plc, Mr. Philip Redman said "As a leading brewer, we believe we have a unique role to play in

championing Smart Drinking behaviors in Tanzania. Our Smart Drinking commitments are focused on shifting social norms, consumer behaviors, and our own business practices to make a tangible contribution towards responsible drinking."

He further went on to say that

through the 'Pombe sio chai. Kuniywa kistaarabu.' Campaign we will address issues around: Excessive consumption of alcohol among adults; Any alcohol consumption in underage and vulnerable groups (i.e. pregnant women, nursing mother etc.); Harmful consumption patterns

that put other people at risk (e.g. drunk driving) through advocating for smart drinking behaviors.

"We believe that every experience with Beer should be a positive one that is why we encourage our consumers and customers to drink responsibly," Redman added.

For years, TBL has been at the forefront of smart drinking initiatives in various community groups. The company's mission is moving beyond awareness-raising campaigns to driving real change in the communities it works in.

UNWTO promotes domestic travel to offset coronavirus

By Special Correspondent

AS restrictions on travel begin to ease globally, destinations around the world are focusing on growing domestic tourism, with many offering incentives to encourage people to explore their own countries.

According to the World Tourism Organisation, with domestic tourism set to return faster than international travel, this represents an opportunity for both developed and developing countries to recover from the social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recognising the importance of domestic tourism, the United Nations agency has released the third of its tourism and Covid-19 briefing notes – Understanding Domestic Tourism and Seizing its Opportunities.

UNWTO data shows that in 2018, around nine billion domestic tourism trips were made worldwide – six times the number of international tourist arrivals (1.4 billion in 2018).

The publication identifies ways in which destinations around the world are taking proactive steps to grow domestic tourism, from offering bonus holidays for workers to providing vouchers and other incentives to people travelling in their own countries.

UNWTO secretary general, Zurab Pololikashvili, said: "UNWTO expects domestic tourism to return faster and



stronger than international travel."

"Given the size of domestic tourism, this will help many destinations recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic, while at the same time safeguarding jobs, protecting livelihoods and allowing the social benefits tourism offers to also return." The briefing note also shows that, in most

destinations, domestic tourism generates higher revenues than international tourism.

In OECD nations, domestic tourism accounts for 75 per cent of total tourism expenditure, while in the European Union, domestic tourism expenditure is 1.8 times higher than inbound tourism expenditure.

Globally, the largest domestic tourism markets in terms of expenditure are the United States with nearly US\$1 trillion, Germany with US\$249 billion, Japan US\$201 billion, the United Kingdom with US\$154 billion and Mexico with US\$139 billion.

Given the value of domestic tourism and current trends, increasing numbers

of countries are taking steps to grow their markets, UNWTO reports.

This new Briefing Note provides case studies of initiatives designed to stimulate domestic demand.

These include initiatives focused on marketing and promotion as well as financial incentives.

Tanzanian students to take part in global ICT competition

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA'S students are among participants of this year's Sub-Sahara African finals of the Huawei Global ICT Competition themed 'Connection, Glory, Future.'

Students from Tanzania and Nigeria emerged overall joint winners of last year's sub-Saharan regional finals of Huawei's global ICT Competition.

Launched in Johannesburg, South Africa the finals kicked

off on September 10th, this year with an online opening ceremony. It is believed to be the biggest event of its kind in Africa covering 14 countries and attracting over 50,000 students.

Globally the Huawei ICT Competition 2019-2020 has covered over 70 countries, with 150,000 contestants from more than 2,000 universities and colleges.

Launched in the region just five years ago, the Huawei ICT Competition has developed into the largest ICT skills competi-

tion in Africa.

During the opening ceremony attended by industry partners, UNESCO and students, Huawei Southern Africa VP, Liao Yong highlighted the significance of connectivity in the era of social distancing.

"The digital divide is actually widening under the new normal caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

As people migrate more work and study online, the digitally disadvantaged people are hit harder", Liao said.

In a recent UNESCO webinar, digital infrastructure was identified among the most prominent challenges facing higher education in Africa.

"Holding the online version of ICT competition during the pandemic has a unique value; it shows that Huawei, as a pioneer in building African digital infrastructure, also takes its talent strategy very seriously. It encompasses three aspects; digital up-skilling ICT professionals, encouraging and enabling ICT

students, and promoting ICT literacy among ordinary people," Liao added.

Huawei has invested heavily in preparation for this event, holding 300 campus roadshows, in 14 Sub-Sahara African countries, with a total of 50,000 students participating. The competition-related training helped over 300 students receive job offers.

This training has been of great significance for the students. Tanzania ICT student Emanuel Chaula was overjoyed that his

team emerged as one of the two winning countries during last year's competition.

"We worked hard as a team because we wanted to seize the opportunity to get to travel to China to compete in the global finals. We really wanted to show Africa and the world that Tanzania is an up and coming ICT player and we wanted to be a part of that growth in our country," he said.

Also speaking during the opening ceremony, Ydo Yao, act-

ing Director of UNESCO International Bureau of Education, applauded Huawei for playing an exemplary role to support initiatives that create, innovate and deliver ICT skills for the continent.

In Africa, the partnership between UNESCO and Huawei has been fruitful with many successful projects, such as DigiTrack and Huawei ICT Academy under the auspices of Huawei's digital inclusion initiative TECH4ALL.

How bitcoin met the real world in Africa

LAGOS/LONDON

FOUR months ago, Abolaji Odujio made a fundamental change to his business selling mobile phones in a bustling street market in Lagos: He started paying his suppliers in bitcoin.

Odujio sources handsets and accessories from China and the United Arab Emirates. His Chinese suppliers asked to be paid in the cryptocurrency, he said, for speed and convenience.

The shift has boosted his profits, as he no longer has to buy dollars using the Nigerian naira or shell out fees to money-transfer firms. It is also one example of how, in Africa, bitcoin - the original and biggest cryptocurrency - is finding the practical use that it has largely failed to elsewhere.

"Bitcoin helped to protect my business against the currency devaluation, and enabled me to grow at the same time," Odujio told Reuters from his two-by-eight metre shop.

"You don't have to pay charges, you don't have to buy dollars," the 30-year-old said, raising his voice above the sound of loud haggling and the honking horns of scooters.

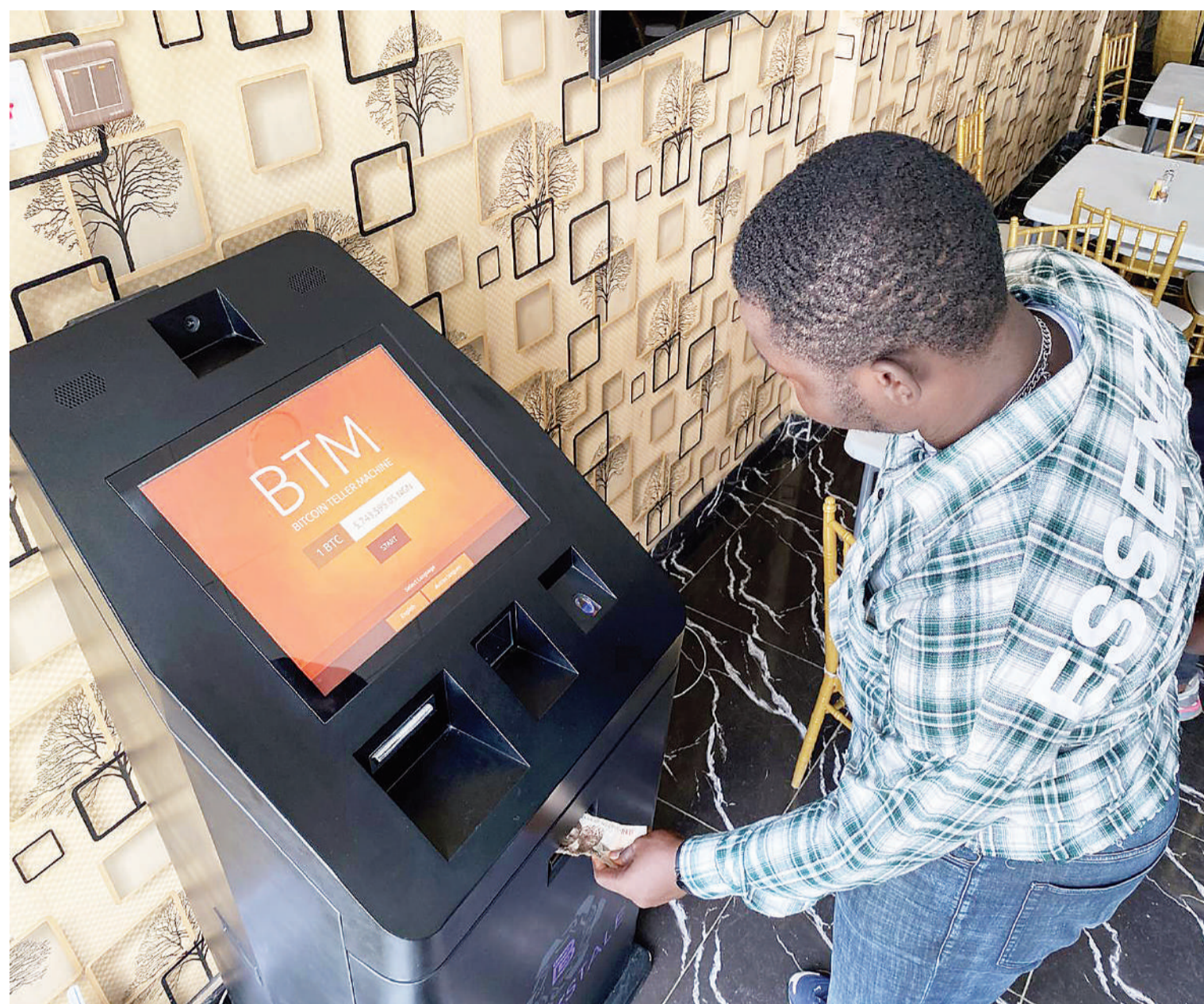
Odujio is one of many people at the heart of a quiet bitcoin boom in Africa, driven by payments from small businesses as well as remittances sent home from migrant workers, according to data shared exclusively with Reuters and interviews with around 20 bitcoin users and five cryptocurrency exchanges.

Monthly cryptocurrency transfers to and from Africa of under \$10,000 - typically made by individuals and small businesses - jumped more than 55% in a year to reach \$316 million in June, the data from U.S. blockchain research firm Chainalysis shows.

The number of monthly transfers also rose by almost half, surpassing 600,700, according to Chainalysis, which says the research is the most comprehensive effort yet to map out global crypto use. Much of the activity took place in Nigeria, the continent's biggest economy, along with South Africa and Kenya.

This represents a reversal for bitcoin which, despite its birth as a payments tool over a decade ago, has mainly been used for speculation by financial traders rather than for commerce.

Why a boom in Africa? Young, tech-savvy populations that have adapted quickly to bitcoin; weaker local currencies that make it harder to get dollars, the de facto currency of global trade; and complex bureaucracy that



complicates money transfers.

The bitcoin users interviewed by Reuters, based in five countries from Nigeria to Botswana, said the cryptocurrency was helping people make their businesses nimbler and more profitable, and helping those working in places like Europe and North America hang on to more of the earnings they send home.

Yet risks abound.

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are unregulated in many countries and their legal status is unclear, meaning there is no safety net and little recourse if you lose funds.

For many, converting local currencies to and from bitcoin relies on informal brokers. Prices are volatile, and buying and selling is a complex process that demands technical knowledge.

In 2018, the Nigerian central bank

A bitcoin user buys bitcoins with naira on Bitcoin Teller Machine in Lagos, Nigeria September 1, 2020. Picture taken September 1, 2020. REUTERS/Seun Sanni

warned cryptocurrencies were not legal tender, and investors were unprotected.

TO SHANGHAI WITH CRYPTO

A steady stream of customers comes and goes from Odujio's shop, one of a dozen units along a dark corridor in an indoor section of the market known as Computer Village.

Odujio makes two or three transfers a month of around 0.5-0.7 bitcoin (\$5,900-\$8,300) each, to suppliers in Shanghai and Zhangzhou. East Asia, Chainalysis found, is one of the top partners for bitcoin trading with Africa. Odujio's trades offer a microcosm of the wider trends at play in both Nigeria and across the continent.

In Nigeria, small cryptocurrency transfers totalled nearly \$56 million

in June, nearly 50% more than a year before. The number of transactions jumped over 55% to 120,000.

Gauging how cryptocurrencies are used in particular locations is tough, though. Digital coins offer a high degree of anonymity, and though the value of transactions can be tracked on the blockchain, the identity or whereabouts of a user cannot.

Chainalysis, which tracks crypto flows for financial firms and U.S. law enforcement, gathered the data by analysing web traffic and trading patterns, though locations can be obscured by virtual private networks. It separated transfers of under \$10,000 from larger sums common among professional traders.

NAIRA'S LOSS, BITCOIN'S GAIN
With Nigeria's oil-dependent econ-

omy rocked by low crude prices and COVID-19, the central bank has twice devalued the naira this year. As a result, Odujio and other importers must pay more to buy increasingly scarce dollars.

The naira's fall has pushed many Nigerians towards bitcoin, the interviews showed, as they seek methods of purchasing goods from overseas without having to buy dollars.

Sylvester Kalu, who runs a clothing starch maker in Uyo, eastern Nigeria, uses bitcoin to buy supplies from Istanbul and Shenzhen.

"Everything is oil. When the price of oil dropped, forex became scare," he said. "That became a very big problem."

The 30-year-old said his transactions totalled around 2 bitcoin (\$20,000) a time, adding: "I don't need anyone in the banks, I don't need a person to use the back door to get dollars."

Timi Ajiboye, who runs Lagos exchange BuyCoins, said its monthly cryptocurrency volumes jumped over three-fold to \$21 million in June after the naira was devalued in March.

Exchanges across Africa spoke of a similar boom.

Yellow Card, which operates in five countries, said its monthly crypto volumes had jumped five-fold in 2020 to \$25 million in August. A big driver was workers using bitcoin for remittances, it added.

Luno said the combined monthly bitcoin trading volumes of all market participants in South Africa and Nigeria had jumped by half this year to more than \$536 million in August.

IT'S A RISKY BUSINESS

For some people working abroad, in other continents or other African countries, sending money home via bitcoin can be quicker and cheaper.

A Nigerian worker in London sending 100 pounds (\$132) in cash to Lagos via a big traditional money-transfer firm, for example, would pay fees of around 5%. Costs are lower when sending larger amounts or using a debit card, but the exchange rates on offer are typically several percentage points less favourable than the market rate.

Bitcoin fees vary depending on the exchange or broker, but would typically total about 2%-2.5% for sending 100 pounds.

However both exchanges and over-the-counter (OTC) brokers carry risks, from hacks to scams.

And bitcoin, while handy for transfers, isn't much use on the ground - shops and landlords rarely accept it, for instance. This means friends or family sent funds by workers must convert it back to traditional currency, often via a broker at their end, introducing additional risk.

Yet the bitcoin users interviewed said many OTC brokers, who rely on word-of-mouth reviews, functioned reliably in an increasingly competitive market and were loath to imperil the reputations they needed to stay in business.

And for a growing number of people, the potential rewards outweigh the pitfalls.

"People are very adoptive of any technology that will make their life easier," said Frankline Kihui, a crypto broker in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

"In most African countries, there are lots of government restrictions that bitcoin takes away."

(\$1 = 0.7585 pounds)
(1 bitcoin = \$10,065)

Bark painting helps villagers in N.China's Inner Mongolia increase income

By Zhang Cheng

“BARK of fallen trees and rotten wood can be turned into beautiful handicrafts through the deft hands of the locals. These skills are our secret of becoming rich,” Li Yanhong, a 44-year-old bark painting instructor, told the People's Daily.

Li teaches her fellow villagers in Linsu village, Bailang township, Arxan, Hinggan League, North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, to create bark paintings and handicrafts with materials such as white birch bark, pine bark, and moss.

Their bark paintings featuring beautiful women, flowers and birds depicted in traditional Chinese style and works featuring landscapes are so life-like that many tourists are attracted to these products.

Li demonstrated the process steps for making bark painting works during the interview with the People's Daily. She first sketched the basic patterns of the painting, and then peeled a piece of white birch bark layer after layer, after which she concentrated on details of the work using tools including scissors and graters.

In a few moments, various small parts of the painting took shape. Li then pieced these parts together and pasted them onto a background board, and finally finished a simple bark painting after mounting and framing the work.

Li was born in the family of forestry workers and has been interested in bark painting since her childhood.

Endowed with rich forest resources, local people in Arxan often create various articles of everyday use with bark, such as cigarette cases and containers. Since she was young, Li has seen local

women make bark paintings to give to their relatives and friends as gifts or to decorate their homes.

Under the influence of the older generations, Li has also created quite a lot of bark paintings featuring beautiful women and cartoon characters when she was young.

In the mid-1990s, Li went to study tailoring at a vocational school in Ulanhot, Inner Mongolia. After graduation, she worked in a clothing factory and made bark paintings in her spare time.

"Although I did not drop bark painting, I couldn't earn a living through my craftsmanship, for there was neither a stable market nor a decent price for my works then," Li said.

Thanks to China's natural forest protection project, forests in Arxan were rehabilitated after the year 2000. Tourism industries in the city started to embrace rapid development and many local forestry workers turned from lumbering to tourism for income.

Li also started to ask people to sell the bark paintings she made in her spare time, and has since seen her income increase significantly each year.

At the end of 2017, Xie Caiyun, general manager of a local culture company based in Linsu village, saw Li's works and persuaded her to return to her hometown and help people in the village achieve prosperity through bark painting techniques.

In May 2018, Li returned to Bailang township and became an instructor of the company. However, Li found herself faced with plenty of difficulties as there were not enough trained people on the job, and the bark painting products of the company could hardly find buyers because of the poor quality, outdated style, and high prices.



A piece of bark painting work.

Realizing that the key to a breakthrough in the business was to find outstanding bark painting craftsmen, Li and Xie started to look for capable artists and invite them to work full-time on bark paintings. Zhao Guihua, a local villager who could make bark paintings since she was young, is one of them.

Under the guidance of Li, Zhao's skills have been constantly improved in the past two years. At first, Zhao's works were a little rough, but now she can make very delicate bark painting works and has become one of the first-class masters of the company.

"I devote most of my time to bark paintings now. My works are paid by piece. I can not only enjoy flexible work hours, but earn 40,000 (\$5,864) to 50,000 yuan a year, which is much more than I used to make," Zhao said.

In 2018, bark painting of Linsu village was included on the list of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of Inner Mongolia. Later in March 2019, the region held a pilot training course for the integration of ICH into poverty relief efforts, inviting experts from Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology to train local bark painting producers.

"The training broadened our vision," Li said, explaining that she and her colleagues are adding new materials to their products, paying more attention to the styles of their works, and developing various cultural and creative products based on bark painting techniques.

In an effort to involve more people in the business and guarantee stable growth in people's incomes, Li has designed bark painting products that are easy to make and can be produced in large quantities.

At present, over 100 local people are working in the local bark painting industry, with their works being sold to other regions of the country. Each worker in the business now sees an average income growth of 1,000 to 2,000 yuan per month.

"We hold training sessions every month and teach students in accordance with their aptitudes," Li pointed out. She has tried to improve the artistic quality of bark paintings by integrating traditional Chinese painting styles, traditional Chinese cultural elements, and the characteristics of the local forests.

"As the products become more beautiful, our sales volume and prices have risen and more people who are attracted to the craft have also increased their incomes," said Li.

People's Daily



Although I did not drop bark painting, I couldn't earn a living through my craftsmanship, for there was neither a stable market nor a decent price for my works then



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Tanga communities join race seeking nod to forest reserve

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

COMMUNITIES in Handeni District of Tanga Region which have been involved in Community Based Forest Management are seeking government's approval to establish forest reserve and tame deforestation.

Speaking to journalists who visited the area last week, village leaders from Handeni with an estimated population of over 10,422 people, said they have already designated areas for village forest reserves after sensitization by CBFM experts.

The villagers have decided to embark forest conservation also to improve their livelihood, protect water sources and air quality while maintaining soil fertility for crop cultivation as deforestation, shifting cultivation, free range livestock grazing and illegal logging for charcoal making are threatening the ecosystem.

Madebe Village Chairman, Kassimu Bakari whose area is among those badly affected by deforestation said they have decided to work with CBFM after realizing that despite his village's rich ecosystem is being vandalized to the disadvantage of the current and future generations.

"Right now there are many people entering our village forests illegally for logging due to demand for timber production, charcoal making and house construction," Bakari said adding that the move will also help address climate change which is negatively affecting agricultural production.

"We call upon the government through the district council to help our villages fully own these forests and manage them by recognizing them as village land forest reserves," he



Madebe Village chairman Kassimu Bakari shows the hugely deforested Lugulu Hill in Handeni District. Photo: Beatrice Philemon

added while revealing that the villages have since officially written to Handeni District Executive Director to communicate their request.

Supporting the Handeni communities demand for the forest reserve, Tanzania Forest Conservation (TFCG)'s Advocacy and Communications Officer, Revocatus Njau said they have engaged them through CBFM so that they can save 17.6 million hectares of forest cover.

Njau said approximately 80 percent of the country's estimated 22 million hectares of village forests are not protected legally

hence making them vulnerable to deforestation."Every year, more than 469,000 hectares of forest cover are cleared in Tanzania with much of it being village forests," he stated.

"Right now as TFCG and Mjumita we have embarked on a new campaign for forest reserves for all villages to set aside village land forest reserve within their boundaries and take full ownership and management of the areas prior to formalization," the TFCG officer added.

He said the countrywide campaign is now taking place in the Southern Highlands, Northern Zone and Southern Zones through

a two year project dubbed 'Forest Justice in Tanzania,' with the support from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

"As TFCG we were visited at Madebe and Kang'ata villages to monitor and evaluate what has been done since engaging them through capacity building on forest management by Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (Mjumita)," he noted while commending Madebe and Kang'ata villages for doing an impressive job with allocation of the village land forest reserve.

He said TFCG is also working in partnership with Handeni District Council to ensure that villages get support to save 17.6 million hectares of unreserved forest land. "To start with, TFCG will begin with two villages in the district that are not engaged in community based forest management and later on other six villages to help them conserve forest and benefit from it," he explained.

On his part, Madebe Village Executive Officer (VEO), Hassani Mbwego thanked TFCG for sensitizing communities on the importance of conserving forests while calling on relevant government agencies and departments to back such efforts and tame illegal logging.

"As villagers we want to conserve our forests so that we can protect our water sources and farmland but also combat climate change," Mbwego said. Madebe Village was officially established in 1976 and 6,000 residents and has allocated 2,564 hectares as designate forest reserve.

The VEO further noted that although their village is endowed with many natural forests, illegal loggers have not shared any income with the people. "We don't get anything from it, not even a single penny as levy and that's why we want the forest legally protected," he stressed.

Mbwego's arguments were backed by Kang'ata Village Chairman, Maulid Ismail who added even his village has suffered similar fate hence decision to allocate forest reserves. Nomadic farmers and pastoralists from Arusha and Manyara Regions are blamed for destruction of natural forests in Handeni District

TPB Bank, NHIF in a unique deal to insure rural farmers

By Smart Money Reporter

In a rare feat, TPB Bank Plc and National Health Insurance Fund have entered into an agreement to provide insurance coverage to farmers in Lake Zone.

Under the deal, the bank and NHIF will partner with grass root cooperative societies in the region through an Integrated Health Cooperation Program (NHIF). Speaking during the launch of the scheme last week in Tabora Region, TPB Bank's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi said the current health care program start with farmers involved in cultivation of strategic crops such as cotton which is mostly grown in the Lake Zone Region.

"This health insurance coverage for farmers has started on a trial basis in the Lake Zone Region where cotton cultivation is practised and we are collaborating with the Igembensabo Cooperative Union in Igunga-Tabora," said Moshingi.

"This service will be readily available at all TPB Bank branches in the Lake Zone and NHIF offices for farmers to access," he added stressing that the exercise will also involve Shinyanga Cooperative Union, Kahama Cooperative Union, Simiyu Cooperative Union and Nyanza Cooperative Union. The cooperative societies will sign a memorandum of understanding with TPB and NHIF through the office of the

Registrar of Cooperatives in the country. NHIF Director General, Bernard Konga said through the agreement, farmers will contribute 76,800/- while another 76,800/- for their spouses and children under 18 years will contribute 50,400/- per year.

"Deductions will be made when the farmer is paid for his produce through cooperative societies via bank accounts," said Konga adding that once the farmer and their family get a health insurance card, they will get treatment free of charge with doctors' consultation fee, tests, drugs, minor and major surgeries free of charge.

Tabora Regional Commissioner who launched the scheme, Dr

Philemon Sengati commended TPB Bank and NHIF managements for coming up with the innovative arrangement that targets farmers and their families.

"Farmers are a group that in one way or another was forgotten in access to health care in the country, this arrangement by TPB and NHIF has incorporated them. I would like to urge other government institutions to emulate TPB and NHIF enterprising approach," Dr Sengati said.

TPB's Branch Manager for Tabora Urban, Timon Massawe said apart from allowing farmers access to reliable health services, the deal also gives the bank room to expand its customer base by opening new accounts for insur-



TPB Bank Plc CEO Sabasaba Moshingi speaks at a past event. File photo.

ance premium collections.

"This also enables the bank to extend services to the unbanked

rural farmers as part of imple-

menting government's financial inclusion agenda," Massawe said

noting that the deal also contributes to wards rapid economic growth.

Boost as Kenya starts Beijing avocado sale

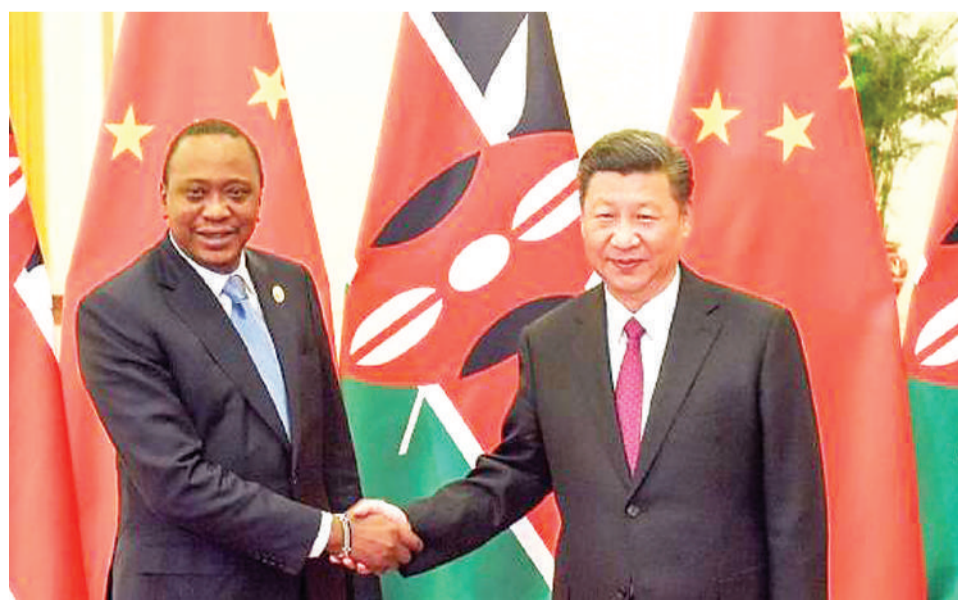
NAIROBI

KENYA has started export of frozen avocado to China, yielding to pressure on conditions that Beijing had issued before they allow in imports of the fruit from the country. The first consignment, according to the Directorate of Horticulture, arrived in China last month, after the deal was reached nearly one and a half years ago.

Kenya has been fighting to have the rules relaxed as most exporters do not have necessary infrastructure for freezing the fruits, delaying what has been a seven-year effort to land Kenyan avocado in the China market.

"The first consignment arrived in China late last month," said Benjamin Tito, head of the directorate, without giving the export volume or value. Under the deal that was agreed in April 2019 between President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, Kenya would only be allowed to export frozen avocado as a way of taming pests such as fruit fly, which have been common on Kenyan fruits.

The government, through the Ministry of Trade, had started negotiations to have the directive eased and allow local firms to export fresh avocado as they work towards laying necessary infrastructure to meet the requirements. Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (Kephis), which is overseeing the export of avocados, says the conditions set by China might bar small scale holders from accessing



Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Chinese President Xi Jinping prior to a bilateral meeting in Beijing in 2018.

the market.

Kephis warned that the conditions are so strict that Kenya's avocado could be banned from the Chinese market if Kenya fails to comply with the set phytosanitary requirements. According to Kephis, farmers will be required to put systems in place that will support the peeling and freezing of the produce to the required temperatures before exporting.

China wants Kenyan farmers and traders to freeze the fruits to -30 degrees Celsius after peeling off the skin and chill further to negative -18 degrees while on transit to the destination, meaning that exporters have to invest heavily in cold rooms to meet the requirement.

Ethiopia sets date for big telecoms auction

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA has set a new deadline of February 2021 to complete the partial privatisation of the country's telecommunications industry, with carriers such as Orange, Vodafone Group and MTN Group keen to expand into a market of more than 100 million people.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's administration is looking to auction two new mobile network licences and sell a minority stake in the state-owned monopoly Ethio Telecom. The plan was set for earlier this year but was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, regulatory complexities and a thwarted attempt to hold national elections.

"We have a February, January timeline for both processes," Eyob Tekalign, the state minister of finance, said after presenting an update on the process to government officials in Addis Ababa this week. "The reform is fully on track."

Liberalisation of the telecoms industry is at the forefront of what Abiy said in mid-2018 would be the wide-ranging privatisation of several industries, including sugar, rail and industrial parks. The plan was intended to bring in much needed foreign exchange and boost the economy, while improving connectivity across the Horn of Africa nation.

Orange is a strong candidate to win one of the two new licences, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified as the process is ongoing. A spokesman for the Paris-based company reiterated the carrier's interest in entering the country and said the firm is working on the right proposal.

Expressions of interest

MTN Group and a consortium led by the UK's Vodafone Group are also in the running, two of the people said. Both were on a list of companies that submitted expressions of interest released by the government in June.

"The Ethiopian authorities have said that 12 directives will be issued that will enable us to put together a business case and an investment case," a spokeswoman for MTN said in an e-mailed response to questions. "This is still work in progress and we have not yet made any decision on the opportunity." Vodafone declined to comment.

TCRA reports: Mobile money transactions maintain increase



TCRA director general James Kilaba.

By Francis Kajubi

MOBILE money transactions have maintained an upward increment from 8.32trn/- last year to 10.66trn/- to June this year according to a new report by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority.

The TCRA quarterly communications statistics report said Vodacom Tanzania Plc's M-Pesa platform maintained its lead in the market with 5.96trn/- from a total of 106,677,433 transactions made by subscribers during the period.

"TigoPesa followed in the list with transactions worth 2.33trn/- involving 80,429,264 transactions while Airtel Money took the third position with 61,592,957 transaction worth 1.97trn/-," the TCRA report stated adding that HaloPesa came in fourth with 286bn/- involving 19,652,265 transactions while EzyPesa managed 92.51bn/-.

In comparison to the corresponding period of last year, M-Pesa transactions grossed

4.88trn/-, TigoPesa had 2.02trn/-, Airtel Money managed 1.22trn/- while HaloPesa had 111.12bn/- and finally EzyPesa subscribers transacted 68.17bn/-. State owned TTCL remained at the bottom of the list with only 7.90bn/- worth of transactions.

Meanwhile on East Africa voice tariff development during the period, the regulatory body said the cost of making a call per minute without subscribing to a bundle, increased by 300/- compared to last year's price. Airtel subscribers paid 1,035/- as of June this year up from 750/- they paid the corresponding period last year. Tigo subscribers paid 1,020/- compared to 739/- while Vodacom subscribers paid 994/- from 720/- during the period under review.

The TCRA statistics also show that small companies charged subscribers more compared to big telcos with Smile customers paying 1,537/- this year compared to 1,314/- last year; TTCL charged 703/- from 600/-; Zantel charged 1,020/- compared to 720/-. The regulator however stated that Halotel maintained constant charges for the period at 875/- per minute.

In addition, international voice tariffs also experienced an increase with Vodacom raising it from 1,459/- to 2,015/- per minute, Tigo increased its charges to 1,887/-

from 1,367/- while Airtel's rates rose to 2,098/- from 1,520/- per minute.

Smile subscribers paid 1,743/- from 1,490/-; state owned TTCL's customers paid 1,515/- from 1,294/- while Zantel also raised charges to 1,450/- from 1,040/- per minute. The report stated that total international tariff from April to June this year peaked 31,473,814.

On the telcos share of the domestic market, TCRA said Vodacom remained the leader with 33 percent market share, followed by Tigo Tanzania which had 27 percent, Airtel Tanzania came third with 26 percent, Halotel retains 10 percent, Zantel three percent and TTCL one percent.

Electric-car startup Lucid to follow Tesla into energy storage

NEWARK

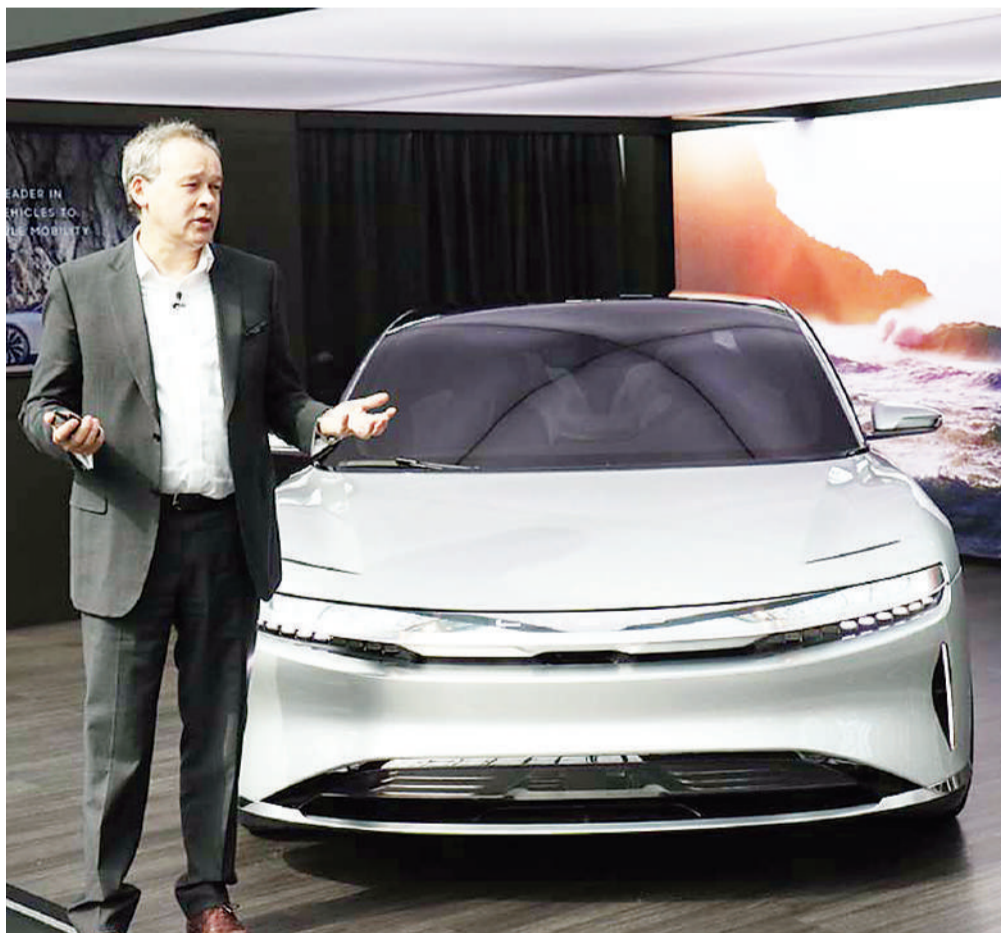
THE timing of Lucid's move into energy storage is odd because the company has yet to start production on its EV. Lucid Motors Inc., the electric-vehicle startup that has yet to build a production car, is following Tesla Inc.'s footsteps into the energy-storage business.

The Newark, California-based company is developing home batteries – similar to Tesla's Powerwall – and utility-scale devices, Chief Executive Officer Peter Rawlinson said in an interview. They will have the same battery-cell modules the company is installing in its debut EV. "There is a multiplier effect: They are cost-effective to make," so they can be used in stationary storage systems, Rawlinson said.

His comments came ahead of the unveiling Wednesday of the production version of Lucid's Air electric sedan, which the company says has an EPA estimated range of 517 miles and claims is the fastest-charging EV ever. The Air also will have two-way, vehicle-to-grid charging that allows owners to power their homes in the event of a blackout.

The energy-storage systems are an extension of the same technology but may require lower-performance cells than the cars, Rawlinson said. Lucid has an agreement with LG Chem Ltd. for the cells in its battery packs. The company aims to have a prototype of a commercial system installed at its headquarters by the start of next year that will store power generated from solar panels on the facility's roof and provide electricity during peak hours.

Lucid is also in preliminary talks with Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund about an industrial-scale energy-storage system, Rawlinson said. The goal is that Saudi Arabia could store solar-generated power in Lucid's batteries, helping the country to shift from dependence on oil and diversify its economy. The fund – which invested more than \$1 billion in Lucid in 2018, giving it a much-needed injection of cash and credibility – declined to comment when asked about any energy-storage discussions. "It's a natural place



Lucid Motors Inc. CEO, Peter Rawlinson with Lucid Air sedan.

for us to help our investors and work with our investors," Rawlinson said.

The company is often compared with Tesla, in part because Rawlinson was chief engineer on Tesla's Model S between 2009 and 2012. But Lucid has catching up to do in both EVs and energy storage. Tesla has been offering storage products since 2015, when it introduced the Powerwall. It doesn't report revenue data for batteries alone but recorded \$1.5 billion in sales last year for batteries and solar arrays. By comparison, Tesla earned \$20.8 billion in automobile revenue in 2019.

On Tuesday, CEO Elon Musk played down the role Rawlinson played in the Model S in a tweet, saying he didn't contribute to the vehicle's powertrain or battery. Lucid declined to comment on Musk's tweet.

The timing of Lucid's move into energy stor-

age is odd because the company has yet to start production on its EV, according to James Frith, a BloombergNEF analyst and head of energy storage. Lucid is aiming to begin assembly of the cars, and the battery packs that will power them, by year-end at a plant under construction in Casa Grande, Arizona. BloombergNEF forecasts that demand for energy storage could grow to a cumulative 1,095 gigawatts by 2040, driven by more than \$650 billion of investment.

"They presumably have their battery-pack line up and running ahead of full-scale production" of the Lucid Air, Frith said. "They can use this production line to generate revenue for the company, and the stationary storage market makes sense in this case as margins have traditionally been higher."

Activists: Lack of transparency bad for future of Mozambique resources

MAPUTO

CIVIL society activists said on Thursday that the creation and management of a future sovereign fund in Mozambique must be transparent so that the revenues from natural resources are not appropriated by the elites in power, as happened in Angola.

How a possible sovereign fund in Mozambique should be constituted and managed was the subject of debate on Wednesday at the webinar "Angola Sovereign Wealth Fund: An Experience to Avoid", whose main speaker was Angolan activist and journalist Rafael Marques and promoted by the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), a Mozambican civil society organisation.

Rafael Marques said that the sovereign fund of Angola was condemned to failure at the outset because it was created in a context in which the then Angolan President, José Eduardo dos Santos, and his family had a monopoly on economic and social life and prevented any public and transparent participation in the process of creating the mechanism.

"After the first president of the fund was exonerated, the son of José Eduardo dos Santos took over, who had no experience in finance and from then on was the debacle," said Rafael Marques. Using his initial allocation of \$5 billion from the fund (€4.2 billion), José Filomeno dos Santos, son of José Eduardo dos Santos, involved the fund in ruinous schemes aimed at his benefit and that of people close to him, the activist said.

After José Filomeno dos Santos left, the government of João Lourenço used the remaining money from the fund to finance projects of dubious viability, namely, support for infrastructure projects in the country's municipalities, he said. The drainage of the fund's resources was aimed at electoral propaganda given the local elections, which had been postponed.

João Mosca, economist and executive director of Observatório do Meio Rural (OMR), a Mozambican civil organisation, noted that there are worrying signs regarding the future Mozambican sovereign fund, characterising as opaque the process of elaboration of the technical proposal of this mechanism by the Bank of Mozambique (BM), entity charged by the government to work on the technical part of the document.

Mosca argued that there are similarities in the behaviour of the elites in power in Mozambique and Angola, which means similar problems in a future Mozambican sovereign fund. Adriano Nuvunga, director of the CDD, said that the alleged mismanagement of capital gains that Mozambique has achieved in the sale of shares among multinationals involved in natural gas projects in the country is a negative background for an eventual sovereign fund of the country.



Angolan activist and journalist Rafael Marques

Naspers and RMI sell their Luno stakes to international investor

JOHANNESBURG

NASPERS and Rand Merchant Investment Holdings (RMI) have sold their stakes in the South Africa-founded cryptocurrency exchange, Luno, to the international blockchain firm, Digital Currency Group (DCG), for an undisclosed amount.

Luno was established in South Africa in 2013, and DCG first invested in the company in its seed round in that year. Luno now has five-million customers spanning over 40 countries as well as almost 400 employees based in London, Singapore and South Africa. DCG subsidiaries operate as independent companies, and the Luno leadership team will remain in place, with co-founder and CEO Marcus Swanepoel at the helm.

"DCG has been an integral part of the Luno story during this time, and we've been fully aligned on our vision and culture since day one. Having the full backing of DCG just as we're experiencing such a pivotal moment of growth in the industry is not just an exciting and important milestone for Luno, but more importantly it will significantly accelerate our ability to reach our goal to help upgrade one billion people to a better financial system by 2030, says Swanepoel.

In addition to its venture portfolio, DCG is the parent company of several wholly owned subsidiaries, including Grayscale Investments (digital currency asset manager), Genesis (a digital asset prime brokerage), CoinDesk (industry media and events company), and the recently-launched Foundry, which provides institutional expertise, capital, and market intelligence to Bitcoin miners and manufacturers.

"We are proud to have supported Luno as an early investor, and we recognise a shared commitment to building mission-driven companies that can help transform traditional financial services and improve economic freedom for people all over the world. Luno is a high growth, global business and there is a massive opportunity to expand organically and through acquisitions," says Barry Silbert, DCG founder and CEO.

AATF touts investment in new technologies in transformation of agricultural sector in Africa



Dr Denis Kyetere, Executive director of African Agricultural Technology Foundation, speaks at a virtual Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa forum hosted by Rwanda last week. Photo courtesy of AATF.

By Smart Money Reporter,

AFRICAN agriculture needs investments in new technologies such as hybrid seeds and machinery in addition to digital tools in order to play a role of an engine of economic growth.

Speaking during a virtual panel discussion of the 10th African Green Revolution Forum, Executive Director of African Agricultural Technology Foundation, Dr Denis Kyetere said the continent's farming needs immediate significant investments.

Dr Kyetere noted that as African farmers are beginning to innovate, increase productivity and drive progress across economies, other challenges including drought and climate change, pest and diseases, low access to technologies, market failure and inefficient value chains and adulterated agro-inputs threaten gains already made by the farmers.

"We have developed and deployed a digital application - Market Information Support System for Cassava Mechanisation and Agro-processing (MISS CAMAP) that facilitates farmer access to e-extension services and markets. Agridrive App that supports access to mechanisation services and Hello Tractor App which provides remote tracking of farm assets, preventing fraud and machine misuse," Dr Kyetere said.

The AATF chief who shared the panel with Joseph Mucheru,

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Paula Ingabire who is Rwanda's Minister of ICT and Innovation and Liam Condon, President of Bayer Crop Science, further noted that in order to meet the current demand on the continent of over a billion people, digitization is of paramount importance.

He pointed out that digital solutions can be deployed to enhance crop management, seed inspection and seed certification processes with capabilities for seed inspection with real-time data generated from the field allowing quick decision making, data management and product traceability throughout the certification process which supports efficient seed dispatch and cross border trade of seeds.

In terms of adoption of digital solutions in agricultural value chains and the potential for growth, Dr Kyetere noted that digital agriculture innovations can help to increase smallholder yields by up to 70 per cent and incomes by up to 40 per cent.

"The uptake of these solutions is considered a game-changer in the transformation of African agriculture. For example, Hello Tractor App has served 22,500 farmers in Nigeria and Kenya and reports a 200 per cent increase in customer yields," he noted.

To accelerate growth of digital agricultural solutions, the AATF Executive Director called for the need of sound national strategies including creation of an enabling policy and regulatory environment to support adoption of digital solutions especially with regards to ensuring affordability of mobile phones, connectivity and internet access in the rural areas.

"Agricultural transformation is within our reach. Our farmers can improve their productivity, increase their wealth and health and continue the path of progress if they have access to the right mix of farming innovations including digital agricultural solution," he argued.

The session panelists called for increased digital penetration in rural areas through the spread of mobile

technology to play a transformative role in shifting food systems towards more sustainable and efficient practices.

"Time is ripe for digital solutions to accelerate agriculture development in Africa. As in most other innovations, an enabling environment would be key to supporting private sector investment and allowing access to the solutions by those who need them," Dr Kyetere stressed.

The AGRA Forum which was hosted by Rwanda, had a theme: Accelerating the growth, sustainability, and inclusivity of digital agricultural solutions. The panel session explored ways towards increasing the overall sustainability of digital solutions for African agriculture.

Founded in 2003 to address Africa's food security prospects through agricultural technology, AATF focuses on the agricultural sector as a key foundational pillar for the continent as it consolidates economic growth and carves out a new position as a major global economic powerhouse and the next growth market in the world.

It was formed in response to the need for an effective mechanism that would facilitate and support negotiation for technology access and delivery and formation of appropriate partnerships to manage the development and deployment of innovative technologies for use by smallholder farmers in Sub Sahara Africa.

Natural gas is the rich world's new coal

WASHINGTON

JUST a few years ago, natural gas was hailed as vital for the transition toward an economy that runs on renewable energy. But sentiment is changing and the fuel is going the same way as coal, its dirtier sibling shunned by governments, utilities and investors.

The cancellation of the giant Atlantic Coast pipeline in the US and Ireland's decision to scrap backing for an import terminal this summer are the latest signs that gas is falling out of favour with everyone from regulators to asset managers.

As countries intensify efforts to meet climate obligations, the fuel used for heating, cooking and power production is poised to lose out to solar, wind and private and public energy efficiency measures.

While natural gas only emits about half the carbon dioxide of coal, flaring and methane leaks have tarnished its reputation across the globe, according to Nick Stansbury, head of commodity research at Legal & General Investment Management Ltd. in London. Many investors are also shying away to instead allocate funds to projects aligned with objectives of the Paris Agreement, he said.

"Gas companies have underestimated that the public opinion is changing rapidly," said Stansbury. "Coronavirus lockdowns have had a role in that change, as investors are also stepping back and rethinking how things should be done."

More than 1 200 institutions managing over \$14 trillion in assets have committed to divest from fossil fuels, up from 181 managing \$50 billion five years ago, according to a report from Fossil Free, an international environmental movement.

In the US, environmental opposition helped boost the costs for the Atlantic Coast pipeline to almost double to \$8 billion. This year, about \$10 billion of gas pipeline projects in the US got scrapped – even as gas enjoys political support from President Donald Trump's administration.

European politicians are now debating whether to pursue the giant Nord Stream 2 pipeline from Russia to Germany – not for environmental reasons but thorny geopolitical ones. That debate also raises the question of whether the pipeline would be going ahead anyway if so many billions hadn't already been invested. While in the rich world activists and investors are using their successful anti-coal playbook against gas, it's a different picture in the developing world.

Surging economies and urbanisation

is driving demand for both coal and natural gas. The biggest energy companies are spending billions on gas exploration and infrastructure as new markets open up. "We will have a stronger growth in liquefied natural gas than in any aspect of the energy system," Royal Dutch Shell's chief executive officer Ben van Beurden told reporters on July 30.

The increase will be helped by a plunge in prices after the worst glut the world has ever seen. Nations from Vietnam to Brazil plan to use the fuel to feed power hungry citizens and wean themselves off coal.

Vietnam's shift to gas and renewables has been the most drastic in Southeast Asia, said Daine Loh, an analyst at Fitch Solutions. Roughly 26 gigawatts of gas-fired power projects are planned by 2029, according to Fitch. That's enough to meet 8% of the nation's current power demand.

Total SA's Mozambique LNG project has completed as much as \$16 billion in funding in the biggest foreign direct investment in the continent yet. Brazil's economy minister Paulo Guedes said that "a shock of cheap energy" is essential after this year breaking up a monopoly that will increase demand from factories and in transportation.

Demand will rise in Asia, Africa and Middle East over the next five years, while remaining stable in Europe, Eurasia and North America, according to the International Energy Agency. Back in Europe, governments embarking on post Covid-19 recovery paths are even more focused on greening their economies. European leaders approved the most ambitious climate change plan to date, with more than 500 billion euros (\$572 billion) to be poured into green projects.

That's bad news for projects like the Shannon LNG import terminal in Ireland, developed by US-based New Fortress Energy. The nation's new coalition government on June 30 decided to withdraw it from the Projects of Common Interest list in 2021 that sets out which projects should receive incentives from the European Union.

The facility would be built on land once owned by the grandmother of computer programmer John McElligott. He has been fighting for the project for 14 years. "Ireland's decision to not support Shannon is massive," he said.

While Fortress hasn't given up on its plans, the list of white elephants is growing. A judge last year decided that an LNG terminal in Gothenburg on Sweden's west coast shouldn't be connected to the grid. Construction on a pipeline between France and Spain was abandoned after regulators on both sides of the border used veto to stop it.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



Demonstrators protest against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in front of the US Supreme Court in Washington, DC, in February this year.

Safaricom, Airtel to pay users for outages as law changed

NAIROBI

MOBILE phone operators, including Safaricom, Airtel and Telkom Kenya, will compensate businesses and customers when network outages knock out voice, data and text services under new draft regulations.

The draft regulations, which were published yesterday for public comment, seek to compel the telecommunications providers to either pay or offer credit equivalent to the time mobile phone users are without voice and SMS services.

The new rules are aimed at shielding millions of mobile phone clients from poor services related to network outages, including lack of Internet connections. The regulator is permitted by law to sanction any telecommunications company that inconveniences customers through service interruptions as a result of omission on its part.

An operator found in breach risks a fine of up to 0.2 percent of its revenues, which could run into hundreds of millions. Now,

the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) wants to include compensation to clients for mobile phone outages.

"A licensee shall develop and implement an outage credit policy in situations where service is unavailable due to system failure and not as a result of scheduled and publicised maintenance, emergency or natural disaster," say the draft rules. "(The policy) will compensate subscribers or issue credit equivalent to usage over similar period that outage lasted (and) compensate customers for each day that service has been unavailable."

Compensation will be based on how much the telecoms operator charges per minute for calls and data. Kenya last year had 55.2 million mobile phone subscribers who made 58.78 billion minutes of calls, up from 39.19 billion in 2015.

Scheduled outages and those caused by factors beyond the control of an operator, technically known as force majeure, usually do not attract sanctions. Kenya seeks to join countries in the West where users of telecom



ICT Cabinet Secretary Joe Mucheru

services are compensated in the form of a credit on their bill after network outages.

In some European countries customers are able to claim for any out-of-pocket expenses

that resulted from being without phone services. This must be a genuine loss which can be proved with evidence. In Kenya, Safaricom and Airtel have faced regulatory investigations after outages left their customers without services for hours.

The law provides for fines should the outage be deemed to be the product of omissions by firms. In 2017, Airtel was fined Sh26.6 million by the CA for failing to meet the set standards on call quality in a period that saw rival Safaricom slapped with a hefty penalty of Sh270 million.

Telkom Kenya paid Sh14.9 million for quality breaches during the same period. Last year, Airtel Kenya restored its services after 27 hours of downtime, which affected its data, calling and texting services. Safaricom's mobile money platform M-Pesa was also hit with a downtime, inconveniencing customers who rely on it for payment transactions.

The outage saw ICT Cabinet Secretary Joe Mucheru direct the CA to carry out an investigation and issue a report. M-Pesa handled a total of 649.3 million transactions

valued at Sh1.7 trillion in three months to June 2019, showing its growing significance to the economy.

Telecommunications service outages have also been viewed as a threat to the economy, especially for critical services such as money transfers. A 2016 Treasury report warned that a collapse of the M-Pesa service could, for instance, cause widespread disruption in the economy.

The CA has been considering imposing steeper penalties on operators that offer poor quality voice, data and messaging services. In 2018, it unveiled a new monitoring system, procured at a cost of Sh400 million, that was to track network performance and customer experience.

The new system was procured from French firm Rohde Schwarz through its local partner Broadband Communication Networks. Before the adoption of the 0.2 percent of gross revenue fine, firms were required to pay a flat rate of Sh500,000, which the communications regulator at the time deemed too lenient.

WORLD

Japan's Suga wins ruling party race to replace PM Abe

By Bloomberg

JAPANESE Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga was elected yesterday leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) by an overwhelming majority, ushering in the country's first change of prime minister in almost eight years.

The party, which has ruled mostly uninterrupted since 1955, was set to use its parliamentary majority to install Suga as prime minister in a separate vote tomorrow.

Suga's appointment will bring to an end the record run of his ailing boss, Shinzo Abe, who has served since 2012 and forged an identity on the global stage that the world's third-largest economy had often lacked.

"Amid the national crisis of the spreading coronavirus, we must not allow a political vacuum," Suga told party lawmakers after the announcement. "To make sure everyone in the country can feel reassured and live a stable life, we need to continue with Prime Minister

ter Abe's efforts."

Suga also pledged to push ahead with regulatory reform and break down vested interests. Abe took the stage before Suga spoke and offered him congratulations.

A farmer's son long known as Abe's back-room fixer, Suga won 377 – or 70.6 percent – of the 534 available votes Monday, the LDP said. It was not immediately clear why the total was different from the expected 535. His two rivals former defense minister Shigeru Ishiba – known for his frank criticism of the Abe government – received 68 votes and ex-foreign minister Fumio Kishida got 89.

"I would like to create a government that's trusted by the people," Suga told supporters just before LDP lawmaker started voting.

While Suga headed into a three-way race with little voter support, media polls show the public has also begun to swing behind him.

Even before Suga declared his can-



Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga reacts after being elected as the new leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), at the party's leadership election in Tokyo, yesterday. AP

didacy on Sept 2, he had the backing of five of the party's seven factions and enough votes lined up to win. The only factions that didn't back him were the ones led by the other contenders – Ishiba, with 19 members, and Kishida, with 47.

Asked later about the line-up of his new cabinet, Suga said he wanted to appoint reform-minded people, who could come from any faction. He added that the appointees to the major party executive positions would be announced Tuesday. Analysts have said Suga's cabinet picks will offer clues as to his appetite for reform.

General election

While speculation of an early dissolution of parliament for a general election has simmered following a surge in support for the cabinet, Suga reiterated that it would be difficult to go to the people while the coronavirus outbreak is still spreading.

"I will take into account the opinions of experts in making a decision," Suga told reporters, adding that he wanted to do some work on policies before dissolving parliament. Deciding the timing of the election is the prerogative of the prime minister, and none need be held for another year.

Suga inherits an economy in a grim state as COVID-19 reverses many of the gains of the past few years, effectively closing down what had been a growing inbound tourism industry. He has pledged to fight the virus while helping businesses stay afloat.

Suga has said he will continue the ultra-easy "Abenomics" monetary policy. He has said that more should be done on monetary and fiscal policy, if needed, to protect jobs and companies during the virus crisis. Suga has said reviving the economy should be prioritized over tackling debt at this point.

Any sign of a departure from the path of Abenomics could send the yen surging and stocks sliding, triggering a re-evaluation of the outlook for the nation.

Though Suga is largely seen as a continuity candidate, he has been outspoken on some issues, including the need for more competition among mobile phone providers. He has said Japan has too many regional financial institutions, and is a strong proponent of introducing casino resorts to bolster tourism.

Agencies

Former Somali PM to contest for presidency

MOGADISHU

FORMER Somali Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire has announced that he will run for the country's presidency in the forthcoming elections.

Khaire (pictured) who was ousted from his post by Parliament following a vote of no confidence nearly two months ago after he fell out with President Mohamed Farmajo said he understands the challenges facing Somalia.

The former oil executive and aid worker who was appointed as the country's Prime Minister in February 2017 said the experience gained during his tenure in office will enable him to fix the problems the Horn of Africa na-

tion is facing in terms of leadership.

"With a complete understanding of the opportunities and challenges with regards to the kind of leadership our country needs now and in the future, I once again put myself up to serve my people with proficiency, integrity and honesty," Khaire said in a statement issued on Saturday evening.

Analysts say Khaire enjoys wide support and respect from a cross section of Somalis as well as the international partners. Khaire said it was clear that Somalia has made a progress over the last two decades in terms of economic development and security.

"I have served this country as a prime minister and have gained



experience, so I am here to announce that in the next presidential election, I will run for the presidency," he said. The 52-year-old Somali-Norwegian is expected to face incumbent Farmajo and other candidates during the elections expected to be held before February 2021.

A meeting to fix the date of the elections between Farmajo and five presidents of the country's federal member states was due to open in Mogadishu on Sunday. Analysts say holding the 2020 universal vote is considered critical for the sake of entrenching the federal system of governance, which is required to appease communities and regions claiming systematic exclusion and marginalization for decades.

The Horn of Africa nation last held one-person, one-vote elections in March 1969 when the government was overthrown in a bloodless military coup.

Parliamentary and presidential elections took place in late 2016 and early 2017 through a system of indirect suffrage.

Agencies

Putin, Macron discuss Libyan issues

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in a phone conversation yesterday discussed settlement in Libya.

"The issues of Libya were touched upon, for instance, the necessity was emphasized of a further joint effort to implement the decisions of the Berlin Conference (January 2020) fixed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2510," the Kremlin press service reported.

The final document of the Berlin conference on Libyan settlement that was held in early 2020 calls for a ceasefire in that country.

The participants undertook to refrain from interfering into Libya's affairs and suggested a united government be formed in that country that would begin reforms to restore the statehood that was destroyed by NATO's intervention almost 10 years ago.

Libya has had two parallel executive power structures for a long while now, the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) headed by Fayez al-Sarraj and the interim government operating in the country's east together with the parliament and supported by the Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Commander Khalifa Haftar.

In spring 2019, Haftar attacked the capital, while the Tripoli Cabinet of Ministers officially asked Turkey for help and, thanks to Ankara's active assistance, the GNA managed to regain control over several territories previously occupied by the LNA.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron

Hotel Rwanda hero appears in Rwandan court amid tight security

KIGALI

PAUL Rusesabagina, portrayed as a hero in a Hollywood movie about Rwanda's 1994 genocide, appeared in a Rwandan court amid tight security yesterday, where prosecutors are expected to formally charge him and hear his plea.

The Rwanda Investigation Bureau had previously said he would face several charges including "terrorism, financing terrorism ... arson, kidnap and murder".

Rwandan police have said that Rusesabagina (pictured) - who called for armed resistance to the government in a YouTube video - was arrested on an international warrant. His family dispute that and say he was kidnapped from Dubai.

The former hotel manager was portrayed in the Oscar-nominated film Hotel Rwanda using his job and his connections with the Hutu elite to protect Tutsis fleeing the slaughter. He later acquired Belgian citizenship and became resident in the United States.

Rusesabagina has lived in exile since 1996, and is a strong critic of President Paul Kagame's government. Kagame enjoys widespread credit for returning Rwanda to stability after the genocide and boosting economic growth, but his rule has been tainted by accusations of widespread repression.

Agencies



S. African president voices concern over impact of COVID-19 on media sector

CAPE TOWN

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday voiced concern over the heavy losses inflicted on South Africa's media by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is a great concern that like all other sectors of the economy, South Africa's media houses had been dealt with a serious blow by the coronavirus pandemic, Ramaphosa said in his weekly presidential address.

Financial difficulties are being faced across the board, from online titles and traditional broadsheets to the public broadcaster - the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), the president said.

He said this was just one of the issues raised during his engagement with the South African National Editors' Forum last week.

A number of publications lost up to 60 percent of their income in the early days of the lockdown, forcing companies to implement salary cuts and reduce staff numbers or working hours, said Ramaphosa.

Other publications have even been forced to close, including some of South Africa's most established and well-known magazine titles, he said.

The president acknowledged that job losses that have resulted from the lockdown have exacerbated a crisis for media companies already facing challenges like loss



of advertising revenues, falling circulation and market share being taken by mobile-first news and other technologies.

However, instead of lamenting their fate, the media industry continued to strive to refine business models, drive innovations and

retain staff as much as possible, Ramaphosa said.

With respect to the role of media in society, Ramaphosa called the media "a unique entity in any society because its practitioners fulfill a role that is so essential to our democratic order."

"They work to keep the public informed and to keep power in check. We need more journalists, not less. That is why the loss of even a single journalist is not just a loss to the industry but to the country," said Ramaphosa.

Calling on South Africans to fully support the media, he promised that the government will continue to extend advertising to publications and broadcasters, especially community media.

As the great task of rebuilding the economy in the aftermath of the pandemic began, South Africans need their media veterans, with their vast experience and institutional memory, and ability to offer critical reportage and informed analysis, Ramaphosa said.

At the same time more young journalists who are tech-savvy, abreast with new trends in storytelling and in touch

Crucial time for China, EU to jointly promote multilateralism, free trade

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's virtual meeting with German and European Union (EU) leaders yesterday is poised to send a signal of certainty as China and the EU are committed to enhancing communication and cooperation and defending multilateralism and free trade.

China and the EU represent two major forces, markets and civilizations. The elevated communication and cooperation between the two sides is crucial to safeguarding world peace, stability and prosperity, especially when the world is enter-

ing a period of turbulence and change with the rise of protectionism, unilateralism and bullying.

Certain countries and political forces keep playing the blame game, clamoring for "decoupling," and pulling out of international organizations and agreements. What they are doing is sabotaging international cooperation, stoking confrontation between ideologies and social systems, and putting the world in jeopardy.

Such moves notwithstanding, peace and development remain the theme of the times. The trend toward a multipolar

world remains unchanged, and continuous globalization endures despite twists and turns.

It is high time China and the EU should strengthen mutual political trust, promote cooperation and advance relations.

Economic and trade interests are the most important common factors in China-EU relations. The EU has been China's largest trading partner for a long time. The two sides have great potential to expand the scale of bilateral trade and investment, advance green development and cooperation on digital economy, and deepen cooperation in combating the

COVID-19 outbreak.

Such cooperation will not only make the pie of common interests bigger but also help stabilize global industrial and supply chains. China-EU cooperation is mutually beneficial and does not target a third party.

It is worth noting that both China and the EU are keen to reach a comprehensive, balanced and high-level investment agreement, which will help resolve some outstanding issues in bilateral economic relations. This requires both sides to meet halfway and exert political influence in the final stage

of the negotiations.

China has decided to build a new development pattern known as "dual circulation," which takes the domestic market as the mainstay while allowing domestic and foreign markets to boost each other. This is a good opportunity for EU companies to share China's development dividends. Chinese companies are also trying to access the EU market on a more balanced and reciprocal basis, which would eventually benefit the bloc itself.

As two major driving forces for peaceful development, China and the EU can also strengthen

communication on improving global governance, promote sustainable development, resolve global and regional hotspot issues and jointly safeguard and practice multilateralism.

Cooperation is, and will continue to be, the mainstay of China-EU relations despite some false accusations against China in Europe.

History will remember how China-EU relations have withstood tests at critical moments. More than 10 years ago, China offered assistance to an EU suffering from the international financial crisis followed by the European debt crisis. Five years

ago, China supported Europe in promoting the conclusion of the Paris Agreement and the comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue. This year, China and the EU have carried out effective anti-epidemic cooperation amid an unprecedented public health crisis rarely seen in a century.

It is time for China and the EU to enhance communication and cooperation, find common ground and resolve differences, to demonstrate to the world that at a time of uncertainty, multilateralism, openness and cooperation will prevail.

Xinhua

India's Modi braces for debate over virus as parliament resumes

By Bloomberg

INDIAN lawmakers returned to the nation's parliament for the first time since the start of the pandemic with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government bracing for a tumultuous session as the country sets new global records in coronavirus infections.

The worst economic slowdown amid global economies is also expected to drive debate, although the question hour -- in which lawmakers seek direct replies from ministers -- has been suspended in a move that's only happened in times of war or national emergency, prompting criticism from the opposition.

Countries around the world have been grappling with how to conduct legislative business during the pandemic.

In India this parliament session will be marked by several firsts. The COVID-19 epidemic has forced the overhaul of logistics and infrastructure to maintain social distancing

among members.

Members are required to get tested for the virus no more than 72 hours before the start of the parliament session, according to a bulletin from the upper house or Rajya Sabha.

Some senior lawmakers have informed the secretariat of both houses they will skip the session to avoid exposing themselves to possible infection.

The average age of members of 545-seat lower house or Lok Sabha is 54 and that of the 250-member upper house is 63 years -- putting many in the high-risk group for serious complications from COVID-19.

Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation in the air conditioning system will be used, while polycarbonate sheets will separate galleries from chambers, additional display screens and special cables connecting the two houses have been installed.

Surging epidemic

The session comes as Modi strug-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (second from left) addresses the media as he arrives at the Parliament in New Delhi, India, yesterday. AP

gles to contain the spread of the virus, which is growing at one of the fastest paces in world and adding as many as 95,000 case each day. India is now the second worst affected country with more than 4.7 million infections and has the highest death toll after US and Brazil.

India's strict lockdown, implemented in late March to contain the outbreak, led to the biggest contraction among major economies with gross domestic product shrinking 23.9 percent in the three months to June from a year earlier, resulting in millions of job losses.

The main opposition Congress party intends to push the government over what it says are its failure to contain the coronavirus epidemic.

The session, that is scheduled to end on Oct 1, will take up 11 bills to replace existing ordinances and some other legislation, including three bills on labor reforms, according to a government statement.

Xinhua

New rules will further reduce China's financial risk

BEIJING

CHINA issued fresh rules on Sunday to tighten regulation of the country's financial holding companies, a move that experts say will forestall risks in the financial sector.

The new regulation concerns non-financial companies and other eligible entities that control at least two financial institutions doing business across financial sectors, requiring them to apply for and gain approval from the central bank, the People's Bank of China (PBOC), to establish financial holding companies.

The move is aimed at plugging regulatory loopholes and deepening financial reforms amid efforts to maintain market order, reduce risks and enhance support for the real economy, according to a notice released by the State Council.

The new rules will be effective from Nov. 1, 2020.

While some large financial groups and non-financial enterprises have been operating as financial holding firms in recent years to conduct cross-industry investments, financial holding companies have not been included as a group in the country's supervision framework, posing financial risks, PBOC Vice Governor Pan Gongsheng told a press briefing Monday.

Recognizing that some well-managed firms have optimized resources and reduced costs by means of financial holding firms, Pan also noted irregularities in the sector, including misuse of funds from financial institutions and improper profits from related-party transactions.

The new rules require non-financial firms to establish separate financial holding companies subject to regulation, effectively putting up a firewall between the real economy and the financial sector to reduce contagion risk, Pan said.

"The new regulation is credit positive for China's financial system as it will improve governance around the ownership of financial institutions," David Yin, senior analyst at Moody's Investors Service, said in a research note. Xinhua

Pandemic preparedness panel slams failure to heed warnings

LONDON

A COLLECTIVE failure by political leaders to heed warnings and prepare for an infectious disease pandemic has transformed "a world at risk" to a "world in disorder", according to a report on international epidemic preparedness.

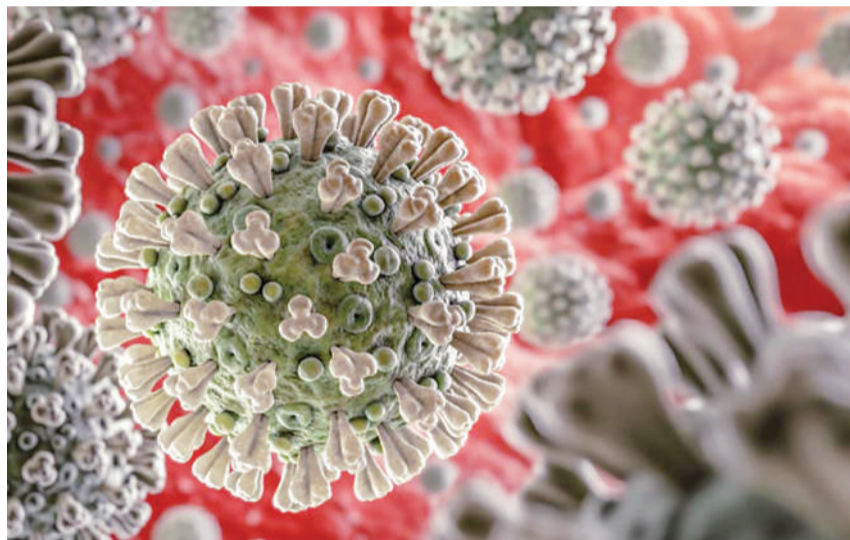
"Financial and political investments in preparedness have been insufficient, and we are all paying the price," said the report by The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB).

"It is not as if the world has lacked the opportunity to take these steps," it added. "There have been numerous calls for action ... over the last decade, yet none has generated the changes needed."

The GPMB, co-convened by the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO), is chaired by former WHO director-general Gro Harlem Brundtland, who now also chairs an independent watchdog that monitors the WHO.

The board's 2019 report, released a few months before the novel coronavirus emerged, said there was a real threat of "a rapidly spreading pandemic due to a lethal respiratory pathogen" and warned such an event could kill millions and wreak havoc on the global economy.

This year's report - entitled "A World in Disorder" - said world leaders had never before "been so clearly forewarned of the dangers of a devastating pandemic", and yet they had failed to take adequate action.



The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed "a collective failure to take pandemic prevention, preparedness and response seriously and priori-

tize it accordingly", it said.

"Pathogens thrive in disruption and disorder. COVID-19 has proven the point."

The report noted that despite calling a year ago for heads of government to commit and invest in pandemic preparedness, for health systems to be strengthened and for financial risk planning to take seriously the threat of a devastating pandemic, little progress had been made on any of these.

A lack of leadership, it said, is exacerbating the current pandemic.

"Failure to learn the lessons of COVID-19 or to act on them with the necessary resources and commitment will mean that the next pandemic, which is sure to come, will be even more damaging," it said.

Right development path key to poverty alleviation

By Tian Huanan

WHAT should be feared is not poverty, but people's losing confidence in shaking off poverty. This is the most important thing I've learnt in Baimashan village since I was appointed the first secretary of the village Party committee in 2017.

Baimashan village used to be one of the poorest villages in central China's Hubei province, with 346 poor people of 120 households. Due to backward infrastructure, sluggish industry growth, and the fact that nearly half of the poor population of the village didn't have professional skills, what I heard people complain about the most when I first visited the village was "I don't have a proper way to make money."

Bao Shengyun's family was a typical example of impoverished households in the locality. Bao and her husband, both in their fifties, have neither a decent educational background nor skills to make handicrafts. The couple lived in an adobe house at a hillside and had been carrying goods with a shoulder pole to sell for a living for many years.

According to Bao, she had to walk more than two hours on the earth road every day and carry goods on her shoulders to sell at the mountaintop of the Baimashan scenic area in the village.



Photo shows women pick tea leaves in a tea garden of Baimashan village, central China's Hubei province. (Photo/10yan.com)

"It is tough, and yet we can't get much money from it," Bao told me when I visited her house for the first time. Her family was leading a quite hard life at that time and I encouraged them to figure out ways to get rid of poverty.

After in-depth investigation into the village, my colleagues and I found out the crux of the problems hindering the development of village.

Located about 30 kilometers from the center of Shiyan city, Baimashan has a foundation for tea industry and enchanting scenery, but had been long encumbered by weak links in infrastructure, in particular, its poor traffic conditions. Without good roads, it was hard for the scenic area in the village to attract tourists and

build the brand.

After identifying the root cause of the problems, we quickly made a plan and started to improve the village through multiple measures.

We won policy and financial support from many departments and finally renovated 7 kilometers of roads to Baimashan village, held a series of rich and colorful activities featuring folk customs and culture after Baimashan's scenic area was declared a national three-A tourist attraction, and attracted tea companies to the village and established poverty alleviation tea workshops.

As the traffic and environment of the village is gradually improved, more visitors have been attracted to Baimashan village.

Bao saw a business opportunity of opening an agritainment restaurant and came to me for help as she couldn't find a site and lacked start-up capital.

I was delighted to see that she was in surprisingly high spirits and helped her maintain good relations with her neighbors while demolishing her old house and establishing a new one.

After a new house was built, Bao started with the agritainment business and we even set up a advertising board in front of her agritainment restaurant.

When we saw her later at the entrance of Baimashan village, she had a big smile on her face and told us with confidence that her restaurant was doing very well and could easily bring in 30,000 (\$4,386) to 40,000 yuan per year.

We suggested that she should adopt mobile payments in her restaurant. Before long, people could pay bills at Bao's agritainment restaurant by scanning QR codes.

By enhancing infrastructure construction, cultivating leading industries, and building and promoting brand, Baimashan village has blazed a development road featuring tea industry and tourism. It has increased the per capita annual income of local people by 3,000 yuan on average and shaken off poverty.

People's Daily

Russian investment fund agrees supply of up to 50 mln doses of Sputnik V to Brazil



MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and the Health Secretariat of the Brazilian State of Bahia have signed a cooperation agreement on supply of up to 50 mln doses of the Russian vaccine Sputnik V, the Fund said in a statement on Friday.

"Deliveries are expected to start in November 2020 subject to approval by Brazil's regulators with the consideration of results of post-registration trials," the statement said. The agreement will also enable the parties to distribute the vaccine across Brazil in the future.

"Sputnik V is based on a proven human adenoviral vector platform while other corona-

virus vaccines use novel platforms, namely monkey adenoviral vectors or mRNA.

The recent developments in the global pharmaceutical industry with suspended trials of an experimental coronavirus vaccine show the importance of a diversified approach to vaccine supplies.

The signings of agreements to supply Sputnik V internationally demonstrate many countries recognize that human adenovirus-based vaccines are an absolute must-have for their national drug portfolio, as this platform has proven safe and effective over decades," RDIF Chief Executive Officer Kirill Dmitriev was quoted as saying.

On September 9, Russian Di-

rect Investment Fund and the pharmaceutical company Landsteiner Scientific announced an agreement for the supply of 32 mln doses of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine to Mexico, which would help vaccinate 25% of the population. Deliveries are expected to start in November 2020 subject to approval by Mexico's regulators.

On August 11, the Sputnik V vaccine developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology was registered by the Russian Health Ministry, becoming the world's first registered vaccine against COVID-19 based on a human adenoviral vector platform.

Agencies

Kenyan hoteliers say high taxes may slow tourism sector recovery

NAIROBI

KENYA'S tourism and hospitality stakeholders on Monday called on the government to lower taxes and levies in the tourism industry to help attract more domestic visitors and recreate jobs for the youth.

Hasnain Noorani, chairman of Kenya Coast Working Group, an umbrella organization of tourism stakeholders, said the sector which has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic risks extreme revenue drop unless taxes and levies at the national and county levels are harmonized.

"The government needs to reduce

too much burden on the hospitality and tourism sector. Kenya risks losing business if prices offered are way above our neighboring competitors for instance Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa and other countries," Noorani said in a joint statement.

Currently, tourism establishments are paying the statutory 14 percent Value Added Tax and an extra two percent tourism levy to the Tourism Fund.

They also pay for business permits, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) permit, liquor license at the county level, health and advertising among other permits.

"We don't have a problem with paying levies since we have to support the government in its endeavors to deliver service. However, some licenses and fees imposed on the industry are a bit punitive. We would appreciate it if some of these licenses were traded off for levies," said Noorani.

The east African nation's tourism industry which was once mainly sustained by international visitors, is repositioning itself to appeal to the domestic marketplace in the face of COVID-19.

Of the 14,049 international arrivals recorded in August, 6,368 came to visit family/friends, 3,685 for holiday,

2,325 on business, 1,129 in transit, 221 for education, 194 for medical, 72 for religious purposes, 47 for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibition (MICE), and eight for sports, according to the tourism and wildlife ministry.

"Despite many levies being longstanding in nature, there has been a general increase in the number and scope of tourism-related taxes, fees and charges over the last couple of years. The higher taxes make Kenya as a destination too expensive," said Victor Shitakha, Chairman of the Kenya Coast Tourism Association (KTCA).

The tourism stakeholders want the

government to scale down taxes in the tourism and hospitality industry so as to attract more domestic merrymakers and recreate lost jobs for the youth especially at a time like this when the economy is negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The industry is currently experiencing the burden of paying taxes during the COVID-19 period when business proprietors are required to remit their dues, renew licenses and do renovation after lockdown.

"With hotels and other tourism establishments reopening, some hoteliers may find it hard to remain afloat. They are struggling to pay the levies and still sustain the workforce

and pay suppliers and other bills. We urge the government to consider the removal of some of the levies," said Shitakha.

Given the global economic slowdown resulting from COVID-19 pandemic, this year the tourism sector stands to lose.

"Right now, the industry is heavily depending on domestic tourism. Affordability should be at the highest priority, but with the high taxes and licenses, this becomes a major challenge," added Shitakha.

Counties such as Mombasa, Kilifi, Nakuru introduced a bed levy for every occupied hotel room.

Xinhua



Children with special needs take part in volleyball at Msimbazi Center in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS TANZANIA

Special Olympics Tanzania's search for funds for key event

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

RECENTLY, sports news reports surfaced on home soil that Special Olympics Tanzania was intending to stage its National Championships in Mwanza next year.

This writer readily confesses that the reports made his heart aglow.

However, my mood has darkened during the past few days when it emerged that there was a particular spanner in the works, a lack of funds.

Indeed, about two days ago, another report recounted how Special Olympics Tanzania was trying urgently to raise 90m/- in order to fittingly stage its National Sporting Championships in Mwanza next year.

However, before we sally forth further into today's piece, it would prove very helpful, I dare say, if we could clearly establish just what is meant when a child or adult is described as a 'Special Needs' child.

To put it as concisely as can be, a child is described as being a 'special needs child' if he or she has to grapple with any of the following frustrations, to wit, learning disabilities, and physical ailments among others.

Now that we have gotten that safely out of the way, let us return to the initially hope-stirring and then worrying reports of how Special Olympics Tanzania plans to stage a national championships next year but critically, is in precise need of 90 million shillings to do so.

Indeed, for some time, this writer has been chewing over a particular idea which is directly germane to the matter at hand.

To wit, the idea is perhaps it is about time that the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC), the collective domestic sports fraternity, and any interested well-heeled private sector players should take a real stab at creating a special fund whose monies will be channeled into supporting the development of Special Olympics Tanzania's sporting activities on an annual basis.

Still, even if this writer's humble suggestion is not considered, it is to be hoped that Special Olympics Tanzania do manage to raise the

requisite 90m/- well ahead of their scheduled plans for the national championships.

Mbwana Samatta

Speculation has it that our golden boy Mbwana Samatta will soon ditch English Premiership football in favor of a departure to Turkey, with Turkish juggernauts Besiktas strongly being linked to the predatory Tanzanian marksman.

Sadly, Samatta's debut season in the EPL did not go well. Nonetheless, this writer would like to urge our goal poacher extraordinaire to take heart as his talent remains patently undeniable even in the midst of this low-point for his trailblazing career.

Now, about his rumored move to Turkey. In my opinion, this course of action would set back his career even further for a few important reasons.

Firstly, Turkey are no longer regarded as being one of the strong teams in international football. For example, the last time Turkey advanced to the semifinals of the prestigious football World Cup was way back in 2002 when they lost to the eventual champions Brazil.

Secondly, very top football stars or ascendant talents rarely venture into the Turkish Premier League to ply their trade there.

Indeed, the days of the 'Maradona of the Carpathians' Gheorge Hagi and Nigerian legends Daniel Amokachi and Austin 'Jay-Jay' Okocha turning on the style in riveting fashion in Turkish football are long since gone.

Thus, because of these two reasons expressed here, I feel that Turkey no longer enjoys a high profile on the radar of world football.

My advice to the ever-toiling Mbwana Samatta? My counsel is for him to seek playing opportunities elsewhere, even on loan, in Germany, France, the Serie A or if all else fails, to return to the Belgium Super Premier League, which is, lest we forget, where his admirable exploits really set tongues a-wagging in the big money European football leagues in the first place.

God speed Mbwana Samatta, god speed.

Zanzibar now targets to develop sports

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ZANZIBAR Sports Council (ZSC) has said it has, in liaison with the Isles Ministry of Education, formed a technical committee that will come up with a comprehensive five-year project to develop the sector in the isles.

Acting ZSC secretary general Suleiman Pandu Kweleza disclosed this recently, saying they have started with two projects namely Sports 55 and Physical Education in Schools.

He said the Sports 55 is implemented in 55 schools in the Isles while Physical Education is conducted in nine schools.

Kweleza said the two projects are aimed at seeing to it various sports disciplines such as football, netball, basketball are developed in primary and secondary schools in rural areas.

"Schools are where you can identify, develop and track the growth of athletes than just in rural communities because under this projects, sports teachers will have tools to do this and, with their established structures," he disclosed.

"By the end of five years, the country will have a pool of talents in variety of sports disciplines," he noted.

"We want to have many people in sports, we are of the view that the initiative could act as a nursery for talent identification."

"The aim is to have many sports persons who can, in the future, represent the country at international events," he said.

He also disclosed that efforts are being made to see that the projects are rolled out in all primary and secondary schools in Zanzibar.

The top ZSC official said he is confident the two projects will produce the desired fruits as regards to talent development, but he called



Azam FC midfielder, Mudathir Yahya (R), shoots past KMC FC player when the outfits met in a friendly game, which was played in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

for support from all stakeholders.

"The two are projects we fully believe will help in talent identification in schools across our country, but for it to be achieved there is a need for full support from all stakeholders in the Isles," he said.

Zanzibar, despite having many financial challenges in sports development, has produced some of the top athletes who are doing well in football and other sporting activities.

The Isles have also been doing well in athletics,

given at the just ended National Championships, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Kusini Unguja emerged third, beating other 25 regions which competed at the event.

Some of the football players

identified and developed in Zanzibar and are currently doing well in football in Mainland Tanzania include Awesu Ally, Aggrey Morris, Abalkassim Khamis, Khamis Mcha, Mudathir Yahya and Feisal Salum.

Arusha FC organizes sports bonanza to aid FDL preparatory camp



Arusha Football Club's player (L) challenges Simba SC midfielder Said Ndemia in a friendly clash, which was played in Arusha recently. Simba won 6-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ARUSHA Football Club (AFC), which now runs under new management and the patronship of the Regional Commissioner, Idd Kimanta, has set up a preparatory base towards the First Division League (FDL).

The club is now coordinating a sports bonanza to aid the camp.

The club's Head of Communication Department, Yasinta Amos Lukezo, and the club's Acting Secretary General, Bertha Ismail, told a press conference here on Monday that the

event, dubbed 'AFC Bonanza', will be held at the General Tyre Grounds of Njiro from September 19-20, involving a respectable number of teams.

The two-day sporting event, which will also include some entertainment interludes, as well as exhibitions, is to feature more than 20 other soccer teams from within and around Arusha.

These soccer squads set to compete on one-to-one basis and group levels, during the special weekend bonanza.

The overall winning team at the AFC Bonanza will be presented with a cow, while the second winner gets a goat and the third winning club is to be presented with soccer

balls for their participation.

Participating teams include the soccer clubs from the Tropical Pesticide Research Institute (TPRI) in Ngaratoni, Arusha Campus for the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Wazee Club, Bank of Tanzania (BOT) and Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) team.

Other teams to play at the AFC Bonanza are Arusha Jiji (City Hall Team), Watumishi FC of Monduli, Burka Coffee Estate FC, Arusha All Stars, Executive Eleven, Kitambi Noma and Nelson Mandela University.

Police Arusha, Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, Tanzania National Parks' team, Arusha District team, Morani FC of

Monduli, Arusha Technical College (ATC) team and Arusha Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (AUWSA) team will also play in the bonanza.

The AFC Bonanza will also feature the Maasai Rangers Club, Mto-wa-Mbu Veterans, Lamba-Lamba FC, Tanzania Institute of Community Development (TICD) of Tengeru and hosts, Arusha Football Club.

The AFC is representing the region in the forthcoming FDL season scheduled to kick-off in October 2020.

Mourinho cites COVID cases for poor display in loss

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho confirmed that Tottenham's preseason preparations were hampered by multiple players testing positive for the coronavirus and believes the situation contributed to their 1-0 defeat against Everton.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored the only goal as Spurs lost 1-0 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium to inflict Mourinho's first-ever Premier League opening weekend defeat.

Reports in France suggested that Tanguy Ndombele tested positive for the virus and although Mourinho refused to confirm the identity of the players involved, the 57-year-old claimed his squad had been compromised when discussing why Spurs lacked the requisite intensity on Sunday.

"Look, Harry Kane trained with us once," he said. "[Moussa] Sissoko, a couple [of times]. I am not going player by player but for different reasons many of our players didn't have a proper preseason.

"We had cases of positive COVID. Of course, we have the right not to say which players were but we had players with positive COVID. We had other players with quarantine due to the proximity with positive players. We had a player in quarantine because he was on holiday in the country which England implements quarantine.

"We had many of them, they went to the national teams so the preseason was a difficult preseason for many of the players. I couldn't

expect them to be sharp, intense, agile. But I was expecting much more individually and much more collectively.

"It disappoints me and that's where I have now to work. Again, I can complain about the free-kick but I couldn't coach referees. I can coach. I can train my players to deal with these crosses. It doesn't matter the position where it is."

Mourinho added that Tottenham have little time to rectify their issues in training given Sunday's match marks a potential run of nine games in 22 days.

"The players who didn't have a preseason, we don't have now the possibility to have a preseason but we have lots of matches to play consecutively, and we have to use these matches not just to try to win them, and the knockout ones are obviously decisive matches, and try to improve the form of some players because some of them were in trouble.

"You can look to [Spurs debutant Matt] Doherty, a player who is normally in an incredible condition, he didn't have a preseason. He went direct from holidays to national team matches. Not one single training session. He played two consecutive matches and today he was not Matt Doherty like he normally is, so these are the things that we knew could happen to us."

Speaking to BBC Radio 5 Live's Rob Nethman after the match, Mourinho also scoffed at an accusation that his was the poorer side in the first half.

(Agencies)

Hoeness slams Alaba agent; Thiago 'blackmail'

BERLIN

FORMER Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness has accused the agent David Alaba of being "a money-grabbing piranha" amid negotiations over a new contract and claimed Manchester United and Liverpool are "trying to blackmail" Bayern over the transfer of Thiago Alcantara.

Hoeness, who stepped down at Bayern in November 2019 after more than 40 years at the forefront of the club, made the claims on Sunday during an interview on Sport1.

Last week, German outlet Sport Bild said that Bayern offered Alaba, whose contract runs out next summer, an annual salary of €11 million and a further €5m as bonuses. Kicker reported that Alaba's side, represented by agent Pini Zahavi, requested a €125m package for a new five-year deal.

"Alaba is a very good player and [head coach] Hansi Flick wants him to stay by all means," Hoeness, who no longer has an official role at Bayern, said.

"Everyone wants him to stay, but he has a money-grabbing piranha as his agent. And Alaba's father, who I rate very much, lets himself be influenced

by him. I hope that David will come out on top at the end.

"It's only about the money. He's already at the best club in the world, where else should he go? It's his decision, in the end. He's 28 and should not let himself be influenced from the outside."

Hoeness also commented on the Thiago situation. Just like Alaba, the Spain international has less than 12 months left on his deal and is expected to leave Bayern this summer with Premier League sides Liverpool and United reportedly interested. Sources told ESPN earlier this month that United were invited to negotiate with Bayern for Thiago as the German giants look to create a bidding war for the wantaway midfielder.

Hoeness said the English clubs are "trying to blackmail us, in the sense that they're waiting until the last week of the window and then will throw in a cheap offer."

He added that Thiago "has clearly made an agreement with Liverpool, or Manchester United or both, and both clubs are now bluffing. Neither has approached Bayern. That's not the way to do things as I see it."

(Agencies)

Lampard 'amused' at Klopp's dig over spending

LONDON

FRANK Lampard has said he was "amused" by Jurgen Klopp's dig at Chelsea's massive spending spree and added that Liverpool's title success was built on a similar financial outlay.

Klopp said on Thursday that Manchester City and Chelsea were more immune to the financial effects of the coronavirus pandemic due to being "owned by countries, owned by oligarchs" and added that Liverpool "are a different kind of club" from them.

"I was less annoyed with it [Klopp's comments], I found it more, slightly amusing I would say," Lampard said. "When you talk about the owners of clubs in the Premier League, I do not think it matters what line of business they come from. We are talking about some very wealthy owners."

Lampard pointed to the money Liverpool invested in a host of players including £75 million acquisition of Virgil van Dijk from Southampton and the then world-record fee for a goalkeeper when Alisson joined from Roma for £67m in July 2018.

"With Liverpool's story, I think it is a fantastic story of a club over the five years that Jurgen Klopp has been there that they have managed to get recruitment right to a really high level," he added. "The reality is that, probably other than Leicester, most clubs that win the Premier League in the modern

day have recruited well at quite a high level money-wise. You can go through the Liverpool players, Van Dijk, Alisson, Fabinho, [Naby] Keita, [Sadio] Mane, [Mohamed] Salah, incredible players that came at a very high price. But Liverpool have done it over a period of time." Chelsea are closing in on their seventh major summer signing with talks at an advanced stage over a deal worth around £20m to bring in goalkeeper Edouard Mendy from Rennes, taking their overall spend in the current window to approximately £220m.

Mendy is set to join Hakim Ziyech, Timo Werner, Ben Chilwell, Thiago Silva, Malang Sarr and Kai Havertz as Chelsea seek to close a gap which saw them finish in fourth place last season but 33 points behind champions Liverpool. "What we have done is come off the back of a ban, probably tried to address the situation ourselves to help improve us, but I think it is par for the course," Lampard said.

"There is no point in doing the maths too much with it, we all know Liverpool have spent at a high level. They have spent huge amounts.

"We know they have an incredible coach, incredible players and the smart thing that Liverpool have done is believe in their coach and their system for a number of years. It is a great story but it is a story that has spent money on players."

(Agencies)

Barcelona chaos hides Real Madrid's surprisingly quiet summer

By Sid Lowe, ESPN Spain writer

LIONEL Messi. Messi. Joao Felix, Antoine Griezmann and the switcheroo they didn't do. Messi. Messi. Messi. Messi. Pepe Castro. Sergio Ramos (talking about Messi). Spain. And, finally: Messi. That's one list.

Here's another: Luis Suarez. Messi. Messi. Messi. Messi. And Messi. Martin Odegaard. Barcelona clear-out. Messi. Spain. Messi. Messi. Ansu Fati. Messi.

Yes, those are the front pages of the sports papers in the days following Bayern Munich's Champions League win. Not just any front pages, either: the front pages of those dailies normally aligned to Real Madrid. The first list is Marca, the second AS -- as good an illustration as there is that on the day that a new season was supposed to begin in Spain, the one team that hasn't really been in the spotlight is the champions.

This summer, Madrid have done something Madrid don't do: they've gone kind of unnoticed. Instead, one man -- and one club -- has dominated the agenda, even before the European Cup final. Messi was the topic of conversation on the front pages then, too.

Over the past few days, ahead of La Liga's opening weekend, Marca's covers have been dedicated to Suarez and Cristiano Ronaldo potentially being united at Juventus, motor racing driver Carlos Sainz, Ramos, Saul and Eden Hazard. At AS, the past two have featured Hazard and Luka Modric. But those are the unusual ones, a hint perhaps of some normalcy returning. Of the past 32 covers of AS and Marca, Madrid have been the theme in four and three respectively.

If a tree falls in the forest and all that, perhaps, only this isn't just about the noise, nor is it solely a question of the huge shadow that the Messi case cast over everything else (and, naturally enough, there was a certain glee driving the capital's coverage of the crisis in Catalonia). There are other reasons too. Try these, for starters:

- The fact that Atletico Madrid and Barcelona played later than Madrid, their Champions League campaign ending first. The tranquility with which that Real defeat against Manchester City was met, calmness coming perhaps with the league title. And what came next: Atletico's best ever chance to win it (or so they said) slipping through their fingers, although that was a four-day thing soon silenced. Sevilla winning the Europa League. The enormity of Barcelona's crisis. Eight goals conceded against Bayern, for goodness' sake.

- Then there's the fact that, while the season starts this weekend -- a day later than it was supposed to because, well, Spanish football things -- Real Madrid don't. Nor do Atletico, Barcelona or Sevilla. Or Elche, actually. This is a false start, with little sense of build-up, and little need until the final days, to thrust Madrid back onto the front page. It's just about happening now and next weekend when they begin -- a week ahead of the rest -- Madrid will certainly dominate. Odegaard, facing his former club, Real Sociedad, will probably be front and centre.

- Then there's something even more basic and more significant, reflected in the Norwegian midfielder accounting for the only two



Can Eden Hazard improve upon a frustrating first season at Real Madrid? (Agencies)

covers AS gave Madrid in a month. It's not a lack of noise -- although some things have gone unnoticed, taking shelter behind Messi, and there's something to be said for analysing the sometimes real way that storylines are created and inflated, and how those impact upon reality, conditioning everything -- this is a lack of news. That tree hasn't fallen at all.

There's something boringly normal about Real Madrid, not all that much happening. There haven't even been any friendlies nor big summer tours. The manager is the same and the team is the same. They've just quietly, almost too quietly, got back to work. The same men on the same mission.

That's not to say nothing at all has changed. There have been departures, and there might yet be more. James Rodriguez has gone to Everton, Dani Ceballos has gone on loan (again) to Arsenal. Achraf Hakimi is at Inter Milan. Oscar Rodriguez has signed for Sevilla. Alphonse Areola, loaned in from Paris Saint-Germain, went back to Paris and then on to Fulham. Takefusa Kubo is on loan at Villarreal, and with a month left in the transfer window, Sergio Reguilon will probably be sold, while they would love to find a way to get Gareth Bale out. (Good luck with that.)

All of which amounts to quite a few players, but it is no major clear-out, there will be almost no impact and it's certainly no revolution.

The temptation might have been to keep some of them, Achraf especially, but between them those players completed just 12 league games as Madrid claimed the title. Of the players who left, only James and Bale were even at Madrid last season: Ceballos was at Arsenal, Reguilon at Sevilla, Kubo at Mallorca, Oscar at Leganes, Hakimi at Borussia Dortmund. By the end they were effectively gone, too: they checked out ages ago, not now. It is legitimate to think that their departures would change nothing except the balance sheet.

As for arrivals, Odegaard is the only really significant new member of the squad, returning on loan a year early -- hence his presence on the front pages. That said, Alvaro Odriozola's return might provide backup for Dani Carvajal at full-back, while Andriy Lunin is an able deputy for Thibaut Courtois.

Just as importantly, nor is there any urgency to sign anyone, and everyone knows that. Go back to those papers for a moment: it is not just that Madrid do not intend to sign; there haven't even been rumours that they will. There is a month left of the window, but this isn't a case of them putting off doing the deals until the end: it is more that there are no deals to be done.

Madrid do not plan to sign anyone. And while some grow impatient and everyone wants new faces, while a lot of fans seem to like the market more than the matches, stability is supposed to be something to aspire to. There might be doubts in Madrid's case, but there's something in that idea too.

The Man City defeat exposed some weaknesses -- there is a reason that Odegaard's loan deal was ended so soon afterward -- and Madrid were not perfect league champions by any means. Who knows, they might not have been champions at all but for the pandemic and Barcelona's implosion. They were certainly pretty unusual champions, a team that got virtually no contribution from its four most expensive players, including its two most costly signings ever and four of the all-time top six: Bale, Hazard, Luka Jovic and Rodriguez cost €336 million for an average of 8.75 games and 1.5 goals.

Madrid were also quite old champions: Modric turned 35 this week, Ramos is 34, Marcelo and Karim Benzema are 32, Toni Kroos is 30. Some renewal felt necessary then, but they didn't get it: of their new signings last season, only Ferland Mendy, who played two-thirds of the league games, was a regular. And yet, here's the bottom line: still they won the league.

Just as there is at Barcelona now, a year ago there was talk of a necessary revolution at Madrid. Twelve months on (well, 14) there's still a need to make changes, but they do so from a position of relative strength. Atletico Madrid have been inactive, too -- although they still pursue the striker they have lacked for years in which they found that even Diego Costa wasn't Diego Costa -- no one knows what will happen with Barcelona, and while Sevilla have improved, they have a lot of ground to make up.

More to the point, Madrid might feel that most of the solutions are already there, for one more season at least.

There are flaws -- there is no backup for Casemiro, say, in defensive midfield, or for Benzema up front -- but if contributions were limited last season, at least they were multiple: 21 different men scored league goals, with Eder Militao and Brahim Diaz the only outfield players who failed to do so. Besides, there are new pieces to refresh this. To give the clearest example: if the midfield three need rotating and rejuvenating, Fede Valverde and Odegaard await their chance.

Perhaps it is overly optimistic, but even underachievement can be seen through a positive prism: the promise of improvement; if the talent is not questioned, the only way is up. Well, that's the theory at least.

Recent reports in Belgium suggest that Hazard actually cost Madrid €160m. If so, that's €10m per league game. (Oh, and €160m per goal.) It was striking, in fact, how little spotlight there was on him last year at a time when Griezmann and Felix found themselves under fierce scrutiny and facing furious criticism despite better seasons. Yet while the debate is finally starting in earnest now, with fresh questions being asked about Hazard's fitness and commitment once more, it is legitimate for Madrid to assume that they will get more from him than last season. The same might be true of Jovic, who knows? And it is surely true of Marco Asensio, who returned to fitness only at the very end -- and did so with an immediate impact.

The biggest doubt might be whether Benzema can score more than 20 goals again. Others, surely, will step up. If quiet improvement can come away from the glare, with maturity and age, it is likely that there will be greater contributions from Rodrygo and Vinicius, too.

There will have to be: last season, Madrid's second top scorer was Ramos, one of the very few men to take a front page from Messi this summer after he got two more from Spain. "False Nine," they called him and he, like the rest of them, is still around as Madrid quietly prepare for what they hope will be their first title defence in over a decade.

Copa Libertadores resumes with coronavirus still in play

By Ryan Bailey, Yahoo Sports

Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent SOUTH America's Copa Libertadores suddenly shut down in mid March, at the same time as its European equivalent, the Champions League.

Since then, of course, Europe has managed to complete its competition. South America only resumes this week, a full six months after the whistle was last blown. And it may well still be too soon.

In the 10 countries of the continent, only six domestic leagues are up and running. Colombia is about to resume. Argentina, Bolivia and Venezuela have yet to define start dates. There is a reason for this: the coronavirus pandemic has not been brought under control.

But the Libertadores kicks off on Tuesday, with a full programme of mid week matches. The first two rounds of group games were played in March. Now the third round (of six) is taking place in mid September. And it does so because CONMEBOL, the South American Confederation, have worked hard to ensure that the show can go on.

The first problem they had to solve was making sure that the teams can travel to away fixtures. Distances are vast in South America, and travel infrastructure can be found wanting at the best of times. These, of course, are not the best of times. In some cases borders have not been re-opened, in others there are no commercial flights between destinations. And so CONMEBOL bankrolled charter flights.

Problem number two was finding a way over the bureaucratic obstacles of going to different countries. Not only is there the question of closed borders, there are also quarantine restrictions. CONMEBOL found a way round that one, too. They drew up a detailed protocol, attempting to ensure that visiting players will come into contact with as few people as possible in the airport, the hotel and the stadium. The protocol was presented to -- and eventually agreed by -- all 10 South American gov-

ernments. The team delegations are free to enter other countries, and free from quarantine on their return home.

The third problem was the threat of teams suffering multiple cases of players testing positive for the virus, as has happened to a number of clubs around the continent. The most notable case is that of Boca Juniors in Argentina, where 18 players were found to have contracted COVID-19. The response here was to increase the size of the squads. Usually each team registers 30 players to take part in the Libertadores. They can now have 40 -- a change which may well be seen as almost an admission that a gamble is being taken by bringing the competition back in the current circumstances.

One aspect of the restart which is beyond the capacity of CONMEBOL to fix is the disparity between the teams in terms of their level of preparation. The teams from Argentina, Bolivia and Venezuela have not played a competitive game in six months. Their players will clearly suffer from a lack of match fitness against rivals from, say, Paraguay and Brazil, who have had well over a month of league games to whip themselves into shape.

The Jorge Wilstermann club of Bolivia may feel this in the game that restarts the action on Tuesday night. They take on Athletico Paranaense of Brazil, who have already played nine league matches since the start of August. At least the Bolivians can count on the advantage of the altitude of their home city of Cochabamba. The Argentine clubs have nothing similar.

Argentina was the only country to vote against the resumption of the Libertadores. Bolivia, whose FA president had died of the coronavirus, abstained, as did Venezuela, who have been going through internal problems.

The five Argentine clubs have been given the minor concession of not playing their first game back until Thursday, giving them an extra couple of days to train. Even so, River Plate will be at a clear physical disadvantage when they travel to Brazil to face Sao Paulo, as will Boca, who are in Paraguay against Libertad, coached by their old rival, River Plate legend Ramon Diaz.

Another Argentine coach working abroad is Martin Brignani, of Venezuela's Estudiantes de Merida. And he almost certainly will be working abroad this Wednesday, when his team receive Alianza Lima of Peru. Brignani went back to Argentina in May, and unless a last minute solution arises, will be unable to get back to Venezuela for the game. His plan, then, is to watch the game on television from the other end of the continent and transmit instructions by telephone -- proof that social distancing remains a part of the 2020 Copa Libertadores.



Yanga coach not satisfied despite Mbeya City FC victory

SPORT

Barcelona chaos hides Real Madrid's surprisingly quiet summer

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga winger, Tuisila Kisinda (R), negotiates his way past Mbeya City FC fullback, Kenneth Kunambi, when the sides met in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

Cosmas Cheka wins UBO World Welterweight title

By Nassir Nchimbi, TUDARCO

TANZANIAN professional boxer, Cosmas Cheka, laid his hands on the Universal Boxing Organisation (UBO) Welterweight title after defeating Malawi's Hanoock Phiri by unanimous decision in a 12-round bout, which took place at the Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro last weekend.

The fight had all three judges deciding in favour of Cosmas. The bout had few spars and looked to be 50-50, with the two boxers landing few punches from the first round to the seventh.

Phiri brought much challenge and provided a fight for Cosmas by attacking the latter and keeping him tight in the corners so as he could land his power punches.

Cosmas looked clean and clinical throughout the fight through his defending style that did not allow the Malawian to score enough points.

He, however, most of the time found himself into the ropes defending and receiving heavy spars from the Malawian fighter that did not score enough points.

All boxers had, from the eighth round to the 11th, looked to be in search of a knockout punch in order to end the fight, so much body holding between the two fighters emerged, with the referee separating the two boxers on various occasions.

Phiri looked destroyed when he was spotted fighting with a swollen eye throughout the match after Cosmas had landed strong combinations into the 21-year old Malawian, who kept on fighting back in seek of the victory.

All sorts of jokes and comedy emerged during the fight from Phiri who teased the new champion during the fight that aroused the spectators' emotions at the stadium.

Cosmas, however, kept his focus into his game plan that did allow him to be shoved away by his opponent's mind games.

Cosmas went down in the 12th round after he had been on the receiving end of what was defined as a light punch that was not enough to put a well trained boxer down.

The punch led to a lot of noises from Phiri's corner at the end of the fight.

The fight had both fighters finishing strong, with all three judges deciding in favour of Cosmas, who was therefore crowned as the new UBO Welterweight champion.

Phiri was not pleased with the results and during the post-bout interview he blamed the judges, saying he deserved to win the bout.

He disclosed he took Cosmas down in the last round, while the latter said he is open to a re-match with the Malawian at his home venue, if he is not pleased with the results.

YANGA head coach, Zlatko Krmpotic, has challenged his team to improve ahead of a difficult run of fixtures, despite recording his first league victory in a second at-

tempt. Defender Lamine Moro's late goal was enough to earn Yanga a 1-0 win over Mbeya City FC at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Krmpotic, though, was not completely satisfied ahead of games against Kagera Sugar, Mubwa Sugar and Coastal Union before the end of September.

After resting most new signings in the

disappointing 1-1 draw with Tanzania Prisons on the opening day, Krmpotic made four changes to the starting line-up against Mbeya City FC.

However, Yanga were failing to maintain the flow of the ball and played wrong passes despite dominating possession in both halves. Krmpotic had to make three tactical changes in the second half.

After another subdued performance, Deus

Kaseke was substituted immediately after the restart. Haruna Niyonzima and Feisal Salum were also taken off just after the hour mark.

Midfielder, Carlos Carlinhos, and strikers, Ditram Nchimbi and Yacouba Sogne, were brought in as Yanga tried to be more direct.

Ultimately, Angolan import Carlinhos' set piece bore fruits for Yanga when Moro connected it home five minutes into stoppage time.

Speaking in a post-match interview, the Serbian coach said Mbeya City FC made it tough, although his team's performance did not meet the required standards.

"Hard game, very hard game, and I know before the game everybody spoke about three or four goals, 3-0, 4-0. It is not easy to play with 10 men behind the ball," he said.

"It is not easy to create

opportunities. I think we attacked for 75 minutes but didn't score until the last three minutes when Lamine scored."

"We trained for this situation many times. You must also have patience in the last three minutes."

"I congratulate my players for fighting but not for playing, I am not satisfied with how my team played. I am satisfied with the fighting, patience and how they gave everything."

"I need to play quick, one-two touches but today especially the first half we had players making wrong passes and wrong play."

Yanga, who occupy the sixth spot with four points from two matches, will travel to Kagera for their next league assignment against Kagera Sugar in Bukoba on Saturday.

They will then go to Morogoro to face hosts Mubwa Sugar before coming back to Dar es Salaam for their fifth league game against Coastal Union.

Tennis coach lauds Arusha junior tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIX clubs competed at this year's edition of Eddies Kiddies junior tennis tournament which took place at Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC) courts over the weekend.

Goodluck Mollel, one of the competition's organizers, said 86 juniors from six clubs compete in the event.

He mentioned the clubs as Azura Fitness Centre of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC), Kilimanjaro's Rafiki Foundation, AICC of Arusha, Kennedy House School of Arusha and hosts AGC.

He said the tournament, which was taking place for the 13th year in a row, had categories, namely U-6, U-8, U-10, U-14, U-16 and U-18 for both boys and girls.

He described the tournament as very successful and thanked sponsor, Eddy Husslage, for bankrolling it throughout.

"It was one of the best tournaments,

the juniors really enjoyed it, we thank our sponsor, Husslage, for sponsoring this junior tournament, this is the 13th year in a row that he is sponsoring us," he said.

He said the Eddies Kiddies junior tournament is vital to the development of the sport in the country, given it gives the opportunity to juniors to compete against each other.

He said the U-6 girls singles was won by Hellen Mataka while Janet Bahati was the event's runner-up.

In the boys' U-6 singles, Saifadin Bhaijee ended as the winner, whereas Mohamed Bhaijee was runner-up, the girls' U-8 singles was won by Esther Stephano, whereas Zabra Waziri settle for runner-up spot.

The boys' U-8 singles was won by Lamar Mustanir, whilst Amir Jackson ended as runner up.

Mollel said in U-10 girls singles, Rebecca Kurwa won the event, whereas

Glory Mdee ended as runner-up, the boys' U-10 singles top honour went to Fredy Ongige, Al-qumar Abizar took the runner-up spot.

In the girls' U-12 singles, Nasha Singo won the top honour, Irene Munisi finished as runner-up.

Mollel also said in the boys U-12 singles, Joseph Paul lifted the top honour, Laurence Innocent ended as runner-up, while in girls' U-14 singles, Naitoti Singo won the top honour, Aurelia Mushi settled for runner-up position.

In the boys' U-14, Rashid Ramadhan emerged as the winner and Rajab Abdallah was runner-up.

The girls' U-18 event was won by Esther Nankulange, Victoria Ndosu was runner-up, while in boys' U-18 event, Kanuti Alagwa lifted the top honour, John Kimario settled for the runner up spot.



Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC)'s Tennis Section member, Eddie Husslage (squatting front), poses for a photo with some of junior tennis players who took part in this year's Eddies Kiddies Tournament, which took place at the AGC courts last weekend. Husslage sponsors the tournament, which gears towards improving promotion of the sport in the country. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Filbert Bayi Foundation wins plaudits for promoting athletics

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

COAST Region athletics team have expressed happiness over a pivotal role played by Filbert Bayi Foundation (FBF) in the development of the sport in the region.

The region was among participants in this year's National Athletics Championships which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Coast Region team were the overall winners of the championships, which attracted 28 regions.

The region's team won six gold medals, five silver medals and one bronze medal at the event which was jointly organized by National Sports Council (NSC), Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) and Athletics Tanzania (AT).

The two-day championships were officially opened by Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Ally Possi.

Possi challenged sports stakeholders in the country to be innovative and creative so as they can be self reliant economically.

"Time has come for sports bodies to be self reliant, with the government and other stakeholders we must come up with plans which will see sports generate income," Possi stated. "We are committed to developing the sector as we fully know that if well managed, it can be a source of income to many families," he said.

Coast Region's Athletics Association's Secretary General, Robert Kalyaha, said he is happy that his region emerged as winners of the National Championships.

He described the achievement as a result of collective work between athletes, coaches, FBF and the region's leadership.

He said prior to the National Championships, the region had hosted a development athletics meet which attracted athletes from Coast Region and surrounding regions.

He disclosed development athletics meets are important as they help athletes fully prepare for any event.

"This is a great achievement our region has had, but it has come about due to hard work shown by our athletes, coaches, our association's leaders and the support we got from the FBF ahead of the championships," he noted.

"We had a camp at Filbert Bayi School in Kibaha, where the team prepared well," he said.

Arusha came second, followed by Kusini Unguja in the third spot, Mjini Magharibi and Dar es Salaam took the fourth and fifth positions respectively, whereas Dodoma tied Kilimanjaro for the sixth spot.

The seventh spot went to Mbeya, Tanga, Mwanza and Unguja Kaskazini completed the top 10 of the two-day championships. Coast Region team were trained by head coach, Ron Davies, assisted by Dora Kanza.

The region's team consisted of 17 athletes and they all performed well in their respective categories.

Davis is famed in Tanzania for training local athletes Suleiman Nyambui and Filbert Bayi, who won medals in the Moscow 1980 Olympics.

Some of athletes from Coast Region team, who performed well at the National Championships, include Benedict Mathias, who finished second in men's 400m race clocking 49.83, and Regina Mpagichai who won women's 800m race.

EATV TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

