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# 'Growth plan hinges on good governance'



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba tables the proposed Third Five-Year (2021/2022-2025/2026) National Development Plan in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government yesterday tabled a 114.8trn/- Third Five Year Development Plan (FYDP-III), whose focus is on stimulating a more competitive and inclusive economy in line with the country's Vision 2025 strategy.

The overall goal of the 2021/22-2025/26 plan is to see the country's economy grow by 8.0 per cent annually by 2026 to enable the majority of Tanzanians to move from abject poverty to decent conditions of living.

Presenting the plan in the National Assembly, Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said that the plan aims to strengthen cooperation with the private sector so as to facilitate the creation of 8m jobs.

The plan projects spending 114.8 trillion/- with the private sector contributing 40.6trn/-, while the public sector 74.2trn/- contribution will be sourced from tax and non-tax revenue, grants and loans, he said.

In view of Vision 2025 goals, the FYDP III will specifically be built on good governance, economic growth and development of the people, he stated, elaborating that more investment will be put in implementing the big projects started in health, water, infrastructure and education, among

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## CTI: Packaging materials should be tested locally

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) has appealed to the government to procure equipment for testing packaging materials to relieve local manufacturers of the cost of checking their products abroad.

The call comes as a crackdown on substandard plastic wrappers kicked off yesterday as part of implementing environmental protection guidelines intended to eliminate plastic packaging

materials from the market.

At a stakeholders meeting for manufacturers and relevant government agencies in Dar es Salaam yesterday, members of CTI said that the Tanzania Bureau of Standards has no testing equipment, so they are compelled to ship out samples of their products abroad for testing at a huge cost.

"We spend between USD70, 000 and USD150, 000 (over 160m/- to 350m/- to transport our products to and from London per month," said Sajid Dauud, a member of CTI and managing director for Industrial Packaging Ltd.

"It takes 35 to 40 days for the samples to return for us to supply. This costs us both time and money," he stated.

Dr Samuel Gwamaka (pictured), the Director General for the Tanzania Environmental Management Council (NEMC) said the new operation and implementation of guidelines aims

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## Speaker seeks House word on loss at ATCL

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Job Ndagai yesterday asked MPs to advise the government on what to do with the revived but loss-making Air Tanzania Company Ltd (ATCL).

This interrogation comes after the latest report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) indicated that the state-owned national carrier suffered a loss of 60bn/- in one year—2019/20 and has been operating at a loss for the past five years.

Inviting lawmakers to debate the tabled Five Year Development Plan, he urged MPs to ensure that while debating, they advise the government on whether to



**The Treasury needs to work on such accountants to help the councils improve their audit situations in coming years**

continue purchasing more aircraft or suspend the measure as to recover the losses incurred.

He said it is high time MPs came up with suggestions for the government to think on the challenge broadly and come up with a decision

"The CAG report has revealed massive losses in ATCL, so we should think if we should continue purchasing more planes or stop and strengthen operations of those already purchased," Ndagai said.

He also advised the government to also think of engaging the private sector to improve railway transport in the country.

"We have seen in countries such as

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## Fruit processing plan to curb post-harvest losses

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has unveiled a plan to bring up small-scale processing factories across the country so as to curb post-harvest losses.

Exaud Kigaha (pictured), the Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, told MPs here yesterday that the government was aware of the post-harvest losses, including perishable fruits and it was



taking measures to address the challenge.

He said apart from setting up processing industries there is also need for having adequate cold storage facilities to ensure that losses are minimised.

The deputy minister was responding to a supplementary question by Special Seats MP Fakharia Khamis who sought to know how the government was helping fruit farmers to reduce losses after a bumper harvest.

In her basic question, the MP wanted to know the government plans to look for reliable market for fruits within and outside the country and the establishment of fruit processing factories in order to

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Dr Juma Salum Mbwana (R), a medical director in Zanzibar's Health ministry, updates Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdallah (L, foreground) on Tuesday on the stalled construction of Chake hospital. The SVP directed the immediate resumption of work. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Speaker seeks House word on loss at ATCL

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Russia where investors are welcomed to purchase trains and operate wagons while the government concentrates in infrastructure development," he said.

Recently, the CAG unearthed that ATCL chalked up losses of a whopping 60bn/- in the past five years.

Presenting an overall audit report for the 2019/20 financial

year to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma, CAG Charles Kichere said that the national carrier lost the amount in that period and counting.

"ATCL been making losses for the past five years," he affirmed.

This means the company has been piling up losses since the government started pumping billions of shillings into its revival in 2016 with new operating systems, staff and a fleet of brand

new aircraft.

The Speaker similarly said that most queries raised by annual reports of the CAG on district councils arise from errors of incompetent accountants.

He made the remark after the Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, Hamad Yusuph Masauni responded to a question from Kibamba MP Issa Mtemvu, criticising accountants as irresponsible, failing to properly document expenditures.

"When you go through the report you will notice that some of the problems raised on district councils come from incompetent accountants, often transferred to other councils due to such errors and repeatedly get qualified audit reports," he said.

The Treasury needs to work on such accountants to help the councils improve their audit situations in coming years, he added.

## 'Growth plan hinges on good governance'

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others, to ensure rapid growth.

The plan seeks to transform the economy from a low productivity agricultural economy to an industrialized one led by modernization and highly productive agricultural activities, he stated.

"Our focus in the next five year is to ensure that we invest heavily to stimulate competitive and inclusive economy which includes improving the trade and business environment to attract more investments, strengthen capacity in factories and social services," he elaborated.

The government will facilitate the development of human resources and build a capable workforce through investing in skills development programs and ensuring quality education from primary level.

"This plan aims to strengthen collaboration between the government and the private sector. We want to ensure that the private sector contributes immensely in the development of the country by engaging in different investment programmes," he declared.

Contrary to previous development plans, this plan will invest more in creating an enabling environment for the private sector to grow but also to involve the private sector in the financing and implementation of the plan, he asserted.

The government will install a durable system of monitoring the implementation of set priorities

of the plan to enable the country achieve the 2025 development vision, he said.

"We will supervise to ensure that all priorities aimed to improve the country's economy, stability, setting up industries and improving the investment climate are attained," he emphasised.

The minister was overly optimistic with regard to the pace of implementation of the 2nd FYDP which ends in the 2020/21 financial year, saying that most of its goals have been realised.

A total of 12.7m employment opportunities, of which 11.9m are direct jobs and 881,354 indirect occupations were created, with the country recording major achievements in various sectors thus enabling the country to be classified as a lower middle income economy he added.



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## CTI: Packaging materials should be tested locally

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at ensuring environmental protection laws are followed voluntarily.

He said in his remarks that fines have been set for anyone who will be found using, distributing or importing the products, with 30,000/- to 500,000/- fines meant for users while distributors will be fined 10m/- to 10bn/-.

"We know there are challenges in implementing this directive but the aim is crucial as we must make our environment friendly for all living things," he declared.

Kemilembe Mutasa, Assistant Director at the Department of Environment on her part said that the directorate was preparing

standards for packaging materials.

"We know our colleagues at TBS are at an advanced stage of preparing such standards in like manner as what we are doing so we will work with them," she said.

Henry Msuya, a TBS standards officer, said that when standards for manufacturing packaging materials are finalized; the bureau will procure a machine for testing the products, and help to project decaying time of the materials.

In 2019, the government announced a ban on plastic bags use, to take up the global movement against single use plastic bags, with special desks designated at border points and airports for travelers entering the country to surrender such bags.

## Fruit processing plan to curb post-harvest losses

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increase efficiency

She urged the government to encourage Tanzanians to invest in processing industries especially in regions which produce more fruits to curb such losses and enable farmers to benefit from their sweat.

In his response, Kigahe said that the government is aware of the losses incurred by farmers and it has started taking measures to address the problem.

"Through the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) we have set up fruit processing factories which use drying technology to avoid losses," he said, noting that the government is working to ensure a reliable market for agricultural produce including fruits.

"We use our embassies abroad to get information about market demand of our crops abroad," he specified, noting further that the government is working to find reliable markets for agricultural produce, which involves encouraging local and foreign investors to set up small, medium

and large processing industries.

He said this work is being coordinated with the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA), Tanzania embassies abroad as well as regional administrations.

Similarly involved are organizations like SIDO, the National Development Corporation (NDC) and EPZA, which provide guidance on how to establish industries in various areas, including fruit processing units.

Government efforts to encourage establishment of factories has borne fruit as at present there are two fruits processing firms in Bagamoyo, Coast Region, namely Elven Agri Co. Ltd and Sayona Fruits Co. Ltd, optimally processing 28 tonnes of fruits per day and providing 755 jobs.

The two factories provide a market to fruit producers in various areas, in which case MPs need to continue encouraging farmers to produce more fruits so that the factories have reliable raw material sources, he added.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro addresses residents of Longido District residents gathered at a contested Lake Natron tourism hunting block in Arusha Region. He was out to gather evidence before reviewing a 2019 judgment on the strength of which the hunting licence issued to Green Mile was revoked. Photo courtesy of MoNT

## SADC to hold extraordinary summit to address Mozambique insecurity

By Special Correspondent

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) will hold a meeting on Thursday in the Mozambican capital Maputo to discuss ways to tackle the Islamist insurgency bedeviling the southeast African nation.

"SADC is deeply concerned about the continued terrorist attacks in Cabo Delgado, especially for the lives and welfare of the residents who continue to suffer from the atrocious, brutal and indiscriminate assaults," the SADC said in a statement.

The Extraordinary Double Troika Summit will see representatives from Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Mozambique meet.

"A communique on the key outcomes of the Extraordinary Double Troika Summit will be issued at the end of the deliberations," the statement concluded.

The meeting comes in the wake of an attack on the key northern town of Palma last month by Islamist militants in the restive Cabo Delgado province.

On March 24, suspected Islamist militants launched a devastating attack killing dozens of people and injuring scores of others, while thousands of others fled the area.

The attack is seen as the biggest escalation of an Islamist insurgency that has plagued the gas-rich province since 2017.

The attack also forced French energy giant Total to suspend its gas operations at a nearby site of an offshore gas project worth billions of dollars not long after it had announced a resumption of work.

However, the military this week said the town is now secure after troops killed a significant number of militants and cleared one final area.

Commander Chongo Vidigal, the officer in charge of an operation to retake the town, added that the gas plant, which Total abandoned on Friday, was secure.

Militants affiliated to the Islamic State group have raided villages and towns across the province, resulting in at least 2,600 deaths and more than 350,000 others being displaced.



Salome Stephen (L), a gender and nutrition coordinator with the Tanzania Horticultural Association, pictured yesterday taking residents of Marito village in Msalala District through the basics of nutrition. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## CAG report faults construction of modern bus terminal in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

THE Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report has said the construction of the newly built Magufuli Bus Terminal in Dar es Salaam, was not included in the design and architecture of the road expansion project from Kimara to Kibaha in Coast Region.

The report for the financial year ending June 2020 said the construction of the already operational bus terminal

(Magufuli Bus Terminal) would lead to congestion at intersections.

"Based on interviews with TanRoads officials and what we saw, I noted that the Morogoro Road Expansion project is not on track to achieve its goal of reducing traffic congestion due to the construction of Mbezi Mwisho Bus Terminal," said the report.

"The construction was started while the expansion project was already underway. Therefore, the

bus station was not included in the plan and architectural design of this project.

"Furthermore, the operation of the bus terminal apart from causing traffic congestion could lead to further challenges at intersections joining the Morogoro Road. The bus station is expected to service 700 buses daily."

The report says that while TanRoads was developing strategies to expand the road to Morogoro, the Ministry of

State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and, through the Dar es Salaam City Council, were also planning strategies for the construction of a bus station in Mbezi.

"These two initiatives were carried out without the cooperation between these government institutions. Lack of integrated sectoral strategic plan between public institutions is the main source of this problem," said the CAG.

## Nonfood items see inflation declining across March 2021

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE annual headline inflation rate for the month of March, 2021 has decreased from 3.3 per cent that was recorded in February, 2021 to 3.2 per cent, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

Releasing the statistics here, the Acting Director of Population Census and Social Statistics, Ruth Davison said, "The decrease of the headline inflation explains that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended March, 2021 has decreased compared to the speed that was recorded for the year ended February, 2021."

She noted that the decrease in annual headline inflation rate for the month of March, 2021 is mainly attributed to the decrease of prices for non-food items for the year ended March 2021, compared to the prices recorded in March, 2020.

Some of the non-food items that shows a price decrease for the month of March, 2021 compared to the prices for the month of March, 2020 includes, diesel by 17.7 percent, kerosene (13.5), petrol (8.0) and gas (4.1).

According to the acting director, food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate has increased from 3.6 percent in February, 2021 to 4.3 percent in March, 2021.

Minja noted that in comparison with other East Africa countries of Kenya and Uganda, the annual headline inflation rate in Kenya for the year ended March, 2021 has increased from 5.78 percent recorded for the year ended February, 2021 to 5.90 percent for

the year ended March, 2021.

In Uganda, the annual headline inflation rate for the year ended March, 2021 has also increased from 3.8 percent for the year ended February, 2021 to 4.1 percent for the year ended March, 2021.

NBS stated that there was a relatively stable price movement from March, 2020 to March, 2021, adding that annual headline inflation rates over the same period have shown a stable trend.



**The decrease of the headline inflation explains that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended March, 2021 has decreased compared to the speed that was recorded for the year ended February, 2021**



### VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT - READVERTISED

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is making some reforms in its structure, internal operations and staffing to accommodate business needs. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified Tanzanians to fill the following position.

#### 1. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (1 POST)

##### (a) Qualifications

- At least a Form IV Certificate with a Diploma in Secretarial Studies.
- Must have passed Shorthand and Hatimkato 80 -100 w.p.m
- Must have attended Management Development Course for Executive Assistants Level 1 or relevant qualifications
- Hands on Working experience of not less than five (5) years in a reputable organization
- Outstanding command in communication both in English and Kiswahili (writing and speaking)
- Candidates with a strong background in working in competitive business environment with heavy administrative workload as well as handling Senior Executives will be given preference

##### (b) Duties and Responsibilities

- Providing assistance to top executives of the Company
- Assisting in co-ordinating secretarial functions with other departments.
- Typing letters and other documents
- Undertaking routine correspondence with prior approval of his/her senior.
- Arranging meetings and appointment schedules for the Senior Executives.
- Assisting in drafting and proof - reading reports and write-ups for the executives.
- Coordinate official appointments and travel arrangements
- Deals with confidential matters in the office of the Executives.
- Keep record of events and documents
- Performs any other duties as may be assigned by his/her senior.

#### 2. REMUNERATION:

Five (5) years contract with attractive remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Scales and Incentive Scheme.

#### 3. MODE OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants must submit a dully signed letter for consideration of the application attached with the following:

- A curriculum vitae (CV),
- Certified copies of all certificates (including secondary school), other relevant certificates/licenses. Applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities Tanzania Commission for University (TCU) or National Examination Council- NECTA)
- Two recent passport size photographs
- Name and address of at least two reputable referees;
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone number.

**Note:** Misrepresentation of qualifications or any other fact/information on application shall warrant legal consequences.

#### 4. CLOSING DATE:

The application letters should reach the undersigned within 14 days from the first date of issue of this announcement.

The application letters should be directed to the following address: -

MANAGING DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
AIR TANZANIA COMPANY LIMITED,  
P.O. BOX 543,  
DAR ES SALAAM  
09.04.2021



### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROVISION OF MEDICAL INSURANCE SERVICE TO RAILWAY CHILDREN AFRICA EMPLOYEES REF: RCA/PMU/MED/2021/01

Railway Children Africa is a Non- Governmental Organisation (NGO) registered in Tanzania working to support Children and Youth Working and Living in the Street (CYWLS). In Tanzania we have offices in Mwanza and Dar es salaam.

Railway Children Africa invites interested, competent, registered, and reputable medical insurance company (Including current services provider) to submit their EOI for the provision of medical insurance to Railway Children Africa employees and their dependants.

We are looking for best medical insurance scheme that is reasonable and can best cover at least 50 adults (inclusive of principal members) and 45 children. Providers can propose up to 3 considered best schemes or options only if they have.

Bid document in English should include at least 2 references and list of enhanced medical health facilities and any other added packages to the scheme proposed. Only 1 bid is accepted from every bidder interested and should be noted that RCA will not accept bid from Brokers or agents of the insurance company.

RCA will not be held responsible for any cost related to printing preparation or submission of the bid document.

Bidders must submit in sealed envelopes by hand, post, or email not later than 5.00pm on 16th Apr 2021. Please address you interest to The Procurement Unit, Railway Children Africa, Plot 144/1, Block X, Capri-point, P.O. Box 138 Mwanza. Our email is jobs.mwanza@railwaychildren.or.tz and our office is opened from 08.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays and weekends.

Railway Children Africa is committed to instilling a strong anti-corruption culture and upholding its values and all laws relevant to countering bribery and corruption. If any of our staff, ask for kickback and or commission please report the incident by writing to the country director on same address as above.

Railway Children Africa reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and is not bound to give reasons for its decision.

[WWW.RAILWAYCHILDREN.ORG.UK](http://WWW.RAILWAYCHILDREN.ORG.UK)

WE FIGHT FOR CHILDREN  
LIVING ON THE STREETS



## Fish farming proves beneficial for more than 11,000 people in various regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOTAL of 11,280 people from the country's various regions have benefited by modern fish farming training methods provided by Kongolwira Aquaculture Centre in Morogoro Region between 2010 and 2020.

This was revealed yesterday by the Acting Assistant Director of the Aquaculture Department in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Dr Imani Kapinga about the centre's activities since it was established.

He said during the period the centre also produced 6,026,832 tilapia fish fingerlings that were distributed in Morogoro, Iringa, Coast, Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Unga, Mwanza and Arusha regions.

"Part of the fingerlings were planted in natural dams in Morogoro, Coast, Singida and Iringa regions," he said.

Dr Kapinga said a total of 1,450 students from Sokoine University of agriculture (SUA), University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), University of Dodoma (Udom), Mbegani and Kunduchi Fish Colleges received practical training from the Kongolwira Aquaculture Centre.

He added that by working together with Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), SUA and UDSM, the Kingolwira Centre has done various researches on

fish farming.

The construction of the centre was done in four phases beginning 1979/1980 by digging 12 ponds of 200 sq metres each for fish farming.

However, the Phase 4 was completed in 2015 and 2017 by revamping of the hatching room and installation of jars for fingerling storage.



**He added that by working together with Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), SUA and UDSM, the Kingolwira Centre has done various researches on fish farming**



Chunya district commissioner Mayeka Saimon (R) holds one of the triplets Sara Shabani (2nd-L) delivered at the district hospital yesterday. Left is district administrative secretary Michombelo Anaclet. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## Government allots 311m/- for building of roads in natural reserve in Kagera Region

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has set aside 311m/- for construction of 20km road in Rumanyika National Reserve in Karagwe District and 51kms in Ibanda Kyerwa National Reserve for FY 2020/2021.

The remarks were made yesterday in parliament sitting in Dodoma by the Natural Resources and Tourism Deputy Minister

Mary Masanja when responding to a question posed by Kyerwa Member of Parliament Innocent Sebba Bilakwe (CCM) who wanted to know of the government plans to install good road infrastructures in the three reserves to woo tourists.

Answering the question on behalf of Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Damas Ndumbaro, Masanja said the

two National Reserves - Ibanda Kyerwa and Rumanyika Karagwe were established by Government Notice No 509 and 510 of July 5 2019.

He said the reserves were upgraded from what they were - Ibanda and Rumanyika forest reserves.

"In order to have the reserves easily accessed the government TANROADS and TARURA will be

tasked to do construction work of the roads in the reserves," she said.

She said the efforts will help in making the reserves attractive to tourists including domestic tourists from nearby areas.

She said in the two national reserves the government conducted evaluation in fixing boundaries, the work which is still going on.



Special Seats legislator Esther Matiko poses a question to a minister in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Tanzania to serve as 2021 chair of African Diamond Producers Association, Kiswahili approved

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA has assumed the chairmanship of the African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA) for the year 2021/2022 as the association also approves Kiswahili as one of its official languages.

Speaking at the end of the 7th ADPA meeting yesterday, the new association's new chairperson, Doto Biteko said the meeting adopted the report of 7th Ordinary Meeting of ADPA Committee of experts and approved the report of Final Communique of the 7th ADPA Council of Ministers, calling on member states to abide by the resolutions by implementing them.

He congratulated the outgoing ADPA Chairman, Tom Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy of Republic of Namibia for handling well the affairs of ADPA.

He pointed out that it is during his tenure that ADPA Executive Secretariat was suspended to prevent embezzlement of funds.

Also it was during his tenure that the Ad Hoc Review Committee was formed to review and propose structural and organisational reforms aimed at enhancing the performance of the Secretariat.

Biteko said the association faces some challenges, which includes, on payment of membership fees, non-utilisation of opportunities for enhancing diamond trade, value addition technology and human resource development.

"It is high time now to increase the efficiency of the association so as to enhance social economic development of our countries. Let us consider establishing of a strong diamond market in our continent," said the chairman.

He promised to work closely with the interim management team to ensure that an executive secretariat of the organisation is instituted within a maximum period of 12 months as directed.

Minister Biteko urged members to pay annual fees debts as stipulated in the ADPA statute to ensure sustainability of ADPA operations, it is the same member states that are going to rescue this situation they are facing. "The accumulated debt from 2007 to 2020 amounts to 6, 696,359.36 USD. Let us act positively and pay our accumulated debts," he called on the meeting.

He told the participants that Tanzania has established mineral markets for different minerals, inviting them to utilize the mineral markets established in each region in the country.

On the adoption of Kiswahili, he said, "Kiswahili is a language that is used by many African countries now days. I thank you for adopting it as one of ADPA language of communication."

Earlier in his opening speech, he said Tanzania undertook major reforms in the mineral sector in 2017, aimed at ensuring fair contributions of revenue from the mineral sector.

He said, amongst others Tanzania introduced the minimum of 16 percent free carried interest for Special Mining Licence (SML) and mineral licence (ML) mineral right holders.

Also mineral value addition he said was given a priority to increase employment and revenue contribution from the mineral sector.

The reforms he said also introduced clauses in local content and corporate social responsibility to be observed by mineral right holders so as to increase participation of Tanzanians in the mineral sector.

The reforms also provided for establishment of the mineral markets, so far 39 mineral markets and 41 buying centres have been established. The mineral markets have helped small scale miners to have a place to sell their minerals.

By Guardian Reporter

## Forbes names Tanzanian mogul as one of 18 African billionaires

AFRICA boasts 18 billionaires with a net worth of \$ 74 billion, according to a new list released by Forbes business and wealth magazine.

In the list released on Tuesday, Aliko Dangote of Nigeria continues to lead in wealth for the 10th year in a row with a net worth of \$ 11.6 billion. However, Dangote is the 190th richest man in the world.

In Africa, Dangote was followed by Nassef Sawiris of Egypt with \$ 8.5 billion, Nicky Oppenheimer of South Africa with \$ 8 billion, Johann Rupert of South Africa

with \$ 7.2 billion and Mike Adenuga of Nigeria worth \$ 6.3 billion.

In the case of East Africa, only Tanzanian Mohammed Dewji entered the list.

Although the number of rich people in Forbes magazine increased worldwide, while setting a record for the addition of 493 new people, the number of African billionaires declined slightly compared to 2020 when

they were 20.

The eighteen African billionaires come from South Africa and Egypt with five rich each, Nigeria with three, Morocco two, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Algeria with one each.

Other billionaires with their net worth in brackets include Abdulsamad Rabiou of Nigeria (\$ 5.5b), Issad Rebrad of Algeria (\$4.8b), Naguib Sawiris of Egypt (\$3.2b), Patrice Motsepe of South

Africa (\$ 3b), Koos Bekker of South Africa (\$2.8b), Mohamed Mansour of Egypt (\$2.5b), Aziz Akhannouch of Morocco (\$2.0b) and Mohammed Dewji of Tanzania (\$1.6b).

Others are Youssef Mansour of Egypt (\$1.5b), Othman Benjeloun of Morocco (\$1.3b), Michiel Le Roux of South Africa (\$1.2b), Strive Masiyiwa of Zimbabwe (\$1.2b) and Yaseen Mansour of Egypt (\$1.1b).



Julishaeli Mfinanga, the Fire and Rescue Force commander for Dodoma Region, chants motivation songs with scouts during the practical training on disaster preparedness held at Champumba in Chamwino District yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Fire and Rescue Force training scouts in disaster management

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Fire Brigade and Rescue Services Department in Dodoma Region has begun practical training to 130 youth from Dodoma region scouts organisation aimed at empowering them in rescue services, and prevention and fighting various disasters in the society including fire, floods and road accidents.

Opening the training seminar yesterday, Dodoma Region Fire Brigade and Rescue Services Commander Julishaeli Mfinanga said it was appropriate time to provide practical training to the scouts to enable them fight disasters at schools as well as in

the community around them. Addressing the scouts, the Dodoma Region Commissioner of Scouts Salama Katunda thanked the Fire Brigade and Rescue Services Commissioner General John Masunga in providing them with instructors for the training and promised that the training provided would spur the urge for the youth in confronting various disasters that happen in the society.

The 7-day training is conducted by instructors from Fire Brigade and Rescue Services Department in cooperation with the Disasters Department of the Prime Minister's Office, the Scouts Organisation including

other government institutions, being held at Champumba village, Chiboli Ward in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region.

The training follows the agreement reached on February 26 this year between the Fire Brigade and Rescue Services Department and Tanzania Scouts Organisation to provide training to scouts in the country to empower them confront various disasters in the communities.

For his part, the disasters coordinator from the PM Office Sgt. Yona Benjamin said the training have come at the appropriate time following fast growth of the city of Dodoma.

## Farmers' awareness in strategic crop farming uplifting agricultural sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

GREAT awareness among farmers in strategic crop farming has been cited as a driving force behind the uplifting of the agriculture sector especially in villages as it stood to increase households' incomes and the national economy.

The observation was made by Dr Lameck Makoye, Director of Research at Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) at Hombolo, in Dodoma Region during a special training seminar on strategic crops to increase

awareness to farmers on better farming practices.

Following the government slogan of the Phase V Government in attaining industrial economy, strategic crops farming including sorghum, millet, and finger millet have been used in preparing some of the drinks at factory areas, hence bettering farmers' lives.

He said they have seen it necessary to conduct the training for farmers after realizing that many farmers, especially from rural areas like to farm the crops, especially millet as the main source for their food.

"These crops withstand drought and take short time to harvest

compared to other crops, and this is of great benefit to them as it also helps them to store some of the harvests," he added.

Chawha Ward Councillor Sospeter Mazengo said there was a need for farmers to work together with TARI to abandon traditional farming methods and adopt modern farming for increased harvests.

Elisha Mwaluko, a farmer from Ipala ward in Dodoma Urban District said they have been using traditional farming practices, but in every season they have not been gaining any profits, sometimes they even experienced hunger.

## Z'bar 2nd VP pleads for unified efforts to complete development projects on time

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has appealed to the people to work together with the government in order to make unified efforts to complete in time development projects.

Hemed made the call early this week during his inspection visit of the 9.3km Kipapo-Wambaa road project while finalising his five-day inspection tour of development projects in Pemba's four districts.

He said the aim of the government was to see the hopes of Zanzibaris in improving their lives are realised.

He said the construction of the road was the election campaign pledge of Zanzibar president Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, adding that upon completion the road will be a great relief to the people of the areas especially during rain reasons.

He also praised civil society organisations and singled out Milele Foundation for its kind heartedness for part sponsoring the 4.3km Birikau road construction. He said the Zanzibar government would never ignore efforts made by the civil societies organisations and promised their representatives that the government will always be ready to work together with them at all times.

He also called upon the youth who are fortunate to get employment in the development projects with habits to steal equipment from the projects to stop such habits, they should instead inform such thefts, including embezzlement of public funds to authorities.

The Trustee from the Works, Communications and Transport Ministry in Pemba Ibrahim Saleh Juma told the Second Vice President that the 9.3km Kipapo-Wambaa road has already been completed

in its two phases totaling 6 kms. Ibrahim Saleh said four bridges would be involved in the road at tarmac level, and currently they were waiting for the end of the rainy season to continue with the work.

Inspecting the Chake Chake Hospital construction project, the Second Vice President instructed the project contractors - Runs Company to compensate the time lost by working 24 hours following the three-month stoppage.

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## CMSA honours 80 winners of challenge attracting institutions of higher learning

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Capital Market and Securities Authority (CMSA) yesterday awarded 80 students who emerged winners of the Capital Markets Universities and higher learning institutions challenge (CMUHLIC) 2020.

A total of 21,338 students participated in the competition which was open to students in university and higher learning institutions. It aimed at inculcating financial and capital markets literacy amongst students in universities and higher learning institutions, through quizzes and essay competition.

It also aimed at testing their ability to apply their knowledge of capital markets to real life situations.

Speaking at the ceremony in Dar es Salaam, CMSA Executive

Director Nicodemus Mukama said that three top winners both girls and boys in each category received 1,800,000/- while second runners got 1,400,000/- each and third runners received 800,000/- Mukama said the fourth winners were awarded 400,000 while the fifth received 200,000/- each.

He said the primary objective of the challenge was to increase financial inclusion and literacy among students in higher learning institutions by testing their knowledge and understanding on issues related to capital markets.

He said the 2020 challenge was part of strategies for the national financial inclusion framework 2018-2022 for capital markets development in Tanzania.

He said the challenge has been gaining popularity since it was launched in 2014/15

whereas in 2016/17 the number of participants increased to more than 7,000 and in 2017/18 a total of 15,004 students participated.

"I call upon participants to be good ambassadors by educating others on the benefits of capital markets as well as how to apply the knowledge of capital markets to real life situations," he said.

Top winners of the competition have demonstrated notable competence in aspects of capital market, self-confidence and exposure; he said adding that winners have been able to secure jobs in different institutions as top consults and financial advisors.

Chriss Ngonyani, a third year student at the University of Dar es Salaam who emerged winner in the quiz category said the CMUHLIC 2020 challenge had to a great extent increased his financial literacy.

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MSH is seeking to recruit highly motivated and result oriented individual as the MIS (Health Information Systems (HIS) & Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Support Specialist for the Tanzania Technical Support Services (TSSP) Project, a President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded project in Tanzania.

MIS (HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS (HIS) AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) SUPPORT) SPECIALIST JOB ID:

The HIS/ICT Specialist will provide technical assistance to Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) and Public Health institutions (PHI) in Tanzania including; the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) and the Zanzibar Integrated HIV, TB and Leprosy Program to lead and manage the HIV response and build sustainable health system.

The HIS/ICT specialist is a core member of the project team who will be closely guided by Health Information Systems (HIS) Lead Chief of Party and the MOHCDGEC ICT Director in her/his day to day work. S/he will also work under the guidance of the home office Project Strategy Lead, and in close coordination with the donor (CDC) and project partners and is responsible for providing technical assistance (TA) to the Ministry and PHI to improve HIS and ICT to support access to data and to improve data analysis, dissemination, and use to support evidence-based decision making for management of a sustainable HIV response in line with prevailing GoT strategies and guidelines.

**Specific responsibilities include;**

- Coordinating HIS and ICT activities to implement the national HIS Investment Framework
- Defining technical requirements (both user and system requirements) to guide electronic medical records (EMR), interoperability, and automated reporting solutions
- Performing rollout of health information systems and client level data systems such as EMRs, Client Registry etc.
- Identifying best IT solutions on the market to address Government of Tanzania needs
- Performing Database Performance Tuning, Database Management, Requirements Analysis, Software Development Fundamentals, Problem Solving, Documentation Skills, Verbal Communication, Data Maintenance and Database Security.
- Providing necessary technical support of interoperability of ICT solutions with the National Data Repository
- Overseeing the work of ICT contractors to support the national HIS
- Supporting the establishment of shared open health information exchange services
- Supporting the development and implementation of ICT solutions to ensure the Shared Health Record meets the needs of the HIV program
- Enhancing reliability and reaching of ICT services and ability of key personnel to access all health information and systems for planning, management, and decision making
- Continuously improving analysis and interpretation of data across the health sector for HIV and other public health priorities.

**Qualifications & Experience;**

The ideal candidate should have a Bachelor's Degree in Computer science, Information systems, Computer engineering, or related field. S/he should have a minimum of three (3) years of experience providing technical assistance to government agencies in developing and strengthening health information and ICT systems in Tanzania

In addition, s/he should have good knowledge of system development, rollout and maintenance, demonstrable experience in designing and managing electronic data management systems and platforms such as EMR, Open Health Information Exchange including system analysis, development of user-and system requirements, and oversight of software development. Experience building health worker capacity in the use of ICT solutions, data analysis, interpretation and use for program management.

The candidate should have knowledge of the Tanzania health systems and structures for the provision of HIV services. Excellent documentation, interpersonal, coordination, presentation, and writing skills. Experience with US government donor projects is an added advantage.

The successful candidate needs to be a strong team player with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. S/he should work with minimal supervision with ability to work independently and in a team.

For further detail and to apply for the position, please visit the Employment Opportunities section of our website at;  
[https://msh.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/External/job/Tanzania-Dar-es-Salaam/MIS--Health-Information-System-s--HIS--and-Information-and-Communications-Technology--ICT--Support--Specialist\\_R722](https://msh.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/External/job/Tanzania-Dar-es-Salaam/MIS--Health-Information-System-s--HIS--and-Information-and-Communications-Technology--ICT--Support--Specialist_R722) by April 14, 2021. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

## Minister is met with placards opposed to returning of hunting block to Green Miles

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

NATURAL Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro was yesterday received by placards carried by residents of 23 villages that surround Lake Natron hunting block who were opposing its return to Green Miles Safaris.

The firm had its hunting permit revoked on August 7 2019 by the former Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Hamis Kigangwala following its violation of laws governing wildlife protection and frequent conflicts with the villages and has since contested the decision.

At a meeting mid this week held inside the hunting block, the Minister was met with placards some of which read "We do not want our land to be taken away," "The investor has failed to abide by the agreement," and "This land is also essential to herders' lives."

Speaking at the meeting, villagers and Longido district government officials said the hunting firm was being opposed for its failure to meet the terms of agreement with the villages as well as lack of communication with villages and district officials.

Longido District Council Chairman Simon Laizer whose ward is inside the hunting block said the origin of the standoff was its failure to abide by the terms of the agreements with the villagers as it owes them 329m/-.

"We are not ready to work together with the firm, it has failed to respect the people, the situation that has created a big conflict," he said.

Longido MP, Steven Kiriswa, and the CCM District Chairman Joseph

Sandira said their position was the same as that of the majority of the villagers - opposing the restoration of the hunting block to Green Miles safaris.

Kirushwa said in the district, there were three hunting blocks but only the one given to Green Miles had a conflict with the villagers.

Longido District Commissioner Frank Mwaisumbe said the firm has been in a long time conflict with the villagers despite the formation of a probe team but whose officials refused to turn up for discussions.

He said the government intervened due to protests by villagers as well as after reports of its killing of 36 giraffes inside the block.

"Worse still, after repeated complaints from the villagers and my intervention, the firm decided to sue me in court," said the DC.

Dr Ndumbaro said the aim of his visit was to receive views from the people after having met with district government leaders and the investor.

However, he said after receiving various views and arguments from both sides, in April this year he will issue a decision whether or not to restore the hunting block to the hunting firm.



**Worse still, after repeated complaints from the villagers and my intervention, the firm decided to sue me in court**



Vendors sort and clean fish on the Kipumbwi - Pangani District - section of the Indian Ocean shore yesterday for onward sale. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

## NGO equips women and youth in Kilwa with better land use management skills

By Beatrice Philemon

WOMEN and youth in Njinjo ward, Kilwa District in Lindi Region have received training to help them add value to the land and use it as fixed asset when applying for loans from financial institutions.

The provided education will also enable the villagers to legally own land and secure Certificate of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCRO).

Njinjo ward has a total of 1600 people, among them, 5000

are youth engaging in farming activities. At least 90 percent of the locals depend on farming activities to generate income.

Njinjo ward councilor, Nurdin Mahiki said the training was offered free of charge by Kilwa District Council Land Office through the Kilwa Local Rights Programme (LRP) executed by Actionaid Tanzania.

"We are thankful to ActionAid Kilwa and the district council for training our youth and women, the acquired skills would help them to own land and use the

customary title deeds to access bank loans," he added.

"Women are now aware of their rights, they are also aware of the procedures to obtain CCRO as well as how to look for legal assistance during land disputes," said the ward councilor.

According to him, 90 percent of women and youth in Njinjo village are engaging in sesame and maize production. He said enabling them to have CCRO would facilitate availability of bank loans to improve their farming activities.

"Most of the land has been surveyed, we are only waiting for officials to provide us with the registration numbers to start following procedures on how to get the CCRO," he noted.

Chairman of the Kilwa Youth Development Organisation (KIYODI), Madadi Mkape said: "I am currently engaging in vegetable cultivation. With the bank loan I will expand my farms, thus generate a good income."

Mkape said that 40 youth in Njinjo village have been registered to access CCRO.



Teacher James Eliamani Mmbando (R) pictured yesterday presenting a chair to one of several people with special needs being taken care of at a government-owned centre for homeless senior citizens at Miembeni in Moshi Municipality. Mmbando, in collaboration with friends of his including Germany-based Franziska Aadler, also donated clothes, foodstuffs and various other worth over 4m/- in total. Photo by Correspondent James Lanka

## Mbeya City: We will build more English medium primary schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA City Council says it will continue with the construction of the new English Medium primary school to cost 350m/- making the city have four similar schools.

Reading the report on the school's construction to be named Chief Locket Mwashinga during the visit at the school of Mbeya Region Defence and Security Committee, Amina Mwilemi, a teacher from the school said it is expected to start operating within a short time.

She said some of the buildings have been completed and have already advertised admission for students.

"The school is named Chief Mwashinga in honor of our traditional chief, and we are still continuing with construction work for various buildings ready for students' intake," Amina said.

Nsalanga Ward Councillor Daud Ngogo said the construction of the school in the ward will spur the construction of other primary

schools in his ward.

He said the school's modern buildings were attractive and would provide the motivation for students to learn and called on residents of Nsalanga Ward to use the school as an example for the improvement of other buildings.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila said he was satisfied with the pace of construction work, claiming that the government will continue building similar types of schools to help parents who have no financial ability to enroll their children in private schools.

He said after the completion of the school, the City Council will embark on building another similar school in Iwambi Ward in the city as well as other areas.

He said due to confined plots' area, they will start constructing storeyed buildings.

Some Mbeya City ward Councillors advised parents to send their children to the school to enable them to obtain good primary school foundations.

## AU drops plans to buy Covid-19 vaccines from India's SSI

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

THE African Union has dropped plans to secure Covid-19 vaccines from the Serum Institute of India for African nations and is exploring options with Johnson

& Johnson, the head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said yesterday.

The institute will still supply the AstraZeneca vaccine to Africa through the Covax vaccine-sharing facility, John

Nkengasong told reporters, but the African Union would seek additional supplies from Johnson & Johnson.

The statement comes the day after European and British medicine regulators said

they had found possible links between AstraZeneca's vaccine and reports of very rare cases of brain blood clots, but they reaffirmed its importance in protecting people.

Nkengasong said the possible

link had nothing to do with the African Union's decision. The bloc of 55 member states shifted its efforts to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, he said, citing the deal signed last week to secure up to 400 million doses beginning in

the third quarter of this year.

"...It was just a clear understanding of how not to duplicate efforts with the Serum Institute, so that we compliment each other rather than duplicate efforts," he said.

# Poor rains bring optimism African locust outbreak will fade

By Special Correspondent

IN a convoy of pickup trucks fitted with spray guns, soldiers zoom through Baraka's hills leaving a trail of dust and bemused villagers in its wake.

The vehicles brake when the soldiers see the enemy: billions of invading desert locusts that have landed in a twitching swarm where a forested area meets farmland.

The deployment of soldiers among the usual agriculture officials is a testament to the seriousness of the threat as East Africa's locust outbreak continues well into a second year. The young locusts arrive in waves from breeding grounds in Somalia, where insecurity hampers the response.

It's the beginning of the planting

season in Kenya, but the delayed rains have brought a small amount of optimism in the fight against the locusts, though farmers still worry about their crops.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation says the locust swarms have been spotted in the Rift Valley – which produces Kenya's staple foods of maize, wheat and potatoes.

But the FAO says that as a result of the poor rains in Kenya and neighbouring Ethiopia, the swarms in both countries are remaining immature. Their numbers also continue to decline due to ongoing control operations.

Without rainfall, the swarms will not breed, severely limiting the scale and extent of their threat, the FAO says in a recent update.

"For this reason, there is

cautious optimism that the current upsurge is winding down in the Horn of Africa, especially if poor rains limit breeding this spring in northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia, followed by equally poor rains during the summer in northeast Ethiopia."

Last year, authorities managed to contain what was seen as the biggest locust infestation in Kenya in 70 years, largely through coordinated aerial spraying which covered vast territories quickly.

Many of those swarms were in uninhabited areas. This year the swarms have presented a different challenge by landing in more inhabited areas. That means spraying is out of the question because it could adversely affect people and livestock, says Ambrose Nyatich, a livelihood

recovery expert with the FAO.

So the delayed rains are a benefit – in part.

Desert locusts pose an unprecedented risk to agriculture-based livelihoods and food security in the already fragile Horn of Africa region amid economic crises, drought and conflict, FAO says.

A typical desert locust swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts per square kilometer, according to the East African regional body, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. "An average swarm can destroy as much food crops in a day as is sufficient to feed 2,500 people."

Farmers like Hannah Nyokabi in the community of Baraka – which means "blessing" in Swahili – find themselves in a difficult situation.

Poor rains might lessen the locust threat but will almost certainly mean a poor harvest.

"Things have gone very bad. If you look at the farm there is nothing," she said. "We have children who are in school, and we were depending on the farm for their fees."

Another farmer, Anne Wa Mago, 60, called a poor harvest better than nothing.

"We are lucky (the locusts) arrived when we had not planted, otherwise they would have wiped out our produce," she said, motioning at thousands of the voracious insects crowding a tree branch.

Groups of school children, some still in uniforms, ran around the farms snatching the locusts from the air or the ground.

To them, the swarm that

recently arrived, almost blighting the sun, is a windfall like no other. A kilogram of locusts fetches money from a non-governmental organisation that wants to turn the insects into livestock food.

"This is money that has come to our doorstep," said 16-year-old John Mbithi. Anne Wangari, 12, said she had collected 35 kilograms before leaving for school.

But Nyatich with the FAO warned against using locusts for food because they could have been sprayed with insecticide.

"The initiatives that were being conducted by some organizations to try and use locusts for fish feeds or animal feeds is something that should be looked into in terms of how can we regulate it going forward maybe in the future," Nyatich said.



Bahati Shujaa, a tanzanian business stakeholder at Mirerani township in Simanjiro District, airs her views at a meeting held on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



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## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – EoI

### A CONSULTANCY WORK ON LARVAE CONNECTIVITY STUDY FOR RUFUJI – MAFIA – KILWA (RUMAKI) SEASCAPE AREA

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Background:** The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an International Non-Governmental Organization that deals with conservation of nature through environmental management and conservation programmes. Its mission is to stop the degradation of the Planet's natural environment and to build the future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) through Marine Programme is currently implementing a project called "Strengthening Marine Protected Areas Management in Rufiji, Mafia and Kilwa Districts in Tanzania" funded by Blue Action Fund (BAF) commonly known as RUMAKI-BAF. The project is a 5-year project being implemented by WWF Tanzania Country Office in partnership with WWF Germany, Wetlands International East Africa, coastal communities and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Vice President's Office (VPO) and the Ministries of Livestock and Fisheries and Natural Resources & Tourism.

**Project:** The project consist of four work packages (WPs), namely; (WP 1) Improved management effectiveness of Mafia Island Marine Park – MIMP, (WP 2) Improved management effectiveness of Rufiji Delta Mangrove Forest Reserve, (WP 3) Strengthening Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas - CFMAs and (WP 4) Designation of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Reserve in the Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Seascape. The four work packages have been objectively designed to ensure marine protected areas and associated buffer zones within the seascape are more effectively managed to maintain and improve ecological value and livelihoods for nature and people. This consultancy assignment is part of work package four (WP 4) on the designation of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Reserve.

**Consultancy:** The overall objective of the consultancy is to review existing literature and data on nearshore processes in RUMAKI seascape and carry out a robust and detailed scientific study that will identify, quantify and model larval connectivity among marine populations across the entire Rufiji – Mafia – Kilwa seascape areas. The study particularly intends to provide a clear extent and patterns of larval connectivity as well as larval source and sinks, dispersal and habitat. The information should be directly linked to identification of high value conservation areas in order to inform current and future marine resources governance systems and socio-economic context in this coastal area. The duration of the consultancy work is three months (90 days, working days spread within the proposed period) including contract signing date. The expected starting date of the assignment is **May 07th 2021**

**Applicant Requirements:** A suitable candidate for this assignment should possess the following qualifications:

- Masters Degree or PhD in marine sciences, fisheries management, natural resource management/governance, environmental sciences, or any other related discipline;
- Specialization in coral reef and/or mangrove associated aquatic fauna species is a credit;
- Demonstrated experience in larval species dispersal and connectivity research is a credit;
- Proven experience in producing high quality scientific data analysis and report writing for publication;
- Knowledgeable and aware of cultural sensitivities of coastal communities in the study area; and
- Evidence of similar assignment previously conducted by the Consultant (s).
- Identifies and aligns with the core values of the WWF organization: Courage, Integrity, Respect & Collaboration

**Submission of Application Documents:** Application from interested Consultant (s) should include:

- Letter of expression of interest;
- Technical proposal including the survey design and methodology, data collection procedure and analysis, and timeline;
- Financial proposal; and
- A detailed CV describing a consultant's preparedness, experience & expertise in conducting such similar consultancy/activity in his/her previous similar assignments and at least 3 referees.

Interested applicants are required to submit their electronic copies of application to the procurement email; [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)

Please, direct all your applications to:  
Secretary,  
Procurement Committee,

World Wide Fund for Nature - Tanzania Country Office,  
Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikochoeni,  
P.O.Box 63117 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.  
Email: [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)

Detailed Terms of Reference is accessible through [tanzania.panda.org](http://tanzania.panda.org) & <https://tanzania.panda.org/news/>

Evaluation of the tenders will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines.

WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal submitted.

All applications should reach us by or before **11 am EAT on Thurs, 22nd April 2021**

Only successful applicant shall be contacted.



## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### Chief Financial Officer

The African Trade Insurance Agency ("ATI") is a pan-African multilateral financial institution established in 2001 by African States. ATI was originally launched with the technical and financial support from the World Bank Group and has had more recent support from other institutions including the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank. ATI has grown into a market leader for risk mitigation in Africa, establishing itself as Africa's primary trade and investment insurer and one of Africa's largest Development Finance Institutions with an outstanding portfolio exceeding US\$6bn at year end 2020.

ATI provides political and credit risk insurance to companies, investors and lenders doing business in Africa. For over a decade, ATI has maintained an A rating for Financial Strength and Counterparty Credit by Standard & Poor's, and in 2019 obtained a second A3/Stable rating from Moody's. ATI's membership includes African Member States as well as a number of institutional shareholders. Besides its head office in Nairobi, ATI currently has offices in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

ATI, in partnership with Riverhouse Partners, is seeking to recruit a **Chief Financial Officer** to direct and lead the organization's financial planning, investments, management and reporting. The incumbent will also oversee the implementation of effective financial management systems and controls to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports (refer to the website for detailed description).

#### Role Descriptions

The role description and fuller details of the duties are posted on ATI's website [www.ati-aca.org](http://www.ati-aca.org)

#### Qualifications, Experience and other Attributes

The successful candidate must have suitable qualifications, experience and attributes as indicated under the job description on ATI's website.

The role requires excellent communication skills in written and spoken English. Knowledge of French and an ability to work in a multicultural environment, will be an added advantage.

#### How to Apply:

Please note that Riverhouse Partners Ltd has been exclusively retained to manage the recruitment of the **Chief Financial Officer**. Candidates are required to submit an electronic copy of an Application Letter, Personal History Form (this may be downloaded from the ATI website), CV, plus details of your current remuneration package along with details of three referees to [recruitmentcfo@ati-aca.org](mailto:recruitmentcfo@ati-aca.org) with a copy to [lydia.rowlands@riverhousepartners.com](mailto:lydia.rowlands@riverhousepartners.com) & [tidi.padi@riverhousepartners.com](mailto:tidi.padi@riverhousepartners.com).

- For a detailed job description please visit ATI's website <http://www.ati-aca.org/about-us/current-opportunities/>
- The closing date for application is **15 May 2021 at Midnight Nairobi time**
- ATI will only contact those applicants who are being actively considered for an interview

ATI offers a competitive salary and benefits package and a collegial working environment commensurate with other multilaterals. ATI reserves the right to not make an appointment to the above vacancy, or to make an appointment at a slightly higher or lower grade, or to make an appointment with a modified job description.

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**Taking A New Look  
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## Revitalising EPZs depends much on taxation approach

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has recently revisited the issue of the creation of export processing zones so as to enhance exports and earn foreign exchange, as well as make greater progress in industrial growth.

This intervention pricked the ears of observers who may have long forgotten that the issue even existed, as it was mooted sometime in the mid to late 1990s and attempts to implement it were conducted some years later.

AS number of organisations were created in that spirit, including an implementing authority, and land was set aside in Dar es Salaam and other places for the setting up of such industries.

There hasn't been much progress on the matter since, though we have areas like Ubungo Commercial Park. The fact is that there are few industries in the Benjamin William Mkapa EPZ proper.

There is also the Friendship Textile Mills, popularly known as Urafiki, where there is still a longstanding Chinese loan whose cancellation the Tanzanian government is understood to have been negotiating with China.

President Samia's remarks had an air of realism that has for years been lacking in policy position taking, as to how central foreign investment is likely to be in the whole issue of job creation.

We have mostly looked inward, especially in the idea of self-employment of loans to empower women and youth, to few practical results.

This is largely because informal sector activities that succeed are often tied to households where surpluses are available in case

of a difficult cycle in starting a business. That kind of facility can't be guaranteed merely through or by loans.

In that the creation of EPZs is not an entirely new issue, the ringing realisation that this is a neglected sphere of government policy adds that sense of urgency and the need for workable solutions.

In that context, policy makers and implementers will no longer have the luxury of laying out conditions acceptable to us and wait for investors to come - and if they don't they just forget about the issue in annual reports.

It should also not be about issuing statistics on proposed projects, not those which are up and running, or the level of realisation of proposed projects over a certain period of time.

Looking at the matter a little more closely, it is evident that the crucial point remains the issue of taxation and difficulties arising from the tax regime as a whole.

Export processing requires affordable taxes to enable competitiveness in foreign markets. However, if such goods have a market locally rather than being a surplus to our needs, and the wider application of taxes is onerously high rates, they could undermine those of industries not located in such zones or not under the "export processing" classification.

It mainly means that the tax incentive has to be part of wider investment attracting policy prerogatives, exactly what wasn't assured in the earlier push for EPZs.

In that case, solving the EPZ policy conundrum would call for a tax regime that is conducive to investors without risk of being uncompetitive.

## President's move on bad cases will strengthen the rule of law

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has made initial steps towards a further strengthening of the rule of law over excitement on suspicions in tax-related areas in particular.

The strategy includes a demand on the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and prosecuting agencies to drop cases that clearly can't be successfully prosecuted in a court of law.

There are cases where people have remained in remand prison for years on end, with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) failing to bring a sufficiently strong case before the High Court but with the suspects remaining in prison.

The president's remarks suggest the presence of clear political will that this situation ought to change. As a matter of fact, her directive to that effect has been in the air over the past month.

During the last week of February, Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma sent a reminder to the DPP on the issue, citing more or less those same terms.

The CJ demanded that the prosecuting agency take suspects to court within the space of one month from the date of notification or, on failing to do so, release the suspects.

Thus, there would be issue of continuing to keep quiet while people languish in prison for offences that simply can't be prosecuted.

Since this directive has come from the highest possible quarters in the governance of the state and was made in public and thus the wider impact of what this portends has already

been created, the DPP and other authorities will not have a fallback lever to obviate from what has been demanded.

The directive amplifies what the CJ had earlier observed, so we can expect that implementation is expedited.

President Samia was emphatic in her appeal to judicial and prosecuting authorities the need to observe strict fairness in those issues, noting pointedly that some cases had been fabricated.

Many people would have grasped that cases are fabricated for purposes of extortion, but let it be said that some are too far-flung and of cardinal importance to the nation's image and expectations to be fabricated by police or prosecutors.

In that case we might be talking about a certain order of priorities and image, with its cortege of suspects, now proving to be false in what we were assuming took place in a particular case.

It is not surprising either that this reflection and action by the president came on the edge of a mourning period and the reconstitution of the government set-up. The stream of reminiscences and reflection devoted to the mourning and funeral proceedings has a way of rekindling faith where it was lacking.

For instance, this particular moment has in a very important way created a new sense of assertiveness and candor on the constitutional process, which so many people - of different political persuasions - were fond of attacking. So let it be genuinely for the rule of law - to ensure the rule of law truly thrives.

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By Special Correspondents

## Covid-19 has compounded shattering impacts of conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa - Amnesty

**T**HE Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the terrible legacy of deliberately divisive and destructive policies that have perpetuated inequality, discrimination and oppression across sub-Saharan Africa, Amnesty International says in its just-published annual report.

Across the region, the devastating impact of armed conflict in countries such as Ethiopia, Mozambique, Cameroon and Nigeria was compounded by the pandemic as a number of states weaponised it to crack down on human rights.

The crackdowns included killings of civilians and arrests of opposition politicians and supporters and human rights defenders and activists in countries such as Angola, Guinea and Uganda.

'Amnesty International Report 2020/21: The State of the World's Human Rights' covers 149 countries - including 35 in sub-Saharan Africa - and delivers a comprehensive analysis of human rights trends globally in 2020.

In it, the organisation highlights conflicts between states and armed groups - with attacks on civilians continuing or escalating in most parts of the region.

"Conflicts between states and armed groups and attacks on civilians have continued or escalated in most parts of sub-Saharan Africa," said Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International Director for East and Southern Africa.

"In Southern Africa, the long-simmering violent tensions in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province intensified into full-blown armed conflict. The Horn of Africa region saw an outbreak of conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region," Muchena added.

The report noted further: "At the same time, armed groups maintained a foothold in West Africa and the Sahel region, attacking civilians in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. They blighted many lives in Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad. In response, state security forces also committed grave human rights violations against civilians."

The report also describes those already most marginalised, including women and refugees, as bearing the devastating brunt of the Covid-19 pandemic, as a result of discriminatory policy decisions by leaders in the region.

"Covid-19 has brutally exposed and deepened inequality across sub-Saharan Africa," said Samira Daoud, Amnesty International West and Central Africa Director, adding: "Governments should urgently re-invest in people and 'repair' the broken economic and

social system which perpetuates poverty and inequality, including leaving too many behind."

Amnesty's report shows how existing inequalities have left marginalised communities, refugees, older people, women and health workers disproportionately negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, with gender-based violence exacerbating the situation.

Covid-19 worsened the already precarious situation of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in many countries, trapping some in squalid camps, cutting off vital supplies, or precipitating border controls that left many stranded.

For example, Uganda, the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa with 1.4 million refugees, immediately closed its borders at the start of the pandemic and did not make an exception for refugees and asylum seekers trying to enter the country. As a result, over 10,000 people were stranded along its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The report highlights a marked increase in gender-based and domestic violence with many women facing increased barriers to protection and support due to restrictions on freedom of movement.

For instance, 21 women and children had been killed by intimate partners in South Africa by mid-June, while over 3,600 rapes were recorded during the Covid-19 lockdown in Nigeria.

In CAR, the UN recorded 60 cases of conflict-related sexual violence, including rape, forced marriage and sexual slavery, between June and October.

Across the region, many people working in the informal sector have been left without an income or social protections owing to lockdowns and curfews. Health workers operated in insanitary and unsafe environments due to shortages of PPE (personal protection equipment) and sanitisers.

The report cites the example of South Africa where, by early August, at least 240 health workers had died after contracting Covid-19. By July, about 2,065 health workers in Ghana had been infected and six had died from Covid-19-related complications.

Despite facing increased workloads and additional occupational risks, health workers in most countries remained without adequate compensation.

The report also paints a dismal picture of countries where authorities continued to restrict liberties in their handling of the pandemic.

From Togo to Kenya and Angola to South Africa, the annual

report highlights governments using excessive force to enforce compliance with Covid-19 response measures.

"In many countries, authorities violated freedom of expression and peaceful assembly to silence critical voices, leading to large numbers of arbitrary detentions and killings of demonstrators," said Samira Daoud.

Amnesty talks of authorities' use of legislation criminalising commentary related to the pandemic having assumed a presiding pattern.

It reports that they used the Covid-19 pandemic as a pretext to continue suppressing the right to freedom of expression, including by prosecuting individuals who posted comments on social media about government responses to the pandemic, for spreading "false news".

It says use of excessive force led to several cases of multiple killings, including while enforcing Covid-19 measures. In Nigeria, brutal policing resulted in security forces killing people for protesting in the streets, demanding their rights, and calling for accountability.

The report adds that in Zimbabwe at least ten people were killed, while thousands including protesters were arbitrarily arrested and detained in the context of enforcing Covid-19 measures. In Guinea, seven people were killed during demonstrations against the security forces' enforcement of Covid-19 movement restrictions.

According to the report, some leaders have gone a step further, using the distraction of the pandemic to clamp down on criticism - and critics - unrelated to the virus, and perpetrate other human rights violations.

The crackdown on protests in Guinea resulted in the deaths of dozens of people, with hundreds injured and more than 70 others arbitrarily detained. In Niger, human rights defenders calling for anti-corruption protests were arbitrarily arrested.

Dozens of people were arbitrarily arrested in August in Côte d'Ivoire for having participated in demonstrations against President Alassane Dramane Ouattara's running for a third term.

A nationwide ban on demonstrations was issued in Cameroon after the opposition Renaissance Movement (MRC) called for the resignation of the president and hundreds of demonstrators were arbitrarily arrested. "Regional institutions have failed to make respect by States their founding principles on human rights

protection. Some States like Benin and Cote d'Ivoire have contributed to the fragility of regional institutions like the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights by preventing individuals and NGOs direct access to the court," said AI's Deprose Muchena.

The Amnesty International Director for East and Southern Africa elaborated: "The (Covid-19) pandemic has cast a harsh light on the failure to cooperate effectively in times of dire global need. The only way out of this mess is through international cooperation.

"States must ensure that vaccines are quickly available to everyone, everywhere, and free at the point of use. Pharmaceutical companies must share their knowledge and technology so that no one is left behind.

"G20 members and international financial institutions must provide debt relief for the poorest 77 countries to respond and recover from pandemic."

Failed by their governments, protest movements the world over have stood up. Regressive policies have inspired many people to join long-standing struggles as seen with #ZimbabweanLivesMatter against constant human rights violations and the #End SARS protests in Nigeria as well as the #ShutAllDown protests to spotlight gender-based violence in Namibia, among others.

The Amnesty report details many important victories that human rights activists helped to secure in 2020. These include new legislation to counter violence against women and girls in Sudan. In Sierra Leone, the government overturned a ban preventing pregnant girls from attending school and sitting examinations, following years of campaigning by Amnesty and other partners.

According to Samira Daoud: "Leadership in 2020 came not from power or privilege. It came from the countless people marching to demand change.

"We saw an outpouring of support for #End SARS, #ZimbabweanLivesMatter as well as public protests against repression and inequality in places across the continent. Often risking their own safety, it was the leadership of ordinary people and human rights defenders the world over that urged us on.

"These are the people at the frontier of the struggle for a better, safer and more equal world."

Deprose Muchena meanwhile added: "We are at a crossroads. We must release the shackles that degrade human dignity. We must reset and reboot to build a world grounded in equality, human rights, and humanity.



# Climate change biggest threat to built environment, future of Africa's cities

NAIROBI

**C**LIMATE change is the biggest threat to the future of African cities, according to the just-released Knight Frank's Africa Horizons Report 2021/2022.

The report states that African cities are getting warmer and extreme weather changes are going to have a direct impact on the environment within cities and increase the move towards urban migration.

The most affected areas are expected in the Central and Southern parts of Africa, including the capitals of Lilongwe (Malawi) and Lusaka (Zambia).

This prediction is based on the firm's modelling of geographical information systems data using the Koppel Geiger climate change predictions for 2050.

The model illustrates that climate change will impact African cities in two different ways - the first being a combination of the urban heat island effect induced by the impact of ongoing human activities on the urban environment leading to higher temperatures in urban areas.

This, compared to rural areas combined with global warming, will have a direct impact on the environment within cities.

Secondly, extreme weather changes in rural areas are expected to have an impact on agriculture as the main source of livelihood, ultimately driving more people to cities.

This is mainly anticipated to take place across West Africa in countries such as Togo, Nigeria and Cameroon.

Tilda Mwach, Knight Frank Researcher for Africa, notes: "Like many crises before, Covid-19 is likely to inspire an evolution. Fixing the city is anticipated to be the most urgent post-Covid-19 challenge. While there is no simple solution to climate change itself, it is the built environment that poses the greatest challenge to climate change."

The report also highlights themes such as Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) as a factor that will continue to take centre-stage for property investors across the continent.

Anthony Duggan, the Head of Global Capital Markets research, states: "This rapid shift in perspective around ESG factors has resulted in property investors now having an additional set of criteria to consider when buying, selling or redeveloping assets."

"Appraisals and valuations will increasingly be looking across factors such as the performance of the physical asset itself, the locational risk of where the asset is located and, increasingly, an understanding and measure of the tenant counterparty risk. Collectively, this risk assessment is referred to as Climate Value at Risk (Vary)".

The built environment landscape across Africa is therefore set to change, adapting to the local needs for real estate with a greater emphasis on sustainability underpinned by increasing urbanisation and rising population.

There are currently some 700 certified green buildings in hot-spots across the African continent, the most dominant rating tools being the Green Star (GBCSA), LEED (USGBC) and EDGE (IFC).

While South Africa continues to account for more than three quarters of these buildings, rapid green growth has been witnessed across the continent - underpinned by a range of factors.

The factors include the turning legislative tide, the availability of a broad range of financing to investors and developers of green buildings and great tenant retention capacity for green buildings resulting in income resilience and increased investor interest.

Already as the report indicates that green bonds in excess of US\$2 billion had been issued across Africa.

Meanwhile, innovation is widely seen driving the next decade of Real Estate Investment in Africa, according to the Knight Frank report for 2021/2022.

It shows the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, as the top city in Africa for innovation, ranking among the top 100 globally.

It ranked ahead of Cape Town, which was second, Kampala third with Cairo, Johannesburg and Dar es Salaam at fourth, fifth and sixth place, respectively.

The report notes that the ability of African cities to emerge resilient from the Covid-19 pandemic will depend on their ability to innovate, providing long-term social solutions to their residents, attracting funding and generating new demand for space.

To arrive at a unique innovation score, the research interrogated over 100 data points applied to



29 capital cities from a long list of over 500 cities in Africa.

The three components looked at were innovation activity such as the total number of start-ups; level of innovation funding, and innovation infrastructure such as the number of research institutions leading to Nairobi being the stand-out performer.

The top ten innovative cities in Africa were ranked as Nairobi, Cape Town, Kampala, Cairo, Johannesburg, Dar es Salaam, Lagos, Dakar, Accra and Addis Ababa.

Knight Frank researcher Mwach notes: "Innovation coupled with economic growth will drive the next decade of investment in Africa."

"Lower-risk investors will likely favour cities with above-average innovation scores and a robust economy. These include Cairo - the stand-out performer - and Jo-

hannesburg. These cities have the greatest potential to remain economically resilient in the long-term despite undergoing short-term shocks.

"Cities that score higher for innovation but have less robust economies will attract those willing to take more risk, such as private equity investors. These cities include Nairobi, Cape Town and Kampala."

The report further states that the move towards innovation has been amplified in the resultant opportunities in asset classes. Data centres in particular are anticipated to grow.

While the markets remain underserved, the main drivers towards the growth of this asset class are the move towards localisation of data, rising demographics and the influx in capital focused on data centres.

In terms of data centres capacity, leading markets such as Johannesburg and Nairobi have a total live IT power of 54.9MW and 19.04MW, respectively.

This is compared to data centre hubs such as Dublin and London, whose live IT power stands at 795.8MW and 728.25MW, respectively.

The report notes that Africa's Data Centre markets

can be categorised into three distinct tiers, with tier one markets including Johannesburg, Cape Town and Nairobi and already becoming Africa's leading data centres markets.

Tier two markets such as Addis Ababa, Dar es Salaam and Kampala are essentially cities in the most populous of countries or those with strategic positioning. Tier three markets are categorised as low population centres with relatively low ease of doing business.

Knight Frank LLP, a leading independent global property consultancy headquartered in London, has more than 20,000 people operating from 488 offices across 57 territories.

The group advises clients ranging from individual owners and buyers to major developers, investors and corporate tenants.



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

### ISSUANCE OF TANZANIA MORTGAGE REFINANCE COMPANY LIMITED (TMRC) MEDIUM TERM NOTE (MTN)

#### PROGRAMME TRANCHE 3

TMRC is pleased to announce the issuance of its MTN Tranche 3 to the public inviting prospective investors to subscribe to the MTN. Tranche 3 is part of the five year TZS 120,000,000,000 (one hundred twenty billion) MTN Programme approved by Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) on 11th May 2018.

Features of Tranche 3 are as follows:

Issuer:	Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Limited
Aggregate amount:	TZS 120,000,000,000
Series: Three:	TZS 7,000,000,000
Tranche: Three:	TZS 7,000,000,000 (seven billion only)
Issue Price:	100% of the Aggregate Nominal
Coupon:	10.48% paid semiannually in arrears
Specified Denomination:	TZS 1,000,000.00
Calculation Amount:	TZS 1,000,000.00
Issue date:	18th May, 2021
Maturity Date:	18th May, 2026
Interest payment commencement date:	18th November 2021
Interest Basis:	10.48 percent. Fixed Rate [5 Years Treasury Bond coupon rate plus 25 basis point risk margin and 105 basis points withholding tax margin]
Tax obligation:	10% withholding tax on coupon payment
Listing status:	Tranche 3 will be listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) as Tranche 1 and 2.
Eligibility:	The offer is open to all Tanzanians, natural and corporate

#### Offer timetable:

S/n	Event	Date
1.	Approval of TMRC MTN from CMSA	11 <sup>th</sup> May, 2018
2.	Approval of updated IM and Pricing Supplement from CMSA & DSE	31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2021
3.	Application Lists Open	8 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021
4.	Application Lists Close	30 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021
5.	Date of Allocation	7 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021
6.	Announcement Date	10 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021
7.	Settlement Date	17 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021
8.	Coupon payment dates	20 <sup>th</sup> May and 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov
9.	Dispatch of Notes Certificates	25 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021
10.	Commencement of Trading	28 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021

*This announcement has been approved by Capital Markets and Securities Authority*

# Congratulation

**Hon. Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango**

Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania



Rural Energy Board, Management and Staff of **Rural Energy Agency (REA)** join fellow Tanzanians in congratulating **Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango** for being Sworn In as the new Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

# Newspapers emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic - 1

BY GRETCHEN A. PECK

IT has been a year since the newsroom at the Springfield (Missouri, US) News-Leader began to work remotely. When the decision came down from parent company Gannett, the staff was certain that it would only be for a couple of weeks.

They were well-poised to work in this way. Everyone had laptops and hotspot smartphones. They had Microsoft Teams and Zoom for meetings and collaboration. The workflow worked out.

Editor-in-chief Amos Bridges explained: "Of course, Covid-19 and the lockdowns had a business effect as well, and one of the ways Gannett dealt with that was some furloughs or layoffs, which was - at least from my perspective - better than the alternative. But it created a staffing crunch that we had to deal with."

Having an agile newsroom team helped. "For example, our photographers cover a fair amount of breaking news and, just like everyone else, they are 'cross training' and comfortable writing those stories," Bridges said.

It is interesting to see how Covid-19 has been covered in newspapers this year, especially the percentage of overall coverage the pandemic garnered.

At the News-Leader, Bridges estimates that, early on, it was easily 50 per cent of all their content across sections. A year later, the pandemic still warrants as much as one-third of the content in each edition.

For some time now, a skeleton team has been coming into the newsroom. They've opted to be there, and Bridges said he'd like to return to the office soon a few days a week or abbreviated days - whatever proves smart and safe - but anticipates that the newsroom will have a "hybrid" model in the year ahead.

"They may work from home when that's most convenient and then come in when they need to do some collaboration, when they need to meet with an editor, or if they'll be more productive being in the room," he said, adding: "All of this has shown us that we are flexible and can work remotely pretty efficiently."

To say that the year since has been tumultuous is an understatement. There is no unaffected news organisation; none went unscathed. Covid-19 impacted every facet of the business: staffing and safety; workflow; content and coverage; audience, revenue, and advertising; production, printing, and distribution.

Owing to that, it's important for us to check in with newsrooms across the country - one year later - as the pandemic still looms.

## Beyond the workflow

When Covid-19 travelled to Alaska, Anchorage Daily News publisher Andy Pennington knew that the first thing they needed to do was create a remote workflow. That was the easy part.

"We got the IT team on board right away and just focused on getting people the ability to work remote," Pennington recalled.

He elaborated: "Over time, this has caused a lot of strain on many of our employees. Many of our folks have children, and working from home and managing school and work has been a challenge."

"Many of our employees didn't have a great setup at home to work comfortably, so we needed to work through those challenges. I think that has been our biggest challenge - staying connected and helping the staff be as flexible as possible, all while dealing with the mental challenges Covid-19 brings."

Editor David Hulen explained how coverage and reader engagement changed: "From almost the beginning, we stopped using story comments on our news content. We began running reader forms on almost all of our Covid-19 content, asking readers for their questions and coverage suggestions."

He said the responses to the queries - some 3,000



and counting - helped to inform and guide the paper's coverage.

"We had a good year in 2020, for total audience...and growth of digital subscriptions," he said, adding: "We found that free coronavirus content converted readers, and we saw significant digital subscription growth through paths other than the payroll."

Fortunately, the newspaper's staff and turnover remained consistent with other years, but hiring and onboarding proved challenging in a remote environment.

When advertising revenue was looking grim for a time, the publisher tapped both the Federal Paycheck Protection Programme (PPP) and the Covid-19 Local News Fund (administered by the Local Media Foundation) to manage.

"Moving remote and doing everything by Zoom was the biggest challenge and continues to be," Pennington said.

He added: "I believe this will also be the reason we are a better company moving forward. We want to offer the most flexible environment for our people."

"We want to resume some things that are more effective by being in person, but we are positioned to do things effectively remotely - or a combination of both. Our future workplace will certainly look different."

A newspaper's duty during a

## pandemic

When E&P spoke with Jeff Pratt in early March, the executive editor at The Sentinel in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the newsroom was putting the finishing touches on a series of articles.

Each of the articles had Covid-19 in common; they would publish the following week in the newspaper, marking the first anniversary since the virus came to the county. Within a week of that announcement, the entire newsroom began working remotely. That continues to this day.

It was a fairly smooth transition for The Sentinel's owner, Lee Enterprises. The company saw to it that its newspapers had an emergency contingency plan in place, should they have to produce the newspaper remotely.

The production workflow proved less tricky to solve than how the staff would communicate and collaborate. They used a chat app and FaceTime to communicate with one another and with the design and production departments.

Pratt said when it was deemed safe to meet outdoors and from a safe distance, they would meet up at a local township park. It was good to see each other, to talk face to face: about the work, about the job, but also about how each member of the newsroom was being personally impacted by the pandemic.

Pratt admitted, though, that Covid-19's impact on the local commu-

nity was profound. It was also a summer of civil unrest as America wrestled with racial injustice. And it was an election year. It was impossible to cover it all.

Coverage was further complicated by company-wide furloughs that took place over the course of a three-month period. It left the newsroom down at least one person on any given week, and yet they mustered.

According to Pratt, digital subscriptions over the past year have doubled. He credits the newsroom's work on those three areas of coverage and public interest: the pandemic, the election and racial justice protests.

These have been heavy, emotional topics for Sentinel reporters, and for journalists everywhere, to cover. Pratt said they have internal conversations about the health and well-being of their newsrooms.

He explained that it is especially important to be sensitive to what the staff may be enduring outside their professional lives - dealing with the virus, quarantines, home schooling, being caretakers for family members, or even living in relative isolation.

Looking back, however, he is proud of the newsroom's work on Covid-19 this past year.

"Reporters and editors, like me, are fuelled by having an impact," he said, adding: "We want to know that what we're doing matters, and this past year we've seen our vital importance."

At the Southern California News Group (SCNG), president and publisher Ron Hasse called 2020 a "news marathon".

He said: "It started in January with the tragic death of Kobe and Gianna Bryant and seven others, which was very much a local story for us. Then came Covid-19, the fight for racial justice, Lakers championship, Dodgers World Series, wildfires, November (US) elections and more wildfires. It just didn't stop."

Still, Covid-19 dominated the majority of their coverage. "Along with ongoing local reporting, we launched a daily Covid-19 infographic in March 2020, and a dedicated Coronavirus Update newsletter that has over 54,000 opt-ins," Hasse said.

He elaborated: "We also overhauled our features coverage, re-launching it as Playlist, and shifted our Sunday housing coverage to focus more on the economy and the impact Covid-19 is having on it."

SCNG publishes 11 daily papers, serving audiences across Southern California, three Spanish-language publications, countless weeklies and specialty products.

Although Hasse said their main advertising priorities did not change, businesses like live entertainment, amusement parks and travel were negatively impacted by Covid-19.

The bright side is that they saw a pick-up in the healthcare, insurance and finance categories. And as businesses began to open back up, some of their traditional advertisers also returned.

"The value of our content and journalism is at an all-time high, and we have positioned our go-to-market messaging to emphasize that our customers are not simply buying advertisements, but funding local journalism," Hasse said.

"The quality work coming from our newsrooms enables us to approach every client interaction with pride and confidence," he noted.

Letitia "Letti" Lister is the publisher of the Black Hills Pioneer in Spearfish, S.D. E&P asked her about her paper's role during the pandemic.

"When you're a smaller daily paper, there's always a challenge to provide the best news as you can, as promptly and opportunely as you can," she said.

That mission didn't waver even when Covid-19 came to the region. Paramount for the publisher was to learn and disseminate information that would keep the community and the newspaper's staff safe.

Fortunately, the newspaper isn't saddled with hobbling debt. Lister never liked the idea of borrowing money, but they tapped into the PPP programme when it appeared that advertising dollars - down 40 per cent by June 2020 - weren't going to make a quick comeback.

"Pretty early on, we felt like it might be several months to a year before we could start to recover," Lister said, adding: "And then it started to gradually get better. We would be finishing the year down, by about 17 per cent, for advertisement revenue. But here's the positive for us: Our circulation revenue went up by 26 per cent."

## The plight of alt-weeklies

"Once Covid-19 struck, we knew that we had to make some adjustments as quickly as we could," Andrew Zelman recalled.

Zelman is the publisher of the Cleveland Scene, an alt-weekly with a downtown audience and a readership from surrounding northeast Ohio communities. The local newspaper is published by Euclid Media Group, which owns seven titles.

"One of our largest revenue generators - events - went away," Zelman said, adding: "We had to cancel or postpone pretty much every event we had lined up for the rest of the year, which was terrible and a huge problem for us because it's a huge (income) generator, but the worst thing you could do was gather people."

"There were stay-at-home orders, places closing, and so much of our revenue - outside of events - was, again, predicated on people gathering in places, such as concert venues, art exhibits, museums, restaurants, movie theatres," Zelman continued.

He elaborated: "We knew that those businesses weren't going to be happening for quite a while and, if those places weren't open or were struggling to stay in business, they certainly wouldn't be spending advertising dollars with us."

"Everything dropped off almost immediately. We also knew that the places where we distribute the paper - coffee shops, restaurants and other venues - wouldn't be open. Everything just stopped."

The repercussions of distribution disruption and a halt to advertising - with no discernable end in sight - nearly destroyed the print edition and profoundly changed the organisation.

Continues tomorrow



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## Agroecology in Africa: Silver bullet or pathway to poverty?

By Joseph Opoku Gakpo

A MODEL of agroecology that limits farming inputs in Africa to solely indigenous materials is meeting resistance from farmers and others who worry it will most likely force even more people on the continent into poverty and hunger.

"The agroecology promoters will use terms like indigenous foods, indigenous crops, indigenous everything. Like we want to exclude new varieties that are coming. But even the corn we eat today is not from Africa. It's from America," observed Pacifique Nshimiyimana, a young farmer and agricultural entrepreneur from Rwanda.

"Corn has been here for many generations," he noted. "And the varieties my grandma had are no longer responsive to today's climate situation. This means we need to adapt to new seeds that are resilient to climate change."

Nshimiyimana made his comments during an Alliance for Science (AFS) Live panel discussion on the theme "Agroecology: Opportunities, Constraints, Prospects and Limitations."

Irene Egyir, associate professor at the University of Ghana's Department of Agricultural Economics, agreed that achieving optimal production without external inputs will be difficult.

"I have mango plantations. And in the last four months, I have not been able to harvest fruits because of BBS (bacterial black spot disease). Am I saying that I am doing agroecology, so if there are effective or efficacious pesticides that can help me to manage it very quickly, [I won't use it]?" she quizzed.

Egyir said that indigenous inputs are difficult to prepare. Agricultural models that encourage them have caused a lot of suffering among women in farming communities.

"Even the organic fertilizers, some you have to do it yourself. And that is the problem I have. I just got back from northern Ghana. I'm studying some women in the north. These women are supposed to prepare their own biochar, prepare their own compost. It is too labor intensive and low input. The small tool they are using is so archaic. So much heat. So much smoke..."

"That is not what we should be talking about in 2021 for countries in Africa that want to move forward," she continued. "Don't tell my aunty in the village to pound her own neem seed, or to turn their own compost, or to burn their own biochar. It is unfair. Women especially suffer for it."

Nassib Mugwanya, a Ugandan agricultural communications specialist, thinks "the current version of agroecology we have been pushed down the continent is conservative and not embracing of advances. I would argue that there is an opportunity to embrace some of these emerging technologies."

In a paper that he published in Sage Journals, Mugwanya wrote: "The urgent need to transform Africa's agriculture has led to a rise in advocacy for more holistic and sustainable models such as agroecology. However, in the name of working within the limits of nature, and of social justice, proponents of agroecology in Africa are—knowingly or unknowingly—pushing for the status quo. The agroecological model advocated is too restrictive to



transform the sector. At best, it seeks not to transform, but to trap farmers in the poverty of their current unproductive farming practices."

### What is agroecology?

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) defines agroecology as the application of ecological principles with the aim of protecting the environment.

It ensures the sustainable renewal of the natural resources necessary for production, such as water, soil and biodiversity. And it makes sparing use of non-renewable resources. By gradually eliminating the use of chemicals, it strives to implement organic farming as a means to improve the health of farmers and consumers alike.

But even some agroecology advocates don't accept that definition and say there is room for a more inclusive, progressive approach.

"Agroecology, just like conventional farming, can be scaled," said Dr. Charles Nyaaba, head of advocacy and programs at the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana, one of the organizations promoting agroecology in the country.

"If there was a definition – before we started promoting our own – which includes not scaling up our farming activities or confusing agroecology with organic farming, then that is not what

we are seeking to promote."

The FAO, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), ActionAid, Oxfam and other international aid organizations have been promoting a restrictive version of agroecology in Ethiopia, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal and other African countries as the future of agricultural production.

On its website, AFSA's list of agroecology principles includes championing small African family farming/production systems based on agroecological and indigenous approaches, resisting industrialization of African agriculture, emphasizing African-driven solutions to African problems and rejecting both the use of genetic engineering and the privatization of living organisms.

Some Western academics and NGOs, including Pesticide Action Network, the Community Alliance for Global Justice and Regeneration International, are also pushing Africa to adopt a narrow definition of agroecology, to the exclusion of other forms of production.

Nshimiyimana views the agroecological model of farming as "a dead theory. As a young farmer and a businessperson, I believe agriculture needs modernization in tools and assets. When fall armyworm pests come, there is no way you can say farmers should not use fertilizers or pesticides.

So, when you talk of limiting synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, you are putting millions of farmers who earn their daily bread from farming into poverty."

Agroecology promoters in Africa have defended the model, insisting it is the sure way to make sustainable production possible. Bernard Guri of the Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD) in Ghana says agricultural intensification has failed to feed the world, hence the need for a new model.

"Although there is industrial agriculture, there is still hunger.

And it's because agriculture has been captured by a few people who are using technology to produce for the market. And so, if you don't have access to the market, you don't have that food that is there. And so, there is a lot of food in one part of the world. And then there is a lot of hunger in other parts," he observed.

Nshimiyimana disagreed that agroecology is a sustainable method of production. "Climate change is affecting everyone. There is no where you can produce enough if you have pests destroying your farms.

If you say you can feed the world with agroecology, there are too many things you are trying to ignore," he concluded.

## Three natural enemies found to 'beat fall armyworm'

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

MAIZE farmers across Africa could soon find relief from the devastation caused by fall armyworm (FAW) following encouraging results from the use of indigenous natural enemies to fight the pest.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that fall armyworm causes Africa to lose up to 18 million tonnes of maize annually, representing an economic loss of as much as US\$4.6 billion.

Researchers at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) have identified three native parasitoids or insect species whose larvae live as parasites that eventually kill the hosts. The scientists saw promising results after mass releasing them into maize farms with fall armyworm in Kenya.

"The initial post-release field assessments revealed that parasitism rates of FAW in the field increased by 55 per cent, 50 per cent and 38 per cent, for *Trichogramma chilonis*, *Telenomus remus* and *Cotesia icipe*, respectively," says icipe, in a

statement published last month.

"The released parasitoids work synergistically to bring down the population of FAW by attacking different developmental stages (eggs and larvae) of the pest."

According to the statement, during the last quarter of 2020, icipe researchers and national partners in Kenya began releasing 140,000 each of *T. remus* and *T. chilonis* wasps that parasitise FAW eggs and 5,000 *C. icipe* wasps that parasitise early larval stages of FAW. The field activities were conducted between December 2020 and February 2021 in five counties: Taita-Taveta, Machakos, Embu, Meru and Nyeri.

Sevgan Subramanian, principal scientist and leader of the environmental health theme at icipe, tells SciDev.Net that following the encouraging field experiment in Kenya, they are planning for mass production and release of the parasitoids in other African countries.

"Effectively conserving efficient indigenous natural enemies in the agroecosystem are among the better options for the management of a pest, as they are already adapted to survive in the prevailing ecologi-



cal conditions and effectively control the pest," Subramanian says.

But Subramanian adds that a key constraint is the lack of technical capacity for replication of natural enemy production facility in various countries.

The caterpillars of fall armyworms feed on the leaves, stems and reproductive parts of more than 100 plant species such as maize, rice, sorghum and sugar-

cane, as well as other crops, including cabbage, beet, peanut and soybean, pasture grasses and millet, causing major damage to cultivated plants.

The current FAW control methods based on the use of synthetic pesticides is detrimental to conservation of indigenous natural enemies, and has negative health effect for farmers, consumers and the environment, he says.

He urges maize farmers and agricultural policymakers to adopt sustainable FAW management strategies such as promotion of diversified maize cropping systems.

Roger Day, programme executive for Action on Invasives at the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) says that a key issue is how many parasitoids need to be released to control the pest population.

"For instance, in trials in Brazil, there are reports of releasing 100,000-200,000 insects per hectare. So, the work reported by icipe appears to be small-scale or pilot releases. This is an important first step," he adds.

Mass rearing, distributing and releasing parasitoids at the right time, Day explains, is not as easy as distributing pesticides, and it can be costly. If the cost of control is more than the value of the reduced crop loss, it is not worth doing it.

He also adds that it is still far from clear whether such mass releases can be cost-effective in Africa. And if three species of parasitoid are being released at once, that is likely to make the approach more expensive.

Lilian Gichuru, associate programme officer at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, welcomes the encouraging findings in Kenya.

"The fact that the natural enemies are indigenous is advantageous as they will be adapted to the local environments to thrive and multiply and naturally control FAW," she says.

## Coal: Africa's conundrum as energy demands increase

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN countries are turning to coal-powered plants to meet growing energy demands despite the environmental impact.

The continents growing energy needs has led some governments to turn to coal-powered plants. Critics say that's not a smart move in times of climate change and point to the continent's renewable energy resources.

In South Africa, power outages are not the exception but the rule. In the past, those power cuts often occurred in the cold winter, but today the lights also go out in the summer. The country's power grid and power plants are outdated, and energy demand has increased.

Like South Africa – where around 90% of energy comes from coal – other African countries have embarked on mining this raw material. Botswana, Tanzania, and Mozambique are among the leading countries.

According to Stephen Karekezi, chairman of the non-governmental organisation Africa Energy Policy Research in Kenya, the impact on the climate caused by additional coal-fired power plants in Africa would not

be substantial.

"Many plans for new coal-fired power plants have not even been implemented yet and even if they were realised, the impact on global climate change will not be noticeable," Karekezi stated.

Africa's one billion people contribute only between 1 and 1.5% of global greenhouse emissions. About 34 coal-fired power plants currently produce roughly 53 gigawatts, supplying one-third of the continent's electricity needs. 19 of these power plants are located in South Africa.

According to the Global Coal Plant Tracker website, Africa plans to establish 25 new coal power plants. The organisation Energy for Growth Hub, which has examined the projects in more detail, found that only one small plant in Niger with a capacity of around 100MW is to be completed soon.

Nine other projects could come online in the future, but construction has not yet begun.

The remaining 14 plants have either already been canceled or are unlikely to be completed. Among them is the planned coal-fired power plant near the Kenyan coastal

town of Lamu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Chinese-backed project has had its license revoked after environmentalists sued.

For the environmental group Greenpeace, there is no reason why African countries should invest in coal-fired power plants.

"The impact is immense. We feel it in South Africa. Burning coal produces toxic substances like carbon dioxide, and acid rain changes our groundwater – all dangers for the environment and health," Nhlahlhla Sibisi, a climate and energy expert at Greenpeace Africa, said.

Sibisi also added that the continent has diverse potential for renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal. "The cost of solar can no longer count as a factor because it has dropped a lot." For example, Kenya gets 25% of its electricity needs from renewable sources, and African countries can increase this approach.

"Governments need to make a shift towards renewables through better implementation of relevant policies and legislation," Sibisi said, adding that this is the only way to prevent a climate crisis.

## ITFC partnering with OCP Africa in supporting Ivory Coast on agricultural output and training of farmers

RABAT, Morocco

THE Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) Programme, a multi-partner programme led by the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), partners with OCP Africa for supporting OCP Africa's Agribooster Program to reach rice farmers and enhance agriculture value chains within Côte d'Ivoire.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Mohamed Anouar Jamali, Chief Executive Officer of OCP Africa, a subsidiary of OCP Group, and Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol, Chief Executive Officer, ITFC, in Rabat, Morocco.

The program will benefit 20,000 farmers. It serves as an end-to-end value chain solution that brings together all the conditions necessary for improving rice productivity and small farmers revenues, including the provision of high-quality fertilizers and hybrid seeds, training on good agricultural practices and soil fertility, as well as market linkages.

The program will also serve to safeguard the health of the country's farmers in the wake of COVID-19 through the provision of personal protective equipment to smallholder farms.

The CEO of ITFC, Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol, highlighted the importance of this partnership, saying, "ITFC's grant for the OCP Africa Agribooster program in Côte d'Ivoire aims to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 and help boost global food supply chains whilst enhancing agricultural value chains in the country especially under these difficult circumstances.

African countries must work on securing their local agricultural production, to minimize their exposure to imports and advance food security for their populations.

# Over 30 global leaders back efforts on adaptation of climate change for Africa

ABIDJAN

**I**n a historic and united show of solidarity for a continent that contributes only 5 per cent to global emissions, more than 30 heads of state and global leaders have committed to prioritising actions that help African countries adapt to the impacts of climate change and “build forward better”.

Africa now faces the dual onslaught of climate change - currently estimated at between US\$7 billion and US\$15 billion each year - and Covid-19, which has claimed 114,000 lives.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) expects that the impact of climate change on the continent could rise to US\$50 billion each year by 2040, with a further 3 per cent decline each year in GDP by 2050.

Speaking during a virtual Leaders' Dialogue convened on Tuesday by the bank, the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), more than 30 heads of state and global leaders rallied behind the bold new Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme (AAP).

The programme's objective is to mobilise US\$25 billion to accelerate climate change adaptation actions across Africa.

President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who doubles as current African Union chairperson, invited his fellow leaders to “revisit our climate ambitions and accelerate the implementation of our actions planned under our national priorities”.

He said: “To do this, we will need to focus on actions to adapt to the impacts of climate change, including nature-based solutions, energy transition, enhanced transparency framework, technology transfer and climate finance.”

The AAP is meant to address the impacts of Covid-19, climate change and the continent's worst recession in 25 years. This is why today's unprecedented show of support for the financing of African adaptation is so significant.

According to Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary General of the United Nations and current GCA: “The Covid-19 pandemic is eroding recent progress in building climate resilience and leaving countries and communities more vulnerable to future shocks.”

“Africa must make up for lost ground and lost time. Climate change did not stop because of Covid-19, and neither should the urgent



task of preparing humanity to live with the multiple effects of a warming planet.”

President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon, who also chairs the AU-led AAI, spoke of Gabon's record in emission reductions.

He said that Gabon is one of the few countries in the world that is carbon-positive, adding: “We have to insist that equal attention be paid to climate adaptation and mitigation in climate finance. Africa calls on the developed nations to shoulder the historic responsibility and to join the program to accelerate the adaptation in Africa.”

AfDB president Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina meanwhile said: “With our partners, we intend to mobilise US\$25 billion in financing for the success of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme. It is time for developed countries to meet their promise of providing US\$100 billion annually for climate finance. And a greater share of this should go to climate adaptation.”

“So far, more than 20 trillion dollars have gone into Covid-19 stimulus packages in developed coun-

tries. The International Monetary Fund's plan to issue US\$650 billion of new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to boost global reserves and liquidity will be enormously helpful to support green growth and climate financing for economic recovery.”

“I applaud the leadership of the US government and US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, especially, on this big push.”

UN Secretary General António Guterres said: “African nations are showing leadership...The Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme, and many other ambitious African initiatives, must be empowered to fully deliver on their goals.”

Guterres added: “Universal access to energy in Africa, a priority in the coming years, could be provided primarily through renewable energy. I call for a comprehensive package of support to meet these dual objectives by COP 26. It is achievable, it is necessary, it is overdue, and it is smart.”

COP 26 is the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN-FCCC that was originally scheduled

to take place from November 9-19, 2020 in Glasgow, UK, but was rescheduled on May 28, 2020 to November 1-12, 2021 - still in Glasgow.

Speaking on behalf of US President Joseph R. Biden, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said: “The United States remains a committed development partner for Africa and a huge supporter of the African Development Bank. Africa contributed the least to climate change but is suffering the worst of its effects.”

“I congratulate the African Development Bank and the Global Center for Adaptation for developing the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme. We support the programme... to help ensure that, together, we can avoid the worst effects of climate change.”

AAAP, as launched by AfDB and GCA, revolves around several transformative initiatives, with Climate Smart Digital Technologies for Agriculture and Food Security meant to scale up access to climate-smart digital technologies for at least 30 million farmers in Africa.

The African Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator is expected to scale up investment for climate-resilient urban and rural infrastructure in key sectors. These include water, transport, energy, and waste management for a circular economy.

Empowering Youth for Entrepreneurship and Job Creation in Climate Resilience is meant to provide one million youths with skills for climate adaptation and support 10,000 small and medium-size youth-led businesses to create green jobs.

Innovative Financial Initiatives for Africa is meanwhile meant to help close adaptation finance gaps, en-

hance access to existing finance and mobilise new public and private sector investment.

International Monetary Fund managing director Kristalina Georgieva said: “As well as facing the health and economic crisis caused by the (Covid-19) pandemic, countries in Africa are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.”

“Tackling this dual challenge requires putting adaptation at the heart of Africa's recovery - so countries build resilience to climate change and spur economic activity. This pandemic has shown us the importance of investing in people. And that is so, so very valuable for Africa, which has a fast-growing young population.”

“This begins by improving education, healthcare, and food security, and in that context, I warmly welcome the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme.”

Speaking on behalf of French President Emmanuel Macron, French Development Agency CEO Remy Rioux said: “Africa is providing solutions to climate change, including the Great Green Wall and the Desert to Power initiative of the African Development Bank to build the world's largest solar zone in the Sahel of Africa. France fully supports the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme.”

Moderating the Leaders' Dialogue, GCA chief executive Dr Patrick Verkooijen said: “Africa has a unique opportunity to advance its development exponentially if it invests now in a climate-smart adapted future based on a deep understanding of climate risks and solutions that put nature and people at the centre.”

AfDB

## Happy rebirth-day: Wuhan marks one year of recovery since Covid-19 lockdown ended

WUHAN

WUHAN resident Yuan Baohua carried a sense of responsibility with her when going for the COVID-19 inoculation, which she believed will help boost the city's collective immunity a year after a COVID-19 lockdown was lifted.

“Though I'm old, I'm in good health, and many of my peers have already taken the vaccine,” Yuan said while getting the first of two doses after the city expanded COVID-19 inoculation to include elderly residents in late March.

Accompanying her at the vaccination site was her daughter-in-law Celia Esquivel Salguero, who has lived in Wuhan for over 10 years. “I told my parents in Guatemala about my decision to take the vaccine, and they fully supported me,” she said.

Yuan's family has faithfully participated in Wuhan's previous mass mobilization that helped the city triumph over the virus, from months-long home quarantines to citywide nucleic acid testing.

“Now the vaccination will add more defense, and I'm looking forward to the day when we are no longer afraid of the virus,” Yuan said.

### CITY OF SAFETY

Yesterday, the megacity in

central China's Hubei Province marked the first anniversary since it ended the 76-day isolation and the 10th month without reporting any locally transmitted infections.

Strict quarantines during the lockdown, the citywide nucleic acid testing drive that tested nearly 10 million residents and enforcement of regular anti-virus measures have made Wuhan a post-pandemic “city of safety” and lifted its “psychological lockdown.”

Shopping blocks, pedestrian streets and restaurants in the city are again crowded with people. Li Li queued for nearly two hours on the popular Hanjie Street to taste this year's crayfish.

The 26-year-old local resident was comfortable with dining out in a restaurant packed with people. “Why not? I think we are in one of the safest cities in the world,” she said.

Wuhan has reported no new local infections since May 18, 2020. As of Tuesday, nearly 3.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Wuhan, according to the municipal health commission.

About 2 km from Hanjie Street stands the Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University, one of the first hospitals in Wuhan designated to treat COVID-19 patients and also among the last to resume normal op-



People visit a commercial street in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, March 28, 2021. (Xinhua)

eration. Zhang Dongdong, a physiotherapist at the hospital, saw the return of his patients as evidence that the city is back on its feet.

“At first, many patients would not dare come for rehab, as our ward had been used to receive COVID-19 patients, but by last September, our department was once again filled with people,” the therapist said.

“My job is to help patients gradually stand up, walk and run through physical training, just as Wuhan recovered with help from across the country,” Zhang said.

To defend the victory against the novel coronavirus, Wuhan has been empowering its public health sector since last year. It has built four 1,000-member teams to conduct epidemiological investigations, disinfection, testing and epidemic control respectively.

“I barely had a break at the peak of Wuhan's epidemic. During the day, I was busy with epidemiological investigations, and I had to collect and report related information at night,” recalled Tan Yefeng, a doctor at Wuchang district's center for disease control and preven-

tion (CDC). Epidemiological investigations track the routes and sources of new infections, which is vital for official interventions to contain any further spread.

Tan testified to the substantial improvements in the epidemic response system, including the expansion of the district CDC personnel, whose number has doubled since the outbreak and will continue to increase.

“And now not only the CDC but also personnel from hospitals, civil service, police and communities will join epide-

miological investigations,” he said.

### ECONOMIC RECOVERY

During Wuhan's lockdown that saw outbound flights and trains suspended, Zhai Chenfei, a pilot with China Southern Airlines, piloted his car instead of a plane to help deliver vegetables and medicine for residents and medical workers.

It was not until September that Zhai was able to be back in the cockpit.

“Flying through the blue sky made me feel my life had finally returned to the right track,” said Zhai. “Though the number of flights and passengers remained sluggish for a long time, I can see the industry pick up steam these days.”

According to the operator of the Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, the airport handled a daily average of 536 domestic passenger flights and 65,800 domestic passengers in March, up 14.03 percent and 4.99 percent respectively from the same period in 2019.

As the Chinese city hit hardest by the virus, Wuhan's GDP dropped by a moderately 4.7 percent in 2020, compared with a 40.5-percent contraction in the virus-ravaged first quarter. The investments it received last year even rose 6.7 percent to 930 billion yuan (142 billion U.S. dollars).

The uptrend continued this year, with 215 large projects worth 330.54 billion yuan launched in February, and 112 projects inked with a total investment of 346.2 billion yuan in March. Both hit record highs in Wuhan.

The service sector is also in steady recovery. Running a shop selling Wuhan's signature hot dry noodles, Luo Sisi now gets up at 3 a.m. to prepare the food as customers return in large numbers. “Our sales are even 10 percent higher than that in the year 2019,” said Luo.

Reopened on April 15, 2020, Luo's noodles shop also witnessed the city's psychological recovery. He felt relieved, especially when seeing parents taking their children out to eat breakfast.

“People are more tolerant after the epidemic. Everyone is more patient when queuing up to buy noodles, and everything is more orderly,” said Luo.

Luo's parent shop operates over 70 branch stores. Although a dozen closed during the epidemic, 27 new shops opened after June 2020.

“The hot dry noodle is not only a popular food but also a spiritual icon of the city,” Luo said. “We have not only survived the epidemic, but are now capable of helping more people start a business.”

Xinhua

## EWURA CHIEF SAYS NEW REGULATIONS REQUIRE OMCs TO OPEN PUMP STATIONS IN RURAL MARKETS

By Francis Kajubi

**R**EGULATIONS to encourage oil marketing companies open service stations in rural areas have been put in place by Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority.

EWURA Director General, Engineer Godfrey Chibulunje said in Dar es Salaam mid this week when officially opening an Oryx Energies service station at Mwenge that OMCs and their agents should now focus on investing in rural markets where consumers are forced to travel long distances to get petroleum products.

"Statistics show that only 200 pump stations are located in rural areas of the whole country and are owned by three OMCs that control the largest market share. The new regulations require that for every four regulations, one has to be in rural areas," Eng Chibulunje said.

He said the new regulations that take effect this month, require that OMCs are seeking licenses to open new stations, will need to allocate one for every four stations to rural areas. "We want to make sure that safety of people is observed while doing in business in rural areas where consumers are currently storing fuel in cans at home," the Ewura chief argued.

Oryx Oil Company Limited's Managing Director, Chris Swart told the Ewura boss that his company is rising to the significant challenge of stepping up and building an even stronger brand with big and bold ambitions.

Swart said that Oryx's business activities observe three core values in delivering of ser-



Oryx Energies new service station at Mwenge in Dar es Salaam, which was officially opened this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

vices to customers namely alert, principled and adaptable to new innovations. "Over the last few years, our dedicated staff have poured their energy into creating a new visual identity that would accurately depict who we are at the core as an African brand," he said.

"This new simple logo represents an Oryx, our emblem originating from Africa portrayed by a beautiful animal illustration that defines forward focusing and being dynamic in business," Swart added. According to him, the company has already started to implement new visual identity and renovations at all of its service stations.

Oryx started operations in Tanzania in 1999 when it acquired assets of Agip Tanzania.

By 2013, the company was managing 23 service stations and in past five years it has built only one station at Makurunge as its focus wasn't on retail business. But since 2018, the company has built new stations at Masana, MwaiKibaki Road and Bahari Beach.



**This new simple logo represents an Oryx, our emblem originating from Africa portrayed by a beautiful animal illustration that defines forward focusing and being**

## 46pc uptick for FNB in secondary purchases of property in Q4 of 2020

JOHANNESBURG

FNB has reported a 46% increase in the total number of buyers who purchased secondary properties in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. 20.6% of the purchases made for properties priced at less than R500,000 and 24% for properties priced between R500,000 and R1m.

FNB Private Bank lending chief executive Praven Subbramoney says, "This data mirrors the trend currently seen in the broader property market regarding the increase in secondary property buying in the more affordable segments driven by middle and high income earners who are taking advantage of low borrowing costs and well-priced properties. In addition to low interest rates, the increased demand can be attributed to the savings customers made from not paying student accommodation during the lockdown period and the trading down in this market due to decreased demand.

"Clients purchase additional properties for various reasons, primarily for rental and holiday purposes. For rental property purchases, the purchaser typically looks at properties that fit within their financial management journey and wealth creation aspirations. Having said that, student

accommodation purchases, as well as sectional title properties, are in demand due to their lock up and go nature and lower maintenance costs.

"What has also become prevalent is the upward trajectory in investing in this type of property due to the energy and water saving solutions which put money in the investors' pocket. Coastal properties are also preferred for people looking for holiday homes and with the advent of Airbnb, it has made it easier for these individuals to also earn rental income on their holiday homes."

Of those who bought secondary properties in 2020 and grew their property balance sheets, 52% were male, and 48% were female.

With this said, the broader home buying picture still depicts that women dominate the home-buying market by 53%, especially in the first-time home buyers' market. From a regional point of view, 34% of secondary properties were purchased in Gauteng, 22% in the Western Cape and 9% in KZN, mirroring the economic and job activity in these leading provinces.

"Property represents a stable investment which will grow over time and serve as a wealth creation tool for you and your family for future generations to come. If you are looking to enter the property market for a secondary property, remember that



A model FNB-financed residential house.

property is a long-term investment which comes with monthly costs. Before making the commitment, it is always worthwhile

to consult experts who will be able to assist you in the process of turning your property into an investment and advise

you on a strategy that will positively impact the growth of your portfolio," concludes Subbramoney.

## AAR to shut Tanzania clinics on rising financial woes

NAIROBI

AAR Healthcare Ltd is set to exit Tanzania on reduced visitor numbers to its eight clinics and financial troubles worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic. The healthcare provider announced in a memo to staff, it has started the winding-up process since it can no longer meet its obligations to employees and creditors in a timely manner.

"The company's parent AAR Healthcare Holdings is no longer willing to support the financial requirements of the company (AAR Healthcare Tanzania Limited) and it is on this basis that the Board of Directors have resolved to initiate a creditors' voluntary winding up process," said AAR Healthcare Limited acting chief executive Andrew Rowell.

The winding up process involves converging a meeting of the company's creditors to formally agree on appointing liquidators. The creditors meeting is set



AAR head offices in Dar es Salaam.

to take place on April 22. Mr Rowell assured staff their employment contracts remain intact and business operations would continue uninterrupted pending the creditors meeting.

AAR started operations in Kenya in 1984 offering medical evacuation services by road and air. The company expanded to Tanzania in 2007 after being granted an insurance licence, setting its sights on an ambitious expansion programme. In 2011, the AAR Group's shareholders resolved to separate the business into two distinct units, AAR Healthcare and AAR Insurance. The insurance wing exited Tanzania in 2019.

AAR Healthcare also has operations in Uganda where it launched in 1994 and Kigali where it unveiled in 2005 bringing to four the countries the healthcare provider operates. AAR Healthcare (K) Limited is the largest provider of out-patient healthcare services in the East Africa region running a network of 18 medical centres in Kenya.



**The company's parent AAR Healthcare Holdings is no longer willing to support the financial requirements of the company (AAR Healthcare Tanzania Limited) and it is on this basis that the Board of Directors have resolved to initiate a creditors' voluntary winding up process**

## NBAA STUDENTS SAY NEW 290 MILLION/- STUDY CENTRE IS CONDUCTIVE FACILITY

By Property Watch Reporter

A new state-of-the-art study centre at National Board of Accountants and Auditors in Dar es Salaam whose construction was financed by a 290m/- grant from Balakrishna Sreekumar & Company, is providing a conducive environment for students to do their academic work with ease.

"Before construction of this facility, we had difficulties doing academic assignments or discussions because there was no better open space to do so," said Eliza Makwangala who is doing an accountancy course at NBAA Dar es Salaam headquarters centre.

She said the learning facility allows more students from different disciplines to sit in groups and discuss academic issues while relaxed because of the modern furniture put in place in addition to high quality construction materials used.

"Honestly, everyone comes to do their assignments here and not only CPA students as was intended for," she added while paying tribute to Balakrishna Sreekumar & Company for the massive investment made.

Makwangala was backed by her peer, Issa Sajun who also paid tribute to the investor for improving the NBAA facility which will help students perform well. "Honestly, a better learning environment will always contribute towards better performance so we only hope that we will do better in examinations," said Sajun.



Patrons relax at NBAA study centre opened recently. File photo

Last month while launching the facility, Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, Mwanaidi Khamisi commended Balakrishna Sreekumar & Company's Managing Partner, Dr Balakrishna Sreebhavan for giving back to the community saying the place much better and provides motivation for CPA candidates

to do better in their final examinations.

"We are very grateful for the donation and we would like to call upon other stakeholders emulate this good corporate citizenship by Unique Academy's management," Khamisi said while noting that the government is investing heavily in training more CPA hold-

ers to meet demands of the middle income economy.

Briefing the Deputy Finance Minister on the project, Dr Sreekumar said the investment is aimed at facilitating better performance by students who are preparing for Certified Public Accountants (CPA) exams conducted

by NBAA.

"We are happy and obliged to be able to give back to the community a little bit of what we have through financing this facility so that CPA students have a conducive learning environment for their studies," he said.

Dr Sreekumar further noted that he hatched the idea way back in 2018 but much time was taken while waiting for permission to invest in the government owned accountants and auditors' regulatory body's premises.

"After getting permission, it took us five months to complete the study lobby and today we are here to inaugurate it," he noted while stating that his institution is happy to work with NBAA to ensure that the country hatches many CPA graduates needed by the market.

"Am extending my sincere gratitude to the government for providing us with an opportunity to assist in every way possible for improvement of the community where we work and live," Dr Sreekumar added while also paying tribute to NBAA management for the cooperation rendered.

In a vote of thanks, NBAA's Governing Board Vice Chairman, CPA Neema Msussa described Unique Academy as a true development partner of the board saying the study lobby investment is testimony to that.

"This new study lobby has been financed 100 percent by Unique Academy under Dr Sreekumar able management which we consider as a true professional partner," Msussa said. She revealed that the study lobby which has the capacity of 260 people at a time, will provide a better place to study discuss issues of professional interest by the CPA students.

## Century City's curved glazed Sable Corner now complete

CAPE TOWN

DEVELOPED by Rabie Property Group and designed by dhk Architects, the recently completed Sable Corner is a four-storey commercial development is situated in the Bridgways Precinct in Century City, Cape Town. The building is characterised by two merged forms, a curvilinear glazed facade articulated with vertical aluminium fins and a contrasting formal solid painted face brick box structure.

The client brief was to design a premium-grade four-storey commercial building with basement parking and potential ground-floor retail space that complemented the surrounding buildings, namely, Sable Park, Axis and Bridge Park - also designed by dhk.

Located at a key entranceway into Century City and serving as the front face of both Bridgways Precinct and the future Ratanga Precinct, the challenge was not only to design a landmark building and to take advantage of the desirable corner views but to maximise the potential rentable area of the island



Sable Corner commercial complex in the Bridgways Precinct, Century City, in Cape Town.

site's unique shape. Functionally, the building needed to allow for flexible subdivisions for numerous potential tenants, both within the building as well as on the same floor.

Dual-facing building

Derick Henstra, dhk executive chairman, says: "Responding to the opportunities and restraints of the site, the design required strong roadside frontage to the southwest and a more functional and accessible podium

back edge to the northeast. As a result, our team conceived a dual-facing building with two merged forms - a striking front-facing curvilinear glazed element contrasted with a formal punctured box structure. The shape of the building was not only intentionally designed to highlight the site's unique shape but to maximise the floorplates and potential rentable area."

Facing Sable Road, the building's dis-

tinctive curved glazed facade wraps around its corner location into Bridgeways Precinct and the future Ratanga Precinct.

Not only does the curvilinear curtain wall serve as the central design feature of the building but it provides transparency, allowing for outward views across the city and overlooking the mountains. Complementing and drawing parallels with its neighbour, Sable Park, the glazed facade is articulated with robust vertical aluminium fins which extend past the roofline.

Adjacent to this, a more functional, textured and punctured face brick box structure delineates the remainder of the Sable Road edge, designed to enable the curvilinear element to stand out. Below, the entire ground floor along Sable Road and atop the podium has been fitted out with glazed frontage and has the potential to serve as future retail space.

Functional, accessible podium back

To the northeast of the site is a more functional and accessible podium back. Here, the entrance lobby opens up to the visitor's parking and pedestrian walkways to the wider Bridgways Precinct. The solid boxed form is highlighted with grey painted face brick panels contrasted with solid white Marmoran-finished brickwork elements. An archi-

tectural glazed circulation staircase and lift lobby links the convex-shaped section of the building to a rectangular appendix, allowing for economical floorplate usage while contributing to the overall design quality of the building.

Internally, the finishes are primarily reliant on future tenants and the common areas, such as the bathrooms and lobbies, are finished in Cape slate tiles and highlighted with timber-clad feature walls which aim to bring a sense of warmth to the spaces. In the near future, views towards the northeast will include the redeveloped Ratanga Junction and will retain a strong focus on water and soft landscaping.

Environmentally sustainable design Sable Corner has been designed according to the environmentally sustainable principles of the remainder of the green Bridgways Precinct. The external envelope has been designed to maximise occupants' comfort while taking advantage of electrical energy savings by maximising the duration of daylight and keeping lights off.

Fuel efficient parking bays have been provided should tenants decide to incorporate their own green transport strategies which are further enhanced by access to public transport and easily accessible local amenities.

NAIROBI

THE government will spend Sh36 billion to bail out key parastatal which have sunk into losses as a result of Covid-19 economic fallout.

The National Treasury said companies including Kenya Airways, Kenya Power, and several universities need urgent support after their revenues dropped sharply during the pandemic. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revealed the bailout plans in the agreements it has reached with the government as conditions for offering Kenya the latest Sh255 billion loan.

"As a result of immediate requirements that have been identified, we plan to spend a total of Sh36 billion on extraordinary SOE support in FY2020/21. All such extraordinary support is being based on careful evaluation of need and accompanied by steps to ensure that the entities are put on a sound footing," Kenyan authorities said.

The agreements also reveal that Kenya has committed to audit nine key parastatals and reform them, according to IMF guidelines to 'rationalise government involvement in the sector and ensure the viability of State Owned Enterprise (SOEs)' continued operations."

These include Kenya Airways, Kenya Airports Authority, Kenya Railways Corporation, Kenya Power and Lighting PLC, Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC, Kenya Ports Authority, and three of the largest universities.

For Kenya Airways, the government has committed to hire an independent consultant to audit the airline and find the cheapest way of restructuring it. The Covid-19 shock has created acute financial stress in several

## Govt pledges Sh36bn Covid bailout for KQ, Kenya Power



Kenya Airways planes at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

fully or partially government owned entities.

In many cases, SOEs were already struggling financially before the pandemic, and the added financial stresses have necessitated government liquidity support. Kenya Airways (KQ) net loss nearly tripled to Sh36.2 billion, the worst ever in the history of the airline.

Kenya Power half-year net profit declined 80 per cent to Sh138 million in December 2020 from Sh692 million

in 2019 on higher financing costs as a result of unrealised foreign exchange losses occasioned by the depreciation of the shilling against major foreign currencies.

It, however posted a net loss of Sh939 million for the year ending June 2020 after getting a Sh6.1 billion tax credit lifting the company from a pre-tax loss of Sh7 billion. Chinese built standard gauge railway (SGR) posted a combined operating loss of Sh21.68 bil-

lion in the three years to May last year straddling Kenya Railways with huge losses.

The government has also promised the IMF it will conduct a special audit of all the money spent on Covid-19 interventions and publish the results by end of May. In the eight months to November last year, Kenya had increased its stock of public debt by Sh971 billion under the cover of fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

## First deep-sea port in Nigeria to operate in 2023 - governor

LAGOS

NIGERIA'S first deep sea port is at 48 percent completion and will begin commercial operations in the first quarter of 2023, an official said Friday.

"The investors have given us the commitment on the first quarter of 2023 completion date. We will fulfill all our parts to make sure this date becomes reality," Babajide Sanwo-Olu, governor of Lagos State, said on his working tour of the Lekki Deep Sea Port at the Lagos Free Trade Zone.

The Lekki Deep Sea Port, which is being constructed by China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC), is occupying 90 hectares of the entire 830 hectares of land carved out for the Lagos Free Zone, created in 2012 to enhance the economic position of Lagos as a manufacturing and logistics hub in West Africa. "With the level of work we have seen, I'm truly excited. It is more gratifying that we are taking up this assignment with all energies required and we all can see what we can achieve when we work together," he said.

Sanwo-Olu said the size of the deep seaport will allow 18,000 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) capacity vessels, which are four times bigger than the ones berthing at the existing Apapa seaports in the state, thereby scaling down the cost of container transportation from any part of the world. When completed, the deep seaport is expected to generate more than 170,000 direct and indirect job opportunities and serve as an alternative to decongest the sea ports in Apapa, the governor said.

## TECHNOLOGY

## MORTGAGE APPROVALS IN UK AT HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE MARCH 2016

LONDON

**B**RITAIN'S mortgage approvals dipped in February when buyers expected Finance Minister Rishi Sunak's property tax break to expire, but levels remained the highest since March 2016, Bank of England data showed.

UK lenders approved 87,700 home loans in February, down by almost 10,000 on January and significantly lower than the peak of 103,700 in November. However, approval levels were still 30 per cent above the same month a year ago.

The BoE said mortgage lending strengthened in February as individuals borrowed an additional £6.2 billion (\$8.53bn) secured on their homes, the strongest net borrowing since the £7.2bn recorded in March 2016 when the market was boosted by stamp duty changes. It was also up from £5.2bn on January.

"The strength in mortgage borrowing follows a large number of approvals for house purchase. In February, there were 87,700, which - while down from a peak of 103,700 in November 2020 - was well above the monthly average in the six months to February 2020 (67,300)," the BoE said.

Effective interest rates on new mortgage borrowing rose to 1.91 per cent in February, slightly higher than January's 1.85 per cent. Britain's property market soared last year after Mr Sunak unveiled the Stamp Duty Land Tax holiday in July to bolster the sector as Britain grappled with the effects of the Covid-19 crisis.

Under the tax break, the first £500,000 of the purchase price of



Sold property in London.

a main residence in England and Northern Ireland was exempt from SDLT, with the move causing a surge in transactions that sent house prices soaring to an average record high of £252,000 in 2020 - up 8.5 per cent from 2019.

Mr Sunak extended the tax break in his March budget to maintain high market in the months ahead as the country slowly eases its Covid-19 restriction measures. The SDLT holiday is set to continue until the end of September, though from June onwards the threshold for the nil rate band will decrease.

This means government support for the housing market is set to remain in place for much of the year, said Sam Miley, an economist at the Centre for Economics and Business Research.

"This is likely to result in a further period of heightened transactions and, ultimately, continued upward pressure on house prices," he said.

Separately, the BoE's credit data showed consumers repaid £1.2bn of personal debt in February, with most of that going towards credit card payments, at a time when much of the country was under some sort of lockdown. It meant consumer borrowing dropped 9.9 per cent year-on-year in February, the biggest drop since the series began in 1998, the BoE said.

"This marks the seventh consecutive month in which consumers' repayment of existing debts outweighed the value of new borrowing," Mr Miley said. "Given the lack of spending opportunities, consumers continued the trend of paying off

existing debts with finances they would have spent elsewhere in more normal circumstances."

The pace of repayments slowed from January, however, when consumers repaid £2.4bn. The BoE data also reported a rise in the amount of cash households are holding in banks and building societies to £17.1bn.

"Overall, the slowdown in debt repayment by households and businesses suggests that the drag on the economy from the third Covid-19 lockdown may be starting to ease," Thomas Pugh, UK economist at Capital Economics said.

## Saudi Arabia's Jadwa launches \$266m fund to invest in property market in kingdom

RIYADH

SAUDI asset management and advisory company Jadwa Investment set up a property fund worth 1 billion Saudi riyals (\$266 million) to develop prime residential projects in the kingdom. Al Dar Investment Fund will develop more than 1,500 residential units in Riyadh, through several apartment complexes aimed at medium- to high-income households.

Jadwa, which set up the closed-end investment vehicle with Al Majdiah Group and Riyad Bank, manages assets worth 35bn riyals. The assets are in the public market, private equity, property, private credit and fixed income segments. The Sharia-compliant fund has a provision for two one-year extensions.

Jadwa chief executive and managing director Tariq Al-Sudairy said it was set up in line with the company's "policy of pursuing diversified investment opportunities across asset classes." "We have been very active in the local real estate market where we see strong investment fundamentals."

The investment vehicle has been set up to capitalise on growing demand for

residential property in the kingdom. Home ownership in Saudi Arabia is one of the central planks of Vision 2030, the kingdom's economic and social transformation programme.

The country has exceeded its 2020 target of increasing the percentage of home ownership among Saudi citizens to 60 per cent. The government now aims to boost the ratio to 70 per cent by 2030. The kingdom plans to turn Riyadh into one of the top 10 city-economies in the world.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman said in January that the government plans to double the city's population by 2030. Riyadh has a population of 7.5 million. The kingdom is investing \$220bn to transform the capital and expects to attract a similar level of investment from the private sector, according to Fahd Al Rasheed, president of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City.

Jadwa's managing director and property boss Haitham Al Ghanam said the record demand shown during the fund's offering period demonstrated "the attractiveness of the local residential real estate market today, particularly in Riyadh, where we intend to expand further."

## Office rents in central Shanghai climb in Q1 2021

SHANGHAI

After the Shanghai office market saw rents slide by an estimated 7 per cent last year in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and a glut of new buildings, leasing rates in the city's core areas began inching upwards again in the first three months of this year.

Rents for Grade A office projects in traditional business districts, such as West Nanjing Road, Lujiazui and Huaihai Road, climbed by 0.43 per cent in the period from January through March, compared to the fourth quarter of 2020, Cushman & Wakefield said in a report published late last week.

The uptick brought average leasing rates in the central areas to RMB 283.8 (\$43.33) per square metre per month, and came after rents had fallen for nine consecutive quarters, according to the property consultancy.

Cushman & Wakefield said that "robust leasing activity" by tenants from the financial services, technology and professional services sector had contributed to the turnaround with a pair of US tech firms signing major leases during the quarter.

While the office market in central districts of China's commercial capital appears to have at least levelled off, landlords in outlying areas continue to compete for tenants amid a flood of new projects.

Rents in these "beyond the core" areas fell by 2.12 per cent during the first quarter, compared to the last three months of 2020, with four of the five new office projects which entered the market between January and March being located in these fringe locations.

Vacancy across the Shanghai market stood at 15.5 per cent during the first quarter, according to Cushman & Wakefield, with the firm predicting that rate to continue climbing over the next 12 months.

Adding to the flood of new projects coming online outside of Shanghai's city centre during the



Qiantan Center in Shanghai.

first quarter were China Vanke's Hongqiao Wanchuang Centre Phase I, the south tower of Sun-glow Real Estate's Sun-glow Rivera Shanghai, Hong Kong-listed Sunkwan Properties' Sunkwan Centre in Minhang district, and Jingrui Holdings' recently renovated Maglink complex on Longyang Road in Pudong.

Together these four projects contributed more than 200,000 of the 236,633 square metres (2.55 million square feet) of office space added to the Shanghai market during the quarter. Cushman & Wakefield noted that another 5 million square metres of additional supply is expected to come online in the city through 2025,

increasing the existing stock of 13.77 million square metres by more than 36 per cent.

During the first quarter, the only project to open up for leasing in central Shanghai was local investment firm Baohua Group's JC Plaza, a renovation of the former JC Mandarin Hotel on West Nanjing Road, the office portion of which covers 35,807 square metres according to C&W.

Later this year Henderson Land's Lumina project on Longyao Road in southern Xuhui district will make 169,943 square metres of new space available, with South Korea's SK Group expected to chip in another 123,075 square metres this year with its

Shanghai SK Tower on Jiming Road in Pudong's Expo area.

The biggest lease of the quarter came from one of Shanghai's largest local financial institutions, with SPD Bank leasing 25,000 square metres in Raffles City The Bund, a joint venture between CapitaLand and Singapore's GIC in Hongkou district.

Despite ongoing political tensions between the US and China, a pair of US tech firms expanded their Shanghai footprints during the first quarter, with Amazon making the biggest dent in the city's office surplus with its lease of 9,900 square metres at Lujiazui Group's Qiantan Centre in Pudong.



The Riyadh skyline. Al Dar Investment Fund will develop several apartment complexes in Riyadh.

## WeWork seeks SPAC deal after recording \$3.2bn loss in 2020

NEW YORK

WEWORK lost \$3.2 billion last year, the office-sharing start-up disclosed in a presentation shown to prospective investors as part of a pitch for \$1bn in investment and a stock market listing, according to a source.

The company's losses narrowed from \$3.5bn in 2019 and it plans to go public at a valuation of \$9bn including debt through a merger with a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC), the sources said.

A SPAC is a shell company that raises funds in an IPO with the aim of acquiring a private company, which then becomes public as result of the merger. Reuters reported in January that WeWork was in talks to go public through a merger with a SPAC and was exploring raising funds from private investors.

The company's plans for a high-profile initial public offering imploded in October 2019 due to widespread criticism over its business model and its founder Adam Neumann's management style. SoftBank Group later bailed out the start-up.

WeWork is now in talks with BowX Acquisition Corporation, a blank-check company that raised \$420 million in August, according to the Financial Times, which first reported the news. WeWork declined to comment on the report.

The report said that WeWork forecast occupancy to rebound to 90 per cent by the end of 2022, from 47 per cent at the end of last year when the Covid-19 pandemic shut its co-working spaces around the world. The company expects adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization of \$485m next year, the report added.

## WORLD

## Political figures stoke anti-Asian sentiment in US

By Chang Jun

INFLAMMATORY comments by US political figures, including a former state governor, have been condemned amid a sustained increase in violence against Asian Americans.

Mike Huckabee, who was Arkansas' governor from 1996 to 2007, is the most-high-profile figure attracting criticism in the latest crop of public comments fanning anti-Chinese sentiment in the United States.

Aside from political players, Cornell University has come under fire for linking allegations of Chinese human rights abuses to a decision to back away from cooperation with a Chinese university.

In the Huckabee controversy, the conservative ex-politician mocked some US corporations' criticism of changes to voting regulations in Georgia and Major League Baseball's subsequent decision to pull its annual All-Star Game from Atlanta.

In a tweet on Saturday referring to the criticism from those corporations, Huckabee said: "I've decided to 'identify' as Chinese. Coke will like me, Delta will agree with my 'values' and I'll probably get shoes from Nike& tickets to @

MLB games. Ain't America great?"

Democratic Congressman Ted Lieu of California accused Huckabee of "adding fuel to anti-Asian hate".

Lieu tweeted: "Coke likes me, Delta agrees with my values, I wear Nikes and my hometown (Los Angeles) Dodgers won the World Series. But it's not because of my ethnicity."

Lieu, in a question posed online, asked Huckabee's daughter Sarah Huckabee Sanders who served as former president Donald Trump's press secretary and now is running for governor of Arkansas if she agrees with her father. "Do you condone Mike Huckabee adding fuel to anti-Asian hate?" he said.

Investigative journalist Victoria Brownworth, in tackling Mike Huckabee, tweeted: "Every day Asian/AAPI people are victimized by hate crimes."

In Texas, a Republican congressional candidate recently made anti-Chinese remarks. On a question about US immigration issues at a GOP forum in Arlington, Sery Kim said she would oppose Chinese immigrants.

"I don't want them here at all. They steal our intellectual property, they give us coronavirus, they don't hold themselves accountable," Kim said.



Demonstrators hold signs in Westlake Park towards passing cars during a national day of action against anti-Asian violence in Seattle, Washington on March 27, 2021. (AFP)

"And quite frankly, I can say that because I'm Korean."

Comments condemned Kim's comments were condemned by Asian-American advocacy groups, and she lost two prominent endorsements from Young Kim and Michelle Steel, two Republican Korean-American members of the US Congress.

In a statement rescinding their endorsements, the two lawmakers said they have spoken with Sery Kim "about her hurtful and untrue comments about Chinese immigrants and made clear that her comments were unacceptable".

In the Cornell University case, the

college's faculty senate rejected a resolution on a proposed dual-degree program between its School of Hotel Administration and Peking University.

Mainly citing Western "allegations of genocide and other human rights violations against China", opponents of the program voted against the academic partnership on March 31.

The Chinese government, many Western civic groups and individual journalists have refuted the claims that the West has leveled against China, in particular its handling of affairs in Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, but such information is going unheeded.

## China's growth an opportunity for EU, Xi says

BEIJING

CHINA'S development is an opportunity for the European Union, President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday, urging the EU to make correct judgments independently and truly achieve strategic autonomy.

Speaking in a phone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Xi (pictured) said China hopes that Germany and the EU will make joint efforts with China to protect and promote the healthy and stable development of their cooperation so as to bring more certainty and stability to a volatile world.

It was the first time this year that Xi had a phone conversation with Merkel. Last year, the two leaders had four phone conversations to exchange views on bilateral ties and China-EU cooperation.

Noting that their communication last year played an important role for the develop-

ment of China-Germany and China-EU relations, Xi said that enhancing China-Germany and China-EU cooperation would achieve major results.

With the China-EU relationship facing new opportunities as well as challenges, Xi said the key is to keep to the general direction of China-EU relations from a strategic perspective, respect each other and remove distractions.

Xi said that China stands ready to work with the EU to ensure the success of a series of significant political agendas for the next stage through consultation, deepen and expand practical cooperation across the board and strengthen communication on climate change and other global governance issues to jointly practice multilateralism.

He said practical cooperation between China and Germany has achieved progress despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, and China has



been Germany's largest trading partner for five consecutive years. This reflected the resilience and potential of China-Germany cooperation, he added.

Xi called on the two countries to promote bilateral cooperation under the principle of mutual respect and win-win results to inject confidence and impetus for China-EU cooperation and world economic recovery.

As China is actively fostering the dual-circulation develop-

ment paradigm, Xi said that while the country seeks development depending on its own strength, it also adheres to opening to the outside world and actively participates in international division of labor and cooperation.

China is willing to share opportunities created by the new round of opening-up with companies from Germany and elsewhere, Xi said, adding that China hopes Germany will stay open and offer more convenience for expanding mutually beneficial cooperation between their companies.

He also called on the two nations to promote exchanges in such areas as science and technology, education, culture and sports by using opportunities presented by the 50th anniversary of China-Germany diplomatic ties and the Beijing Winter Olympics next year.

Xi expressed China's opposition to efforts to politicize vaccines and so-called vaccine na-

tionalism. He said China stands ready to work with Germany and the whole international community to facilitate fair and reasonable vaccine distribution and help a majority of developing countries obtain access to vaccines.

Merkel said the EU has adhered to an autonomous foreign policy. She said Germany-China and EU-China cooperation are increasingly necessary today to deal with challenges faced by the world.

Enhancing dialogue and cooperation between the EU and China not only conforms to the interests of both nations, but will also benefit the world, she said, adding that Germany is willing to play an active role.

She also said Germany will work with China to prepare for the new round of China-Germany inter-government consultations and resume personnel exchanges as soon as possible.

Xinhua

## After seating mishap, Turkey says furniture met EU's demands

ANKARA

TURKEY'S foreign minister responded yesterday to a diplomatic mishap in which only one of two visiting European Union chiefs were given a chair at a meeting in Ankara, saying the seating was arranged in line with the bloc's demands.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was taken aback when Charles Michel, head of the European Council, took the only chair

available next to President Tayyip Erdogan at his presidential palace on Tuesday.

Video of the incident showed the first female head of the EU executive, and the only woman in the talks, briefly standing and gesturing in surprise at the two men before she sat on a couch adjacent to the main chairs.

It was broadly shared on social media and prompted backlash against Ankara over protocol and against Michel for

not defending his fellow EU executive.

Mevlut Cavusoglu, the foreign minister who was seated Tuesday on another couch, said on Thursday the seating arrangement was in line with international protocol and that Turkey was being subject to "unjust accusations".

"Turkey is a deep-rooted state, it is not the first time it hosts a guest. The protocol followed for meetings in Turkey is

within the international protocol framework. The same was done here too," he told reporters in Ankara.

"The protocol at the presidency met the demands of the EU side. In other words, the seating arrangement was designed to meet their demands and suggestions."

In the past, three chairs were provided when Erdogan visited Brussels for talks with the heads of the European Commission

and the European Council, which collectively represents the EU's 27 member states.

Ties between Brussels and Ankara have been strained since a failed coup in 2016 prompted a crackdown in Turkey that has led to the arrests of thousands. A maritime row between Turkey and Greece stoked tensions last year and the EU threatened sanctions on Ankara, but they are now testing a cautious rapprochement.

## Eleven killed as Myanmar protesters fight troops with hunting rifles, firebombs - media

ANTI-COUP demonstrators in Myanmar fought back with hunting rifles and firebombs against a crackdown by security forces in a town in the northwest but at least 11 of the protesters were killed, domestic media reported yesterday.

Initially, six truckloads of troops were deployed to quell the protesters in the town of Taze, the Myanmar Now and Irrawaddy news outlets said. When the protesters fought back with guns, knives and firebombs, five more truckloads of troop reinforcements were brought in.

Fighting continued into Thursday morning and at least 11 protesters were killed and about 20 wounded, the media said. There was no word of any casualties among the soldiers.

That would take the toll of civilians killed by security forces to over 600 since the junta seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP). It had a toll of 598 dead as of Wednesday evening.

Taze is near the town of Kale, where at least 11 people were killed in a similar clash on Wednesday, according to news media and witnesses. Security forces fired live rounds, grenades, and machine-guns on protesters who were demanding the restoration of Suu Kyi's government, AAPP said.

A spokesman for the junta could not be reached for comment.

The government on Thursday arrested Paing Takhon, a model and actor who had spoken out against the coup, his sister told Reuters. In Yangon, the country's biggest city, activists placed shoes filled with flowers to commemorate dead protesters.

AAPP has said 2,847 people were currently being held in detention.

In addition, arrest warrants have been issued for hundreds of people, with the junta this week going after scores of influencers, entertainers, artists and musicians.

Paing Takhon, 24, a model and actor well-known in Myanmar and Thailand, was one of the latest celebrities to be detained. He had condemned the military's takeover and pledged support for Suu Kyi.

His sister, Thi Thi Lwin, told Reuters that the military detained her brother at 4.30 am at their parents' home in Yangon, where he had been staying for several days while unwell, suffering from malaria and a heart condition.

The security forces came with eight military trucks and about 50 soldiers and it was unclear where he had been taken, she said.

The country's most famous comedian, Zarganar, was arrested on Tuesday, media reported.

## 'LOCKED OUT OF EMBASSY'

Overseas, diplomatic tussles emerged again on Wednesday.

Myanmar's ambassador to London Kyaw Zwar Minn said he was locked out of the embassy, with sources saying his deputy had shut him out and taken charge on behalf of the military.

Kyaw Zwar Minn has broken ranks with the ruling junta in recent weeks, calling for the release of detained civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"It's a kind of coup, in the middle of London... you can see that they occupy my building," he told Reuters.

There have also been similar counter claims in embassies in other global centres and at the United Nations.

Meanwhile, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the junta's leader, said in a statement on Wednesday that the civil disobedience movement, or CDM, had halted the working of hospitals, schools, roads, offices and factories.

"CDM is an activity to destroy the country," he said.

Fitch Solutions said in a report that Western sanctions targeting the military were unlikely to succeed in restoring democracy, but said the army was losing control.

It predicted a violent revolution pitting the military against an armed opposition comprised of members of

## Russia to respond to any US unfriendly steps, Lavrov says

NUR-SULTAN

RUSSIA will retaliate if US slaps new sanctions and will respond to any Washington's unfriendly moves, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a news conference after talks with Kazakhstan's counterpart Mukhtar Tleuberdi yesterday.

"We will take note of any unfriendly steps and this is for sure. So far, I haven't seen any particular decisions and nothing has been declared. I've read the reports that the [US] administration has completed the review of Russia's 'hostile steps': they somehow managed to do this rather quickly because usually when we are accused of so many misdeeds, it's hard to deal with this in a couple of weeks or even in a couple of months, but they did. They will probably punish us in other ways," Lavrov said.

## Ethiopian official says CPC serves the Chinese people wholeheartedly

THE people-centered philosophy is the key to the success of the Communist Party of China (CPC), a senior official from Ethiopia's ruling Prosperity Party has said.

Making the remarks in a recent interview with People's Daily, Biki-la Hurisa, head of the Ethiopian party's public and international relations, stressed that China has achieved a real miracle by lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and building a moderately prosperous society. "Developing countries, including Ethiopia, could learn from what China has done over the past decades," he said.

Observing China's development

for a long time, Hurisa believed that the most important secret behind this miracle is that the CPC serves the Chinese people wholeheartedly. "The CPC truly understands the real problems facing the Chinese people. Besides, the CPC have created effective democracy and governance."

He said that the Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era was people-oriented, the interests of people being put in the first place and development fruits sharing by all people. "Under the guidance of the Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era put forward by President Xi Jinping, China has made new development

achievement one after another. China's political ideology is in accordance with the country's situation and also sets a good example for the rest of the world, gaining more and more understanding and appreciation from international society."

"China's success also proves that 'coping and pasting' philosophical ideologies or lines from other countries to one specific country will not help in solving local problems," he added that any country needs to find its own way to achieve better development.

The second secret behind the miracle in Hurisa's opinion is that the Chinese government has at-

tached great importance to science, technology and innovation, which he said has helped a lot in solving the real problems facing the Chinese people.

"Investments in research and development, innovations and technology have significantly helped China promote investment, employment and entrepreneurship that are locally based, as well as home-grown creativity," he said.

"The third secret I see is the China's determination to open itself to the world. The opening up strategy has benefited not only the Chinese people, but also the global economy," he added.

Hurisa also mentioned the close

interaction between CPC and Prosperity Party, Ethiopia's ruling party. "Over the last several years, the role of China in Ethiopia's development efforts is very significant in politics, economy and society, and we appreciate that."

The two parties' mutual communication and exchange deepens the bilateral relationship and people-to-people understanding between the two countries.

We expect a lot from the Chinese Communist Party in terms of sharing experience, sharing wisdom and assisting in capacity building efforts."

Last May, the Prosperity Party held a seminar with the Inter-

national Department of the CPC Central Committee on Covid-19 prevention, economic and social development, poverty alleviation, fighting Covid-19 together in solidarity and building China-Africa community with a shared future.

In February, Hurisa took part in the "Stories of CPC" Thematic Briefing on Xinjiang co-organized by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the CPC Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regional Committee via video connection. He said that "we can see CPC's strong leadership and sense of responsibility in China's poverty alleviation."

People's Daily



## Biden's US\$2.3 trillion jobs plan triggers hot debate

WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES President Joe Biden has recast what has traditionally been considered infrastructure with a US\$2.3 trillion plan that includes money for jobs programs and caregivers, in addition to bridges and highways.

However, the word "infrastructure" is not included in the sweeping proposal's title.

Called the American Jobs Plan, it also proposes spending billions of dollars on affordable housing, help for schools and labor unions and expanding high-speed internet services, among numerous other priorities.

In a nod to climate awareness, Biden's plan puts development of the electric vehicle industry ahead of any other transportation category. He also wants to spend US\$10 billion to create a Civilian Climate Corps.

"It's a once-in-a-generation investment in America unlike anything we've seen or done since we built the interstate highway system and the space race decades ago. In fact, it's the largest American jobs investment since World War II," Biden said on March 31 when he announced the plan in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The largest single category of expenditure would be US\$400 billion toward "expanding access to quality, affordable home or community-based care for aging relatives and people with disabilities", he said.

The jobs programs and other categories, some of which appear to be geared toward Democratic voting constituencies, could result in no Republicans in Congress supporting the measure.

House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy of California said in a statement on Thursday,

**Agencies**

## Rwanda's genocide perpetrator recounts unity and reconciliation in once-divided nation

KIGALI

JEAN Damascene Renzaho, a 45-year-old Rwandan genocide perpetrator now mingles freely around Kigali's Ntunga village where he committed the crime 27 years ago.

Renzaho cracks random stories with relatives of his victims while sitting peacefully with them. But when the discussion shifts to the 1994 Rwandan genocide against Tutsi, he is overwhelmed by remorse.

On April 7, 1994, the first day of the three-month-long genocide that killed over 1 million people, a brigade commander, police officers and local leaders arrived in Ntunga, and ordered all able-bodied youths to follow them to hunt for soldiers of Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA), the armed wing of the current ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

Renzaho, who was 17 years old at that time, picked a machete, followed them to storm a home where the RPA soldiers were suspected to be hiding. One elderly woman called Leocardia Mukakibungo, who was said to be a member of the rebel camp, was one of the first people killed on that day.

Fearing being arrested after the genocidal regime was overthrown by the RPA, Renzaho fled to one of Kigali's urban areas in July and stayed there until 1996 when he returned to Ntunga.

Because of worrying about retribution by the people whose relatives were killed by him, he handed himself over to the authorities and was imprisoned for 10 years.

While in prison, inmates were sensitized on confessing crimes during the genocide to facilitate the work of Gacaca, Rwanda's traditional conflict resolution mechanism, to process criminal cases during the genocide, Renzaho offered to go and confess his crimes before Gacaca judges, where he was handed a six-year jail term. Since he had already served 10 years in jail, he was released.

After being released, he spent time piecing together what had happened. Haunted by his acts, Renzaho gathered the courage to approach survivors to ask for their forgiveness. He started by greeting them to gauge their response when they met in the trading center.

Later he gained more courage and visited the home of one survivor Donne Kamali, whose mother was killed by him. "It was not easy meeting survivors. I was afraid, I had a lot of guilt and fear but I picked courage and visited Kamali's home. I narrated how things transpired during the genocide. I was forgiven," he said.

Renzaho said he has risen above ethnic divisions that manifested in the hilly country during the genocide. He also encouraged others he knew had played a role in genocide to confess their crimes. Surprisingly, one of the children whose grandmother he killed is now his Godfather.

"This is a symbol of unity and reconciliation. We now meet often," said Renzaho, who sometimes looks for pasture from survivors' home for his livestock.

The crimes used to haunt him, now he feels relief in the heart after receiving forgiveness. "Now I feel like a freeman." The genocide perpetrator is also a member of non-governmental organization, Mvura Nkuvure, which was established to promote unity and reconciliation between the genocide perpetrators and survivors.

Kamali, the survivor and also a member the reconciliation organization, called on other perpetrators to ask for forgiveness like Renzaho. "It took me a long while to recover (from the genocide).

I can't erase what happened from my memory, but we have accepted to move along with perpetrators for the sake of unity and reconciliation," he said. "Unity and reconciliation in Rwanda is real. I bear witness."

**Xinhua**

# Australia to end harassment exemption for public servants

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA will remove exemptions for judges and politicians from sexual harassment laws, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday, as his government struggles to contain a backlash over allegations of mistreatment of female lawmakers and staff.

Under broad changes designed to empower complainants in workplace gender-related disputes, employers will be required to take a proactive approach to stopping gender discrimination, while complainants get a longer period of time to lodge their complaint, Morrison said.

Early last year, a report by Australia's sex discrimination commissioner called for broad changes to workplace laws including removing exemptions for public sector employers and people who hire volunteers.

Morrison said yesterday he will adopt all 55 of the commissioner's recommendations which include a blanket ban on workplace gender discrimination, mandatory training of company directors and reporting by listed companies, as well as improved coordination between complaint-handling agencies. "Sexual harassment is unacceptable," Morrison told reporters in the capital, Canberra.

"It's not only immoral and despicable and even criminal, but ... it denies Australians, especially women, not just their personal security but their economic security by not being safe at work."

Public servants like judges and politicians are currently exempt from complaints about workplace gender discrimination, as are some employers of volunteers, because of a legal loophole which means they are technically not the complainant's employer.



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison

The government has been battling allegations it has mishandled alleged instances of sexual harassment and assault after a female former staffer of Morrison's government went public in February with an allegation that she was raped in a ministerial office in 2019. In March the country's then attorney general said he was the subject of an unrelated historical rape allegation in 1988, which he has strongly denied.

Morrison's handling of the sexual harassment issue has been widely criticised and polls show his personal approval at its lowest level since before the pandemic. A protest outside parliament about gender discrimination and violence drew tens of thousands of people.

Zali Steggall, an independent member of parliament who has advocated for reforms to sexual harassment laws, said the move was "a win for everyone who has been calling on the government to act on sexual harassment, particularly the tens of thousands of people who marched for justice last month". Until this year, most polls had suggested that Morrison's conservative coalition would be returned to office at the next general election, due within a year, after its hardline COVID-19 response all but eradicated the virus in the country.

**Agencies**

## New York State hikes taxes on rich, businesses to raise more funds

NEW YORK

NEW YORK State would collect billions of additional tax dollars from rich people and corporations each year in order to secure funds for expensive spending amid the pandemic, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo said.

After striking a deal with Cuomo on the 212-billion-U.S. dollar budget on Tuesday, the New York State Senate and Assembly passed the budget bill for the fiscal year 2022, beginning April 1 this year. New York State would raise an additional 2.7 billion dollars from higher

personal income tax rates and 750 million dollars from higher corporate franchise tax rates in fiscal 2022, said Cuomo in a presentation on Wednesday.

The surcharge from the personal income tax and corporate franchise tax would be 3.3 billion dollars and 1 billion dol-

lars in fiscal 2023 respectively, according to Cuomo. New Yorkers earning more than 25 million dollars each year would be subject to 10.9 percent of personal income tax up from 8.82 percent.

Meanwhile, the personal income tax rate for people earn-

ing 5 million to 25 million dollars per annum was lifted from 8.82 percent to 10.3 percent. Individuals earning 1 million to 5 million dollars each year would pay 9.65 percent of personal income tax up from 8.82 percent.

**Xinhua**



Fishers catch fish in a pond in Shisanhu village, Hutubi County, Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Feb. 4, 2021. (File photo)

## China to consolidate foundation for seed industry

ON an early morning, when the sun just rose above the horizon, 66-year-old scholar Hua Zetian slipped into the green rice field of Nanfan Scientific and Research Breeding Base, south China's Hainan Province, holding a test log in one of his hand, and a walking stick in the other. He stayed in the field all morning.

"My work has been all about rice for decades, and all I think is rice. The varieties I bred were like my children. I can't live without them, not even for one single day," said Hua, who's also the head of a national hybrid rice engineering technology research center.

Nanfan means a method of breeding and seed selection of summer crops such as rice, corn, and cotton in subtropical and tropical areas in south China after these crops are harvested in their origins in the autumn. This helps breed two to three generations a year, accelerate the process of seed selection, and shorten the breeding period. It also tests the disease-resistance performance of breeding materials, as well as their response to light.

Nanfan breeding bases in Hainan's Sanya, Lingshui and Ledong are kept busy every winter, receiving a number of scientists and scholars from across the country. After over 60 years of development, there are more than 700 active research organizations and institutions of higher education in these bases, and nearly 70 percent of new crop varieties are bred there.

Germplasm resources are strategic resources that guarantee national food security and effective supply of important agricultural and sideline products, as well as a material foundation for original innovation of agricultural technologies and the development of modern seed industry.

Recently, a general survey was launched by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs to advance the investigation into the germplasm resources of crops, livestock and poultry, and aquatic products.

Today's competition in the seed industry is a technology race. China is a major country in germplasm resources, but not a strong one. At present, it still sees a large gap between many of its germplasm resources and international advanced levels, which is largely attributed to its insufficient storage of outstanding germplasm resources and lack of capability in precise identification.

China plans to finish the survey in three years, in which it will gain a clear understanding of the categories, amount, distribution and major characters of its germplasm resources and figure out how the resources evolve. Besides, it will issue a report, and collect and protect rare, endangered and unique resources. The results of the survey are expected to be presented in three reports, and a big data platform will be established.

According to statistics, the total output of China's aquaculture exceeded 50 million tonnes in 2019, accounting for over 78 percent of the country's total aquatic products. China is also the only major fishery country whose aquaculture output is larger than total catch. To discover, domesticate and breed germplasm resources of aquatic products, livestock and poultry, China will further promote the high-quality development of its breeding industry.

**People's Daily**

## Moscow has tit-for-tat sanctions pending against new US restrictions, senator warns

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON'S plans to slap new sanctions against Moscow point to the Biden administration's stance in favor of confrontation. What's more, this move would trigger tit-for-tat measures by Russia, First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Council's (upper house of parliament) Committee on Foreign Affairs Vladimir Dzhabarov told TASS.

Citing its sources, Bloomberg reported on Wednesday that White House officials had completed an intelligence review of Russia's alleged transgressions, setting the stage for Washington to announce retaliatory actions very soon. These potential moves could involve restrictive measures and the expulsion of Russian diplomats.

"If this happens, I think the Russian leadership will decide on retaliatory sanctions. Once our diplomats are expelled, I believe that nothing good could be in the future. Tit-for-tat measures are highly likely," Dzhabarov cautioned.

According to the senator, earlier there were cases when diplomats were expelled, and "this makes the already frozen relations even colder." "It should take several months until the ties become more or less stable.

Since we don't have any relations right now, I think that no one will even notice how many employees are working in our embassy. But the Americans should also get a response," the lawmaker stressed.

Meanwhile, he recommended waiting until the US authorities issue an official decision. "But if this is really the case, then this shows that the word "constructiveness" in our relations is nothing but a fantasy.

The Americans haven't been constructive for a long time. They reject any attempts at patching up any contacts. This signals that they are bent on confrontation," Dzhabarov noted.

The Russian legislator doubted that the Americans could back up their claims with any proof. He also went on to castigate all the accusations against Russia as being totally unfounded.

"They will refer to intelligence data and clandestine analytical reports. Most likely, these will be allegations again," he emphasized.



# SPORT



Peter Muduhwa

## Simba SC offloads defender Peter Muduhwa

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FORMER Highlanders FC defender, Peter Muduhwa, is returning to Zimbabwe without kicking a ball after Tanzania football giants, Simba SC, reportedly terminated his loan deal.

The Zimbabwean national team defender and Simba SC terminated the loan deal three months into the player's six-month deal, which he signed in January.

Muduhwa joined Simba SC straight from this year's African Nations Championship's finals in Cameroon following many failed attempts to secure a deal outside Zimbabwe.

The 27-year-old central defensive stalwart, who can also play as a right-back or defensive midfielder, had been signed to play in the CAF Champions League, with the hope that his six-month loan may culminate in a permanent move.

His move was not short of drama, and sources in Dar es Salaam said agents' fights contributed to Muduhwa falling out of favour.

Since his arrival at Simba SC, the club has played five CAF Champions League group matches, booking a place in the quarterfinals of the tournament and top Group A with 13 points, five points clear of the continental competition's defending champions, Egypt's Al Ahly, who are second and also through to the next round.

The Zimbabwean defender only managed to make the travelling squad when Simba SC went for the group opening match against AS Vita of DR Congo where he failed to make

the match day squad.

"It's unfortunate that such a talented player like Muduhwa is coming back to Zimbabwe," the source noted.

He said: "The Simba leadership met a few days back and decided to release the player because some were asking what value he is adding to the club."

"No one could fight for Muduhwa when his matter was being discussed," he said.

Simba, last weekend, walloped AS Vita 4-1 at home in a CAF Champions League encounter.

Sources said Muduhwa should be arriving in Zimbabwe before the end of the week.

The Zimbabwean defender was 'low in spirit' and confirmed that he is heading back home.

He noted: "For more details, you can talk to the agent (Gibson Mahachi), but it's true, I'm heading back home."

He disclosed: "You know as a player it's frustrating to do everything on training and fail to make it into the match day squad. I know the coaches have the final decision, but I guess its better to look for fresh challenges."

"There are a few things that are being tied up before I return, but I'm grateful for the opportunity that I had while here at Simba," he noted.

George Deda was the agent that initiated Muduhwa's move to Simba, but at the eleventh hour, Mahachi came forward.

Deda had left Muduhwa's planned move to Sudan collapse last September when he heard that Mahachi represented the player.

This was after Deda proposed to split the agent's fees with Mahachi for Prince Dube's move to Azam FC.

## TGU now schedules all golf events to May

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Golf Union (TGU) has said all major domestic golf events scheduled for March and April have been postponed to next month for various reasons.

Golfers were scheduled to feature in the Dar Open tournament and the Lugalo Open. Both have been postponed to next month.

The Dar Open Championship was scheduled to take place in January and it was later shifted to March. It will now take place in May.

Lugalo Open, which was scheduled to take place on March 6-7, has also been postponed to next May.

Enock Magile, TGU's Competition Secretary, said that the two events have been rescheduled due to technical reasons and the organisers have informed the participants about the changes.

"No one likes the events to be postponed, as they were on our annual calendar. But we cannot disclose the details," Magile stated.

The original plan was to stage the events in this month. But, the organisers have planned to stage the events next month.

As per the current TGU calendar, after May's events, golfers will have to prepare for the Zone Four's East Africa Challenge to be held in Kampala, Uganda.

The Tanzania Junior Open scheduled to take place at the TPC course in Moshi, Kilimanjaro, and the Morogoro Open slated to take place in Morogoro from June 18-19.

The TGU's annual sports events calendar also

shows that the Tanzania Amateur Stroke Play event will be held at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club in July, followed by the Mufindi Open in Iringa in August.

The Safari Open will take place at the Kili Golf Club on August 14-15 and the TPC Open has been slated for September 4-5 this year.

Other events as per the TGU calendar are the CDF Trophy (September 18-19) at the Lugalo Golf course, Arusha Open (October 2-3) at the Arusha Gymkhana Club, and the Nyerere Masters on October 16-17 at the Lugalo Club golf course.

The calendar further shows that the last three annual events are the Northern Zone Championships, scheduled for October 30-31 at the Arusha Gymkhana Club.

It will be followed by the Moshi Open (on November 13-14) and, finally, the Tanzania Open on November 26-28 at the Lugalo Club course.

Magile also said the All-African Juniors Golf Challenge Championship slated to take place in Cairo, Egypt, in June has been postponed indefinitely.

He disclosed that Tanzania expected to field four golfers in the event, which was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He also said they are waiting for the organisers to mention a new date, depending on the Covid-19 situation in Egypt.

"We have received information that the event has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic which is still ravaging countries," he noted.

## SPORTS

# National swimming club championship attracts six clubs

By Guardian Reporter

SIX clubs have confirmed to compete in this year's national swimming club championship scheduled to take place at the Gymkhana Club swimming pool in Dar es Salaam this weekend.

The clubs are Dar es Salaam Swimming Club (DSC), Taliss, Bluefins, Mwanza Swimming Club, FK Blue Marlins and Morogoro International School (MIS).

Speaking on Wednesday, the showpiece's organizing committee's chairperson, Hadija Shebe, said that they are expecting to see a thrilling event, given all prominent swimmers will compete in the event scheduled to start from 8am.

Hadija said that swimmers are now in the intensive training ahead of the competition which has been sponsored by Selcom Paytech Limited, Travelport Official Partners, Gymkhana, Pepsi, ITV, Jet, Azam, Flames and Knight Support.

She said swimmers will compete in five swimming styles namely, freestyle, butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and Individual Medley. Swimmers will also feature in relays.

The event will also see swimmers compete in a total of 103 events.

She said they have decided to put such a number of the events with the aim of gauging swimmers' talents as well as their strength before selecting some of them to form the national team ahead of various international competitions. Hadija said the events' program shows that a total of 60 events will be held during the first day, while the remaining ones will take place the following day.

According to her, the swimmers will have to showcase their prowess during the two-day event.



Taliss Swimming Club's swimmer Mohameduwais Abdullatif competes in a past event, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

"This is a very important competition for swimmers because it will be used to select those from all age categories to form the national team. Swimmers have to struggle for that," she stated.

She said the competition is a qualifying event that will also be used to select swimmers for the African Swimming Federation (CANA) Zone Three, as well as for the World Swimming Federation (FINA) events for this year. She also said Tanzanian swimmers are supposed to participate in this meet in order to be considered for the teams that will represent Tanzania in the championships.

The event is also to be used to gauge swimmers' skills, as well as promote the sport in the country and beyond its borders.

"The event will be open to all current (2020/2021) Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA)-registered swimmers," she said.

She explained that foreign swimmers would be allowed to compete only if they meet qualifying time standards and have been cleared by their federations to compete.

She said: "Foreign swimmers have to submit a clearance letter from their national federations and proper travel documents. Qualifying times must

have been recorded between January 2020 and March 31, 2021." "If these times are not available, swimmers will have to show their past times, supported by proof showing where and when the times were recorded," she said.

The competition will be in accordance with FINA rules and TSA regulations.

The swimmers will compete in the event as per their age groups. These are those aged 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15-plus. Individual medals will be awarded to top three swimmers from each event/category and the top three winners will further be awarded trophies.

# Coach Hitimana contemplates leaving Mtibwa Sugar

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MTIBWA Sugar's head coach, Thierry Hitimana, has said he does not expect to return to Tanzania to continue his duties at the club due to what he termed as the leadership's interference.

Hitimana made it clear that despite facing the situation for a long time, he has reached that decision to protect his reputation with the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) side, which is struggling to avoid relegation.

He said despite his reports being submitted to Mtibwa Sugar bosses several times, the latter have been delaying making decisions.

According to Hitimana he decided to willingly leave the team so he can avoid blame.

He stated he has now decided to rest until next season.

"I have already lodged a complaint with the management about the interference, but there is no action, so I have decided to leave the team, if that is not enough I did not have a contract," he disclosed.

However, Mtibwa Sugar's Secretary General, Majid Bakari, said they still know Hitimana is still coaching the Morogoro-based team.

Bakari noted they believe even he will join the team in their VPL match against Azam FC, slated for today in Dar es Salaam.

Hitimana had made it clear that the departure of central defender Dickson Job is a blow to the team, as Job was a key player.

Job, who currently features for Yanga, had during his time at Mtibwa Sugar played a total of 19 matches this season before heading to the Dar es Salaam club.

Mtibwa Sugar are positioned 14th in the VPL's standing, having played 22 matches and collected 24 points.

The team's attacking line-up has scored nine goals and the defense has conceded 16 goals.

The coach is currently in his home country of Rwanda. He prior to joining Mtibwa Sugar, had served VPL side Namungo FC.

The coach helped Namungo FC secure opportunity to take part in this season's CAF Confederation Cup.



Thierry Hitimana

## Mbappe stars as PSG win at holders Bayern Munich

BERLIN

KYLIAN Mbappe insisted Paris Saint-Germain still have it all to do after he scored twice in a thrilling 3-2 win at holders Bayern Munich in Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final first leg.

Bayern had their 19-match unbeaten run in the Champions League ended in a repeat of last year's final, as the German giants suffered their first European defeat since March 2019.

PSG raced into a 2-0 lead after just 28 minutes behind closed doors at the Allianz Arena as Neymar created goals for Mbappe and Marquinhos.

Bayern, whose top scorer Robert Lewandowski is sidelined by a knee injury, drew level courtesy of headers by Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and Thomas Mueller.

However, Mbappe showed his class with a superb second goal to give the visitors an advantage for the return leg in Paris.

"We used all our chances and had a bit of luck, but nothing has been decided," Mbappe told Sky, with the second leg to come in Paris on Tuesday.

PSG goalkeeper Keylor Navas played a key role with a string of saves as Bayern peppered his goal with 31 shots compared to the French club's six.

"We have to score a lot more goals," said Mueller. "If it had ended 5-3 or 6-3 for us, no one could have complained based on the chances."

Bayern coach Hansi Flick, who finished on the losing side for the first time in the Champions League, also rued the number of missed chances.

"With the chances we had, we could have got a good result despite conceding three goals," Flick said.

"We don't like to lose, but the way the team played was top."

This was a record 19th appearance in the Champions League quarter-finals for Bayern, but there was little for them to celebrate at the final whistle.

## Chelsea punish wasteful Porto to put one foot in Champions League semis

PORTO

A CLASSY goal from Mason Mount on Wednesday helped Chelsea to a 2-0 first-leg win over Porto, whose wasteful finishing could have scuppered their hopes of springing another Champions League upset in the quarter-finals.

Mount's slick turn and shot in the first half would have been painful enough for Porto, who were the better side for large spells in Seville but repeatedly lacked the precision to take advantage.

Instead, their misery was compounded by Ben Chilwell capitalising on a mistake at the back to score a late second that gave Chelsea another away goal and leaves them on the brink of the semi-finals.

They were away goals only in name given both these teams were playing in the unfamiliar Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, where they will meet again next week, just with the home and away roles reversed.

Porto were in the home dug-out, wore their home kit, had a large club banner in the empty stand and their anthem was the one that played out before kick-off.

Chelsea played the part too, delivering a classic away performance of soaking up the pressure and hitting their opponents on the counter-attack, their quality in the final third proving decisive. Real Madrid could lie in wait for the victors, after they beat Liverpool 3-1 on Tuesday.

"There is a good atmosphere in the dressing room, we are happy but not too happy, excited but not too excited," said Chelsea's coach Thomas Tuchel. "We have to have a top mentality and a top performance next Tuesday."

Mount's goal makes him Chelsea's youngest ever scorer in the Champions League at 22 years and 87 days old while Chilwell's second meant the club boasted two English scorers in a Champions League game for the first time since 2012.

Chelsea's win also goes some way to easing the shock of Saturday's 5-2 loss at home to West Brom in the Pre-

"Kilian Mbappe made the difference. It's a very positive result for us, but everything is still open," said PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino.

- Marquinhos scores and limps off -

Covid-19 cast its shadow over both teams with Bayern winger Serge Gnabry, plus PSG pair Alessandro Florenzi and Marco Verratti quarantined after testing positive.

Heavy snow fell in the first half in Munich as the visitors put the heat on the holders.

The opening goal came after Neymar sprinted through a gaping hole in the defence and laid the ball off for Mbappe, whose shot flew into the net through Manuel Neuer's legs.

PSG forward Julian Draxler had a goal disallowed with Mbappe offside in the build-up as the visitors kept up the pressure.

Bayern midfielder Leon Goretzka powered a header into the feet of Navas just before the hosts fell two goals behind.

A clearance kick only got as far as Neymar, whose ball over the top found Marquinhos unmarked in the area to stroke his shot past Neuer, shortly before the PSG captain limped off injured.

Flick responded by bringing on Alphonso Davies to provide pace on the flanks and moved David Alaba into defensive midfield.

The hosts pulled a goal back when Mueller's cross was headed past Navas by Choupo-Moting to make it 2-1 at half-time.

Neymar was denied by Neuer and Angel Di Maria had an effort cleared off the line, while Leroy Sane went close at the other end for Bayern as both teams had their chances after the break.

Bayern then equalised when Mueller nodded in a superb Joshua Kimmich free-kick on the hour.

However, the wintry night in Munich belonged to Mbappe, who showed his class by turning Bayern defender Jerome Boateng inside and out before driving his shot past Neuer with 22 minutes left.

mier League, which ended Tuchel's 14-match unbeaten start as coach.

"After losing such a strange game we said the best situation would be to produce a clean sheet straight away and this makes it very precious, this result," Tuchel said.

- Chilwell's sucker-punch -  
Tuchel decided Thiago Silva's 29 minutes before being sent off in that game were not enough to hone his sharpness, meaning Andreas Christensen was picked in the back three.

And Antonio Rudiger also returned, despite his training ground scuffle with Kepa Arrizabalaga on Sunday, which Tuchel described as a "serious situation".

Porto were regarded as the plum draw, despite seeing off Cristiano Ronaldo and Juventus in the last 16, their task made harder this time by the suspensions of Mehdi Taremi and top scorer Sergio Oliveira.

But they were the aggressors from the outset, with Chelsea surrendering the ball and the chances.

Porto had six shots to Chelsea's one before half-time, with Mateus Uribe grazing the top of the net with an early volley and the excellent Otavio almost catching Edouard Mendy out with a corner, Zaidu Sanusi smashing over the rebound.

Chelsea, though, showed them what ruthlessness looked like when Jorginho fired a pass into Mount on the edge of the area inside the right channel. Mount took it on his back foot and twisted away from the sliding Zaidu, before firing a cool finish into the far corner.

Porto kept coming in the second half and kept missing too. Moussa Marega snuck in but his shot was saved by the feet of Mendy before Jesus Corona feathered Luis Diaz through but he took too long. Diaz curled wide after a good run by Wilson Manafa.

Chelsea absorbed them and then hit them with a final sucker-punch, Mateo Kovacic's ball over the top miscontrolled by Corona, allowing Chilwell to steam clear, round the goalkeeper and finish.

AFP

## Haaland roadshow suggests summer transfer; economics and release clause say not until 2022

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THE Erling Haaland roadshow is in full swing, just as it was nearly 18 months ago, pre-pandemic. Back then, he was a man-child of a center-forward who was banging in goals for Jesse Marsch's RB Salzburg in the Austrian Bundesliga (16 in 14 games) and the Champions League (eight in six) and "Team Haaland" -- his dad, Alfie, and his adviser, super agent Mino Raiola -- were peddling his services to clubs around Europe.

Now, at 20, he's still banging in goals in the Bundesliga (albeit, the German one, for Borussia Dortmund, several steps up the food chain) at a more than healthy clip (21 goals in 22 games) and the Champions League (10 in seven) and Team Haaland is making the rounds, both in person (as in this trip to Barcelona last week) and via Zoom.

Some, like former Germany and Liverpool midfielder Didi Hamann are outraged -- "The behaviour of Haaland's father and Raiola is unspeakable and disrespectful ..." he told Sky Germany -- but in fact, it's the natural next step for a guy whose career and development have been meticulously planned from an early age. Not quite to Todd Marinovich levels, but not far off.

And because, just as he did when he left RB Salzburg in January 2020, he has a relatively affordable release clause that kicks in from June 2022 and amounts to far less than his value in the open market, Team Haaland holds all the cards.

That clause -- thought to be around \$90 million, when his market valuation is easily twice that -- has created a twisted economic incentive mechanism whereby Borussia Dortmund are better off selling him this summer even though it would probably suit him to stick around for another season.

My colleagues Stephan Uersfeld and Rodri Faez reported that Borussia Dortmund have fixed Haaland's transfer fee at €180 million (\$213.8m). Given that's the asking price, you would imagine Dortmund might settle for a little less, particularly if they fail to qualify for next season's Champions League and therefore have to settle for Europa League revenue, which would likely be some €60m less. (Dortmund are seven points from a top-four spot with seven games to go.)

So call it €150m (\$180m). The problem is that there are very few clubs who can make that sort of commitment right now, without either a) taking their debt and losses to unsustainable levels b) shedding talented players to raise cash and cut their wage bill or c) some combination of the above.

Never say never, because football clubs have taken huge risks in the past and will continue to do so in the future, but it's hard to see how anyone with the exception of Manchester United, Manchester City or possibly Real Madrid can even contemplate such a move. (Maybe Barcelona, too, but only if Lionel Messi's near-€100m contract, which expires in June, isn't renewed.)

Even then, that only covers the transfer fee. You need to then pay Haaland's salary and commissions to the agents and intermediaries to make it happen. Raiola took to Twitter to describe as "fake news" reports that he was demanding €20m (\$24m) each for himself and for Haaland's father, plus an additional €30m net (which is around €55m/\$65m gross) a year for the player. Maybe so. But even if it's half that, assuming a five-year deal, you're still looking at another \$180m, give or take, through 2027.

And this is where economic incentives and game theory come in. Because if it would take at least \$360m -- and probably a lot more... remember, it's the agent, Raiola, saying the wage and commission demands were "fake" -- to



Erling Haaland

land Haaland this summer, once the release clause kicks in, the landscape changes dramatically.

Dortmund's fee would come down from the market rate of €150m (\$180m) to a reported €75m (\$90m). That is a massive savings for any buying club and some of that savings would sweeten the pot for Haaland himself, as well as for his dad and Raiola.

We often forget how linked transfer fees and salaries/commissions really are; it's why free agency is such a boon for agents and intermediaries, too. If you don't have to pay a transfer fee (or, in this case, only have to pay a sharply reduced fee, you can pay the agent and the player more).

There's more. You can reasonably expect that a year from now, the number of clubs who can take a serious run at Haaland will grow, partly because the effects of the pandemic will (hopefully) have worn off, partly because the fee will have come down. The more interested parties you have, the more you can generate a bidding war.

The bonus here for Haaland is that rather than bidding against each other and driving up the price due to Dortmund, they'll be bidding against each other and driving up the salary due to him (and his dad, and Raiola). That's the power of a release clause, and Team Haaland understand it well.

It's not just about money, either; they appear to be genuine when they say it's about his development. When he left his tiny hometown club, Bryne, at 16, he could have gone just about anywhere and, indeed, through his dad's connections, he was looked at by most to the continent's big hitters.

But he chose to stay in Norway, moving up to Molde. At 18, he again turned down suitors from Europe's elite to join Salzburg for €8m

(\$9.5m).

Why Salzburg? They had a great track record of development, he knew he could get playing time and they were part of the Red Bull organization, which includes Leipzig in Germany. And crucially, they agreed to a release clause of €20m (\$24m). It was a deal that suited all parties: Haaland got to grow while maintaining the leverage to leave at a reasonable price, Salzburg (to use a VC term) got to 2.5x their investment.

That's how things are likely to play out again at Borussia Dortmund. They can tut-tut all they like over the Team Haaland roadshow, but the fact is if he moves in 2022, they will not only get the benefit of one of the world's top five center-forwards for two and a half seasons, they will be able to sell him at a hefty profit.

Will it be the 3.75x the transfer fees -- bought at €20m, sold at €75m -- suggest? Probably not. According to reports, they splashed out an additional €25m in total commission to Raiola and Haaland's dad, so it would be more like a 1.7x. Still, it's not a bad deal. Having benefited from the release clause/Raiola method, you can't complain when it's used against you.

So why is Raiola so public in pitching Haaland around the world when it suits him to stay put another season? There are two possible reasons.

One, there might still be a beneficial deal to be made here and now. Maybe, if Dortmund continue to nosedive in the Bundesliga, the asking price will come down further.

Maybe somebody will come up with a \$360m-plus package that suits everyone, heck maybe it will be a lot more: we can boil it down to numbers, but this is still a business where folks make decisions

based on emotions and popularity and gut feel and sometimes they're irrational.

Maybe -- and this would be a bonanza for Team Haaland -- somebody will want him so badly that they'll grant them yet another release clause, one that will feel like a bargain in a few years' time. Who knows? You don't know unless you ask. Raiola is covering his bases, and it suits Dortmund just fine.

The other -- and the one cynics are loath to believe (wrongly, in my opinion) -- is that Raiola and Haaland's dad are just doing their homework just as they've always done.

They're trying to figure out what the best environment might be, whether it's next season or, more likely, 2022-23.

Start with the manager. Pep Guardiola's deal with City expires in 2023. Ronald Koeman's at Barcelona in 2022. Zinedine Zidane has walked away from Real Madrid before and, at the Bernabeu, managers continuously hang by a thread.

How likely is it that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will stick around at Man United? What might Juventus be planning post-Cristiano Ronaldo, or Bayern post-Robert Lewandowski, or Paris Saint-Germain if Kylian Mbappe or Neymar move on? Might these clubs come into play?

Haaland's next move will be critical to his career. He has the luxury -- given that he grew up in privileged surroundings and has already earned plenty (between him and his dad, north of \$50m by the time June 2022 rolls around) -- of not being motivated solely by money at this stage of his life. And he has the benefit of a release clause, which turns usual football economics on its head.

For now, at least, it's in the club's interest to sell, and in the player's interest to stay.



Erling Haaland's father, Alf-Inge Haaland, and the player's agent Mino Raiola arrive in Barcelona. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Can PSG avenge Champions League final loss against Bayern?**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Aga Khan SC A's Riziki Kiseti (R) is presented with man of the match prize by Caravans Cricket Club's leader, Thulaseedas, as the player helped his outfit cruise to victory over Caravans Cricket Club in this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Harab Motors Company sponsors the award. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

## Aga Khan SC A hammer Caravans A outfit in Kazim Nasser League's Division A

By Guardian Reporter

AGA Khan SC A side notched a re-sounding 51-run victory over Caravans A team in this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A tie, held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

The competition resumed in the day after a three-week suspension imposed on sporting activities as the country was observing 21 days of national mourning for the fifth term President, the late John Pombe Magufuli.

Skipper Riziki Kiseti put solid batting performance when Aga Khan SC A went in to bat first and registered 151 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the scheduled 17 overs of the match, which took place at Leaders Club venue.

There was equally meaningful contribution by the side's top order batsmen, as openers Abhik Patwa and Arshaan Jasani notched 18 runs and 29 runs respectively.

Patwa cleared the boundary on three occasions and Jasani's innings saw him crack three fours and a six.

Dhruvit Mehta, slotted in at number three, made his presence felt for a couple of overs, scoring 15 runs which consisted of a four.

Kiseti, slotted in as a middle order batsman, put scintillating displays to significantly improve the total given he recorded 36 runs which included five fours and a six.

Aahil Jasani executed solid shots, chipping in with 11 runs which consisted of two fours.

Caravans A's Gokul Das ended with a four-wicket haul as the team sought to keep Aga Khan SC A's batsmen in check.

Das gave away 31 runs in his three-over spell, ending with economy rate of 10.33.

Jitin Singh had two wickets, conceding 28 runs in four overs for the squad.

Needing 152 runs to emerge victorious, Caravans A team put spirited showing but they eventually lost steam, managing 100 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 17 overs.

They had an encouraging start to the chase given Nassib Kelvin, who had opened the innings with Manoj Kumar, ended with 16 runs which included three fours.

Kumar had a short spell, facing an early dismissal having scored three runs.

Singh, who came in at number three, turned out to be the best performer in the innings, as he recorded 32 runs which consisted of a four and two sixes.

Safvan Annarathodika and Kassim Nassor somewhat boosted Caravans A side's total, notching 17 runs and 13 runs respectively.

Safvan cracked two fours in his stint, Nassor cleared the boundary once.

Caravans A outfit's hopes waned in the latter stages, given the remaining batsmen failed to make their presence felt.

## Taifa Stars fall in latest FIFA rankings

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, have dropped in the latest monthly rankings released by world soccer governing body, FIFA.

The rankings for the month of March released on Wednesday show that Tanzania has fallen by two places to 137th.

Taifa Stars played three games last month, losing 1-0 away to Equatorial Guinea before winning 1-0 against Libya to end their Africa Cup of Nations qualifying campaign on a high despite failing to secure a ticket to the finals, which will be hosted by Cameroon.

Taifa Stars also lost 2-1 to Kenya in an international friendly but the results had no effect on the rankings as the friendly which was played in Nairobi, Kenya was not officially recognized by FIFA.

Tanzania's opponents in the forthcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), occupy 61st position while Benin and Madagascar are positioned 82nd and 100th respectively.

Senegal who went through their AFCON qualifiers unbeaten remains the highest-ranked CAF nation, despite falling two spots to 22nd position overall.

The Lions of Teranga are followed by Tunisia, who finished their AFCON 2021 qualification with two wins and are placed 26th in the overall ranking. Nigeria's Super Eagles have climbed to third place on the continent, overtaking AFCON 2019 winners Algeria.

Gernot Rohr's side is 32nd overall, one ahead of the Desert Foxes, with Morocco following in 34th position.

Egypt and Ghana are the other two CAF nations inside the top 50, while Cameroon fell five spots to 55th in the global ranking.

Next year's AFCON hosts are eighth on the continent, followed by Mali and Ivory Coast, who round out the top 10 with rankings, having been positioned 57th and 59th respectively.

Mozambique are the biggest losers in the rankings after dropping 11 places to 117th while Guinea-Bissau were the biggest climbers, moving 11 places on the standings to 108th.

The global rankings remain unmoved at the summit with Belgium, France, Brazil, England, Portugal and Spain filling the first six slots.

The next FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking will be published on 27 May 2021.

## Tanzanian athlete jets off to Italy for Olympics' qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIAN athlete Michael Sanga left for Italy yesterday to take part in Sunday's race, which will be used as this year's Tokyo Olympics' qualifying championship.

Sanga will compete in the race which has attracted 71 male athletes and it will be held in Siena, Tuscany in Italy.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) Vice-President, John Bayo, said the marathoner will compete in a full marathon and he is optimistic of qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics which are to take place at the end of July to August 8.

He said that Sanga and AT secured the qualifying event due to the athlete's determination. He said Sanga is in good shape.

"He has been working very hard. He has been at his club camp preparing ahead of the event, he was working on speed endurance, fitness and on speed," he said.

Bayo said Sanga was supposed to travel to Italy with Kenya-based female runner, Naitale Sulle, but the plan failed due to a lockdown imposed in Kenya. "Sanga was to travel to Italy with Naitale Sulle who is at camp at Iten in Kenya, but it did not materialize as Kenya has put some travelling restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic," he stated.

He pointed out: "We are nevertheless hopefully that she will secure a Tokyo Olympics' qualifying event soon."

## Simba SC hopeful of breaking Egyptian jinx



Tanzania's Simba SC's players jubilate shortly after registering a goal against AS Vita Club of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in this season's CAF Champions League's Group A match, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Simba SC won 4-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's Simba will look to keep up their unbeaten record in the 2020/21 CAF Champions League group stage when they take on Al Ahly in Cairo, Egypt tonight.

The Group A game will be played at Al-Ahly we Al-Salam Stadium instead of Cairo International Stadium.

Simba have notched victory in four matches and posted draw in one.

They have already qualified for the knockout stages of the premier continental club tournament.

The Tanzanian champions are also currently on a 14-match unbeaten run in all competitions stretching back to late last year.

Simba SC won the reverse fixture 1-0 against Al Ahly when the sides faced each other in Dar es Salaam in February with Luis Miquissone scoring the all-important goal in the first half.

Simba SC has a poor away record against North African teams and has

not won any away game in the past 10 meetings it has played against Egyptian clubs.

In the 2017/18 season, Simba were dumped out of the CAF Confederation Cup by Al Masry despite avoiding defeat in Egypt for the first time in their history when they drew 0-0 in Cairo.

The teams had settled for a 2-2 draw in the reverse fixture in Dar es Salaam.

In the 2018/19 season, Simba beat Al Ahly 1-0 in Dar es Salaam in their Group B match of the CAF Champions League.

The Msimbazi Street side was humiliated 5-0 in Cairo.

It is no surprise that despite having already progressed to the quarterfinals, Simba's head coach Didier Gomes da Rosa will field a pretty strong side as he hopes to end the poor away record in Cairo.

He said: "I don't know yet but it would be interesting to play with our best team against Al Ahly in Cairo. We are a big, big team in Africa and we must prove what we can do even against Al Ahly. We are now among the best eight teams in Africa, enjoy this time."

He insisted: "It's time to end Simba's bad run of losing away games by a huge margin of goals, we're going with the mindset to erase this record." He noted: "We have a good squad with enough quality, we will approach the game with the right tactics needed to achieve our target. We understand it is not easy as we are facing a formidable opponent."

Meanwhile, Al Ahly, the tournament's defending champions, advanced to the quarterfinals as Group A runners-up after settling for 2-2 draw with Sudan's Al Merreikh.

The tie which was the fifth round of the group stage took place at the Blue Jawhara Stadium last Saturday.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

GIVE OUT PROMISES...



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**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
14:00 Bonga Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

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21:00 Friday Night Live

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