



## GOVERNANCE



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**UCT students design WIBOX that keeps people online during load shedding**



## Corruption, embezzlement touch Mwinyi at New Year

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi (pictured) has said that his government will usher in the New Year with stern measures against government officials found to have engaged in acts of corruption and embezzlement of public funds.

In his speech to bid farewell to 2021 and welcome 2022 yesterday, Dr Mwinyi said there will be no sacred cow in the fight against corruption this year, warning government officials to change or face the consequences.

"The government will take both disciplinary and legal action on culprits without favour or victimizing anyone," he said.

"Our country is led by the rule of law and we cherish principles of good governance, therefore the law must take its course, and we must protect the rights of all citizens in accordance with the constitution," the president declared.

**"Our country is led by the rule of law and we cherish principles of good governance, therefore the law must take its course, and we must protect the rights of all citizens in accordance with the constitution," the president declared.**

The government will also be tough on gender-based violence as well as drug abuse, vices that have been on the increase in the Isles during the past decade, he asserted.

He further stated that one of the biggest challenges that shook not only Zanzibar but

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# Samia bides 2021: Death of JPM, Isles VP, drought

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has expressed hope for a prosperous New Year, saying the just-ended 2021 was tough and rough for Tanzania, occasioned by deaths of national leaders, the Covid-19 pandemic and extreme weather patterns.

In her speech to welcome the New Year yesterday, President Samia said 2121 wasn't smooth for Tanzania as it was full of ups and downs, happiness and sadness as well as growth and downturns.

"In the year 2021 our nation passed through difficult times following the death of our Head of State Dr John Magufuli while in office and then Zanzibar First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad," she said.

"It was a moment of mourning not only for our nation, but the entire continent of Africa."

The president said that the disruptions occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic led to growth regression from 7.0 per cent for fiscal 2019/2020 to 4.8 per cent in the 2020/2021 financial year.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan

**"In the year 2021 our nation passed through difficult times following the death of our Head of State Dr John Magufuli while in office and then Zanzibar First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad," she said.**

The economic downturn was caused mainly by border closures and consequent international travel restrictions which resulted in decline in tourism and other economic activities, with steps taken to close borders and related restrictions by many countries including those with intense trade relations with Tanzania.

"Secondly, our country had above normal rains which vastly damaged infrastructure and delayed implementation of some key development projects," she said.

Also, towards the end of 2021, Tanzania witnessed inflation reaching 4.1 per cent, caused mainly by the hike in oil prices and impacts of the pandemic.

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## 'Street trees can save our cities'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) and Dodoma City Council (DCC) officials have been given three weeks to take steps to beautify the government city at Mtumba area in Dodoma by planting trees. Getting people involved in the planting process makes communities even happier.

Dr Selemani Jafo (pictured), the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), issued the directive yesterday during a working visit to the area to inspect



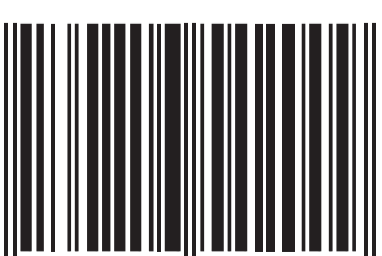
**He said the government has invested about 89bn/- for the road infrastructure in the zone; therefore, there is every need to secure its environmental appropriateness by ensuring it is cooled by tree lined avenues.**

the environmental situation, commending TARURA for progress in road building in the area.

He said the government has invested about 89bn/- for the road infrastructure in the zone; therefore, there is every need to secure its environmental appropriateness by ensuring it is cooled by tree lined avenues.

He remarked that the roads are built to the required standard with drainage preventing soil erosion and blocking of canals when it rains, recommending that fruit trees be planted to create a beautiful landscape around the government city.

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## Late rains spark inflation risks, prayer call in Southern Africa

By Special Correspondent

POOR rainfall over vast tracts of southern Africa has delayed crop plantings and prompted a presidential call for prayer, with drought conditions threatening the 2022 harvest and stoking risks of higher food inflation.

Precipitation through mid-December has been significantly below average across Madagascar, Malawi, central and northern Mozambique, and north western Zimbabwe, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, a U.S. government-backed organization that tracks food insecurity. Farmers in Zambia have also been hit. Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera has called for a week of prayers for rain.

"Across these areas, drought conditions are on-going to start the season," Few's Net said in a statement on its website Friday. "Land preparation activities are delayed, and planting has yet to begin across many areas as of November."

If rains don't come before the planting window closes, next year's harvests will be smaller with a knock-on effect on food prices. Most farmers in the region grow white corn that's ground and mixed with water to make a porridge that serves as the staple food. The planting season normally starts in November for much of the region, with

harvesting complete around April.

Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia already have double-digit inflation rates and the latter two's central banks hiked their key interest rates in the final quarter of this year to tame price-growth. Although regional corn stock levels remain above average, monthly prices were rising and above average, according to Few's Net. Weaker domestic currencies and surging global corn prices have already hurt import-dependent countries, it said.

The potential crisis is developing two years into a coronavirus pandemic that's led to a spike in hunger around the world and as food prices climbed closer to a record high. A United Nations gauge of global food prices rose 1.2% last month.

Bumper 2021 harvests in nations including Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa could help alleviate food-supply pressures.

South Africa, which has the region's largest economy and is its biggest corn producer, has so far had above-average rainfall thanks to the La Nina weather phenomenon. Still, there are risks to crop yields in excessively wet areas of the country, where planting and fertilizer spraying have been delayed, according to Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa.

## RC: Singida region completes construction of 664 classrooms

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA region has completed the construction of 664 classrooms worth 14.4bn/- under the Covid-19 recovery fund from the International Monetary Funds (IMF).

Speaking when he was handed over the classrooms Singida Regional Commissioner, Bilinith Mahenge said all the districts in the region have finalized construction by 90-percent.

He said there are 664 classrooms that have been constructed in the whole region in which 330 were for secondary schools and 332 for primary schools located in Manyoni and Singida district council.

Dr Mahenge hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for circulating the money to regions and districts which have helped a huge population.

The Regional Administrative Secretary for Singida, Dorothy Mwaluko said Mkalama district has constructed 83 classrooms in which 1.2bn/- was disbursed but the district received 1.1bn/-.

She said in Itigi district the total number of infrastructure was 176 and 3.5bn/- was approved and disbursed.

He said Singida municipality has constructed 42 classrooms and 840m/- was disbursed and handed over to the municipal

council. Mwaluko said Singida district council had 68 classrooms and 1.4bn/- was disbursed and received by the council.

In Manyoni, the region has constructed 122 classrooms and 2.5bn/- was allocated and given to the local government authorities.



**The Regional Administrative Secretary for Singida, Dorothy Mwaluko said Mkalama district has constructed 83 classrooms in which 1.2bn/- was disbursed but the district received 1.1bn/-.**

She added that Ikungi district had 132 classrooms and received 2.6bn/- for implementing the projects.

Iramba district was supposed to construct 61 classrooms where it received 1.2bn/- which was immediately disbursed and received by the district.

She added that it was only Ikungi district which went far to implement the construction of hostels, offices for teachers and other supporting staff.



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (R) in discussion with Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency manager Upendo Lugongo (C) during the signing ceremony of 16 water project which will be implemented in 7 districts in Tanga region worth 8.2bn/- and will be completed in 6 months time. Left is regional administration secretary Pili Mnyema. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

# Samia bides 2021: Death of JPM, Isles VP, drought

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as factories shut down causing supply chain problems in the world economy, she said.

Despite the distressing challenges, Tanzania remained a peaceful and united country with solidarity amongst citizens, she stated, noting further that despite the Covid-19 disruptions, "we posted positive economic growth, being among 11 African countries that did so out of 54."

"This was possible because we

allowed our people to continue with economic activities instead of putting in place lockdowns like other countries," she said.

To avoid negative economic impact, the government ensured that inflation is controlled between three and five per cent as well as ensuring availability of foreign reserves, she affirmed, highlighting that as of yesterday, Tanzania had around \$6.253bn which is enough for importation of essentials for up to seven months.

"To attract investors and inject

money into circulation, we conducted reforms in policies and the legal, regulatory and administrative aspects and as a result we registered 237 investments worth \$4.144bn in 2021, up from 186 projects worth \$1.013bn the previous year," the president underlined.

In the agriculture sector, the government empowered the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) with a 208bn/- infusion in additional capital to enable the lender to reach more farmers with loans, she said.

Tanzania removed trade barriers and opened produce sale centres in Kenya, South Sudan, China, India, Ukraine, the European Union, the SADC zone as well as Saudi Arabia, she stated, expressing satisfaction with tourism that it was hardest-hit globally during 2020, but has rapidly shown signs of recovery in the final months of last year.

"As of December 2021, the tourism sector had managed to register 1.4m visitors compared to 620,867 during all of 2020," she added.



Mining minister Dr Doto Biteko talks with gold miners of Nyamalimbe Makarashani in Geita region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Corruption, embezzlement touch Mwinyi at New Year

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Tanzania and the world was the Covid-19 pandemic as it resulted in a slump of the economy, following disruptions of key economic sectors such as tourism.

The government has taken several measures to respond to the impact occasioned by the disruptions in collaboration with friendly countries, the private sector and international organisations, he stated, highlighting that Zanzibar so far has 41 Covid-19 vaccination

centres (29 in Unguja and 12 in Pemba).

"Let's continue working hard in 2022 and take all precautionary measures against Covid-19 especially with the new Omicron variant," he urged.

"In efforts to counter the impact of Covid-19, we received a loan of \$100m (over 230bn/-) which will be directed towards improvement of health, education, water and electricity," he recalled, explaining that 81bn/- has been set aside for small and medium scale

entrepreneurs.

Prudent use of the loan and other funds was necessary to make the best of available funds and in the future, he stated, expressing optimism that 2022 will be a prosperous year for Tanzania.

The year 2021 was marked by some sad events, including the death of fifth phase President Dr John Magufuli and Zanzibar First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad. "We Tanzanians were saddened by the loss of these leaders," he emotionally recalled.

On a positive note, he said Tanzania made history in 2021 by swearing in the first female president, Samia Suluhu Hassan on March 19th.

"For the first time, our country got an opportunity to be led by a female president. This is a historic event not only for Tanzania but for the entire continent of Africa considering the fact that there are only a handful of countries on the continent to have been led by women up to now," he added.

## 'Street trees can save our cities'

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Seeing no reason to delay the start of the exercise he ordered TARURA and DCC to embark on its implementation right away.

Dr Veronica Mirambo, the head of the environment and community unit at TARURA, said the agency plans to plant trees on road pavements in the area. What remains in environmental restoration is filling up excavated portions during construction and planting trees for a natural state environment, she said.

Ali Mfinanga, the city environmental officer said the department was working with the

Tanzania Forestry Agency (TFS) to bring the city into its strategies for the central zone.

Various stakeholders including financial institutions are expected to participate in the tree planting exercise by taking up particular roads, he said.

"With the infrastructure that has been built and continues to be built here such as paved roads, street lighting, modern buildings and other infrastructure will make this city a unique attraction," he stated.

The government city building is now in its second phase, involving the construction of large blocks of flats for each ministry, he added.

# 'Zanzibar will continue to embrace transparency in economic planning'

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR'S Permanent Secretary in the President's Office, Finance and Planning, Dr Juma Malik Akili has said the government will continue to embrace transparency in its economic planning to ensure every citizen is aware of what is going on within the government.

Dr Akili who is the Chairman of the budget forum in Zanzibar said this when opening the budget forum conference for both central and local government at the Sheikh Idrissa Abdul Wakil hall in Kikwajuni.

He said the move would help the people to reduce people's complaints against the government and increase trust with the government's planning for various development projects.

The PS said the aim of the forum was to engage various stakeholders whose views are important towards development as well as making sure that no one is left behind in the planning.

He said the forum was established in accordance with the Zanzibar's Finance Act, 2016 Section 38 which requires the government to conduct such platforms as it prepares the nation's budget for the coming year. He said the on-going 2022/2023 budget preparations under the forum are in line with the laws, and that delegates will also discuss the 2025 development plan.

He said it is important for the government to engage stakeholders in budget preparations to make sure citizen's views are included in government planning.

"We are all witnesses on how our leaders have been engaging

people in their economic activities, the budget preparation has always been participatory and it is implemented as per legal requirement," he said.

Commenting on the challenge of COVID-19, he said apart from the various strategies implemented by Zanzibar to combat the spread of the disease, its economy was hardly hit by the pandemic. He said the mostly hit sectors included tourism because the number of visitors who visited the Isles declined during the outbreak.

Dr Akili said it is important for the coming budget to consider ways that will help to mitigate COVID-19 challenges, as the disease continues to affect economies in countries around the globe. However, he noted that Zanzibar's economy is expected to grow by about 5.9 per cent in the coming financial year despite the challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19.

Commissioner of Budget in the President's Office (Finance and Planning), Saumu Khatib Haji was optimistic that the government would be able to properly implement this year's budget by the end of June.

Head of Public Debt Management Office, Ali Tamim said the national debt has increased in three years to 222bn/- in 2020/2021 from 161bn/- in 2018/2019, an increase of 38 per cent.

Chairman of the association of Zanzibar business community and farmers, Hamad Hamad underscored the need for the government to ensure participation of the private sector in budget preparation.

He said private sector engagement helps the government to plan accordingly.



Deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth and Employment who is also Shinyanga urban MP Patrobas Katambi addresses a public rally yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

# Police bans practices of fireworks, burning of tyres during New Year's eve celebration

By Correspondent James Lanka,

Moshi

POLICE in Kilimanjaro region has warned residents to celebrate the New Year's Eve peacefully and avoid burning tyres on the roads.

Addressing journalists yesterday here, Regional Police Commander (RPC), Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Simon Maigwa said that security will be strengthened throughout the festive season saying that those who will be found going against the directives will

face stern measures. He said police officers will secure all public places such as churches, dancing halls, night clubs all hours to make sure that people are celebrating New Year Celebrations Eve safely.

"The force is well prepared on this to ensure that people celebrate the festive well, but my appeal to the Moshi residents is to us on this by adhering to rules and regulations. We advice that while other members of the family go out for night masses, then leave someone at home for more security," he insisted.

He pointed out that there is a

high increase of motor vehicles in Moshi Municipality and urged road users to adhere to all traffic rules regulations to avoid unnecessary accidents.

According to him, those who will break the laws will be arrested regardless of New Year's celebrations.

The RPC also appealed to the wananchi to cooperate with the police force by providing important information that will help to the arrest of criminals.

Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Senior

Superintendent of Police (SSP) Zauda Mohammed said they have increased all the important facilities and human resources to all 'danger' zones in Arusha/Dar-es-salaam highway to avoid unnecessary road accidents.

"During this Christmas and New Year's festive season, we have experienced a high increase in the number of motor vehicles in our region, particularly private cars, and my appeal to all drivers is to obey road safety rules to avoid unnecessary road accidents," she insisted.



Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology Council chairman, Dr Richard Masika, (R) listens to electric Engineer Allanus Nungu during the launch of DIT ICB board in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Govt urges Tanesco in Shinyanga to evaluate performance following increased complaints

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

DEPUTY Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Labour, Youth and Employment, Patrobas Katambi has urged the Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (Tanesco) in Shinyanga region to evaluate its performance following an increase of public complaints over poor services.

Katambi, who is the Member of Parliament for Shinyanga Urban, made the remarks here during the meeting to hear and receive the implementation report of plans from various government institutions. Katambi said he has been receiving many complaints from the public, about the company's unsatisfactory performance, including failure to connect them to power on time despite paying for the service, as well as not repairing meter installation after faulty.

"Complaints on power outages, this I know that it is faces the whole country, where improvements are being made, but this on delay in connecting electricity services to the people has become chronic, I ask you now to evaluate yourself, and if you fail to work, tell the Minister of Energy to find right people who will be able to serve people," he said.

"Your reports also are contradicting, a few days ago during the public meeting, the acting regional manager said the company has 900 customers to connect them to

power, today the manager says you have 3,000 customers, so who is telling the truth here," he queried.

The minister urged the company to increase the efficiency of work, and not to be influenced or even instructed by political officials, but to work in accordance with rules and regulations so as to serve the people well.

**"Your reports also are contradicting, a few days ago during the public meeting, the acting regional manager said the company has 900 customers to connect them to power, today the manager says you have 3,000 customers, so who is telling the truth here," he queried.**

Lubeni Kitinya, Kizumbi ward councillor said that some workers in the company have been prioritizing bribes for them to provide service.

Tanesco's regional manager, Eng. Grace Ntungu assured the deputy minister that they are going to work on all the directives which include working on all the complaints issued by people.

She said the company is implementing 74 power supply projects worth 2.8bn/- for the 2021/22 fiscal year, more which will improve power services in the region.

# Make cooking gas affordable to save forests - says TFS

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Forests Service Agency (TFS) has called upon authorities responsible for gas energy to find ways to sell the energy to households to alternate the use of charcoal which is threatening the environment.

The call was made by forest conservationist Byela Kahangwa when he toured Chenene forest in Dodoma in which he was accompanied by the District Commissioner Mwanahamisi

Munkunda.

Speaking to village heads after touring the forest Kahangwa said due to the acute use of charcoal, people are now shifting to forests and cutting down trees which have a big impact on the environment.

According to the official, due to the growth of the city of Dodoma there has been an increase in use of charcoal, a move that leads to deforestation especially in Chenene village.

This has made TFS to call upon those responsible for distribution

of gas energy to circulate gas into houses so that people alternate with use of charcoal.

"This can be possible by inviting investors in Dodoma and surrounding villages to ensure people start using gas instead of charcoal.

Apart from that, he said the problem which hinders forest conservation in Dodoma was the total dependence of forests and charcoal as source of energy.

"Instead of charging 2000 on every bag of charcoal or timber,

forestry products regulations and rules should be followed and that anyone who will be caught going against serious legal actions should be taken against him or her," he said.

After listening to the official, the District Commissioner for Bahi administered the formulation of a security team to monitor those who illegally enter the forest to harvest forest products.

He said it was the role of village officials to educate residents not to cultivate charcoal in the forest which is the lung for Dodoma city.

## Digital space expands business opportunities for youth in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

YOUTH in Zanzibar have taken advantage of digital space to expand business opportunities online; increasing their income hence improved standards of living.

Speaking during the Zanzibar Youth Forum held virtually recently, the young people said that if well utilized, social networks and other safe digital space can transform lives of majority of people especially entrepreneurs.

Maulid Suleiman, director of the Zanzibar Youth Forum, who were the organizers of the meeting said, Tanzania youth were exposed to a number of opportunities that requires digital innovations, but lack of relevant skills in utilizing the opportunities stands among major challenge.

He said that the forum was aimed at enabling more youth in Zanzibar and other parts in the country to grab and utilize fully positive digital opportunities, create jobs to improve their income.

Suleiman said that the organization will continue supporting youth on proper utilization of the internet for their development.

Zuhura Ali, one of the participants said social network use has increased and simplified businesses especially after the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Majority of entrepreneurs are now taking advantage of the social networks to market and sell products, this supports increase of income. So, as young people should take intensive use of the networks in a positive ways to improve our businesses," she said.

She urged mobile networks to reduce expenses of internet bundles so as to support young



**"Majority of entrepreneurs are now taking advantage of the social networks to market and sell products, this supports increase of income. So, as young people should take intensive use of the networks in a positive ways to improve our businesses," she said.**

people to conduct their business online.

Khelef Nassor, digital space expert, said social networks have provided employment to majority of youth across the World.

"Some youth have been earning through uploading content in social networks and later get good returns. What is needed here is creativity and hard work," he said.

He urged youth to wake up, be innovative and start utilizing opportunities available in the internet by coming up ideas which can later transform their incomes.



Noel Mwalimu (R) decorates Musa Lemugoha of Nzali village as part of Gogo tribe tradition in Chamwino, Dodoma region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Minister directs all councils to strengthen revenue collections

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

DEPUTY Minister, President's office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Dr Festo Dugange has directed all councils in the country to strengthen revenue collections and set aside 40 per cent of the income to support projects initiated by citizens.

He wants councils' executives and staff to work hard to achieve the revenue collection targets so as to help complete buildings of schools, dispensaries and health

centres.

Dugange made the directives recently during his tour to Shinyanga region to inspect the construction of health centres and classrooms.

He said citizens have been motivated to build various buildings including dispensaries and health centres, but the government has been slow to support completion of the buildings, so all councils in the country should ensure that they allocate 40 per cent of revenues to complete the construction.

"We thank President Samia

Suluhu Hassan for issuing funds for the construction of health centres and classrooms across the country," he said. He however, expressed satisfaction with the pace of construction of health centres and classrooms, in the two councils he visited to inspect the projects including Kishapu and Shinyanga, and ordered them to complete them on time so as to commence operation next year.

The deputy minister also instructed all councils in the country to continue to allocate 10 per cent of income to provide loans

to women, youth and people with disabilities.

Executive directors (DEDs) of the two councils, Emmanuel Johnson of Kishapu and Jomaary Satura of Shinyanga Municipality, pledged to implement all the directives issued by the deputy minister.

The leaders commended citizens in the districts for their commitment to contributing to development activities including construction of buildings as well as participating in digging foundations for the construction of health centres and classrooms.



Special needs students' education officer in Muheza district, Tanga region, Sudi Wabureads a report to parents and guardians during the luncheon aimed to raise funds for the completion of dormitories of mentally handicapped pupils of Masuguru primary school yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Rice intensification technology benefits farmers in Morogoro

By Guardian Reporter

RICE farmers in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region have hailed the government and stakeholders for training them on a system of rice intensification technology (SRI) saying that it has shown more resilience to the hazards of climate change and increased crop productivity.

System of rice intensification (SRI) is a rice farming method that uses less water and fewer seeds but following the best agricultural practises such as timely ploughing, planting seedlings within seven to ten days from the nursery enables the farmer to get higher yield than traditional farming.

Maua Hamis (52), a resident of Mkindo village in Mvomero district is among the farmers who have benefited from the training which have in turn transformed her lives due following increase of yields in farm.

Maua, a mother of four, has spent almost over 30 years in farm but was only getting a few harvests due to lack of skills, tools and needed

support to improve her farming.

She is now happy following the training provided to her and other fellow farmers in the village on the new rice farming technology which pays them a lot.

Dubbed "Development of an Inclusive, Competitive and Sustainable Rice Value Chain," the five year project commenced in 2019, is implemented by the Agricultural Council of Tanzania and funded by the European Union under the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU).

As a lead farmer, Maua says that with new technology, she has increased rice production from the previous 8 to 10 bags per acre to more than 40 bags per acre.

She explained that the majority of farmers have changed ways of growing rice and managing water and soils and are now witnessing increased rice productivity.

"In the 2019/20 season I harvested 40 bags of rice which I later sold and bought dairy cows, something which

has boosted her daily income," she said.

In the 2020/21 season, harvest dropped to 28 bags per acre due lack of rainfall, but the majority of farmers who applied traditional methods ended up harvesting 3 bags per acre.

"I used the funds from the farm to renovate my house by putting in new and modern windows, the other funds I bought 100 chickens to commence poultry farming. The SRI technology has come as a saviour to us and we really appreciate ACT for training us on how to engage in this kind of farming," she said.

Maua however said that currently, there were still a number of farmers still depending on traditional rain fed agriculture with poor or shortage of inputs, a situation which reduces yields and productivity.

Project Coordinator from ACT, Hendry Mziray said a number of efforts are being implemented to support rice farmers to change traditional farming that affects their progress.

He said that through the project, the council has trained a number of

farmers on SRI technology which provide benefits even after being hit with hard weather conditions due to climate change.

He said that cooperation between the private and public sector has restored hope to farmers who now mostly conduct subsistence farming due to several challenges.

Rice is one of the major staple foods and a mainstay for the rural population and their food security and Mvomero rice is one of main food and cash crops cultivated by small farmers in holdings of less than one hectare.

"The project which is implemented in Mkindo and Dawaka irrigation schemes in Morogoro, aims to benefit more 1600 rice farmers with most of them being women and youth," he said.

Farmers have learnt how to effectively and efficiently use water with their crops showing more resilience to the hazards of climate change, unlike traditional methods; the SRI has enabled many farmers to expand their agriculture from the previous one acre to more than two acres in a single agricultural season.

## South Africa says Omicron wave may have peaked

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa has lifted overnight curfew rules, with officials saying the country may have passed the peak of its fourth wave of Covid-19 infections.

A government statement said the Omicron variant, while highly transmissible, had seen lower hospitalisation rates than previous waves.

There had been a marginal increase in the number of deaths, it added.

The variant - first reported by South Africa last month - is spreading fast elsewhere leading to widespread curbs.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned of a "tsunami" of infections from Delta and Omicron variants that could overwhelm health systems.

But in South Africa, a statement released after a special cabinet meeting said cases and hospital admission rates had dropped in almost all provinces across the country.

For the week ending 25 December 2021, the number of confirmed infections stood at 89,781 - down from 127,753 the week before.

The changes announced include lifting restrictions on movement between midnight and 04:00. Businesses will also be allowed to sell alcohol under normal licensing rules, instead of closing at 23:00.

Overnight curfew rules of varying severities have been in place since a national state of disaster was declared in late March 2020.

The country still has "spare capacity for admission of patients even for routine health services"

despite the Omicron wave, officials said.

The public are still being urged to get vaccinated and follow public health protocols, including mandatory mask-wearing.

Gatherings remain capped at 1,000 people indoors and 2,000 outdoors or 50% at venue capacity to allow for social distancing.



**The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned of a "tsunami" of infections from Delta and Omicron variants that could overwhelm health systems.**

The National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) will monitor the situation and make adjustments if necessary or if hospital pressure increases, officials said.

South Africa has recorded almost 3.5 million Covid-19 cases and more than 90,000 deaths during the pandemic - more than any other country in Africa.

Many countries around the world are battling the Omicron wave while weighing up restrictions.



Temeke district marketing manager Dotto Kilangi, pastesa sticker on the motorbike during the launch of 'Safari Salama Bila Rushwa ya Ngoni Inawezekana' conducted by Women in Development dubbed: WAJIKI in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is WAJIKI director Janeth Mawinza. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Dodoma to produce 1.35 million tonnes of food crops during 2021/22 season

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Region is planning to produce 1.35 million tonnes of food crops and 596,338 tonnes of cash crops during the 2021/22 agriculture season.

The tonnes of produce will be cultivated in 751,259 hectares of food crops and 540,482 hectares of cash crops.

Dodoma regional agriculture officer Benard Abraham said this recently while presenting his department's report at a regional advisory committee meeting.

He said the region is estimated to have a population of 2,729,668

people where food actual demand is 647,614 tonnes of carbohydrate food and 97,142.06 tonnes are nutritional food.

"Statistics show that the region has harvested 898,583 tonnes of carbohydrates and 72,477 tonnes of nutritional food (protein). We expect to harvest 1,349,147.82 tonnes of food crops in the coming season," he said.

He said on that basis, the region is self-sufficient in carbohydrate products with a surplus of 250,969 tonnes and will have a deficit of 24,665 tonnes of nutritious foods.

Abraham also cited poor use of inputs and lack of quality farming equipment as among the major

challenges thwarting development of agriculture in the region.

"Majority of farmers are not adhering to best farming practices in their production activities, many citizens also do not have the habit of storing enough food for long-term use," he added.

He cited other challenges, such as uncertain markets and low prices for agricultural products as well as climate change leading to droughts and outbreaks of plant diseases and pests.

The official outlined strategies to address the challenges including strengthening supervision of production of priority crops which

are sorghum, sunflower and grapes.

"Another strategy is the involvement of local leaders in supervision of agriculture, strengthening communications so as to deliver services to farmers. We should also strengthen irrigation agriculture and invest in ways to reduce post-harvest losses," he asserted.

However, he said according to the weather forecast issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) this season, rains were expected to start in Dodoma Region in the second and third weeks of December but until now there is no rain.

## UN Women: Covid-19 exacerbated female HIV infections globally

By Special Correspondent

THE Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated HIV among women across the globe.

A UN Women statement indicates that in 2020, women aged 15 and older accounted for more than 50 per cent of all new HIV infections globally, for the first time.

Data from UNAids, the UN body says, women made up 65 per cent of new infections in Sub-Saharan Africa and 52 per cent in the Caribbean.

In 2020, roughly 5,000 adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24 were facing new HIV infections every week, with adolescent girls living with HIV now outnumbering adolescent boys.

The number of new HIV infections, the UN Women notes, is also rising among women in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, in the Middle East and North Africa.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the economic and social inequalities that drive such trends. Poverty and food insecurity, gender-based violence, stigma and discrimination, and child and forced marriage, all raise the risk of HIV infection for women and girls and limit their access to services," UN Women says.

Unavailability or reductions in routine HIV, sexual and reproductive health and social support services during this period, have left women and girls vulnerable, particularly during periods of lockdown and

isolation.

To reverse these trends and build stronger health systems that can withstand repeated and varied pandemics, the UN body is rooting for the passing of non-discriminatory laws and policies and ensuring adequate financing for gender equality.

"We are also advocating for the deployment of targeted, age-appropriate approaches that support women and girls, in all their diversity, with stigma-free services, along with enabling environments for women and girls to realise their rights and engage in decision-making processes at all levels of the HIV response," their statement says.

In 2016, data released by UN Women showed there were an estimated 17.8 million women living with HIV (15 years and older), constituting 52 per cent of all adults living with HIV in the world.

Young women and adolescent girls aged 15-24 were particularly affected, with an estimated 2.4 million adolescent girls and young women living with HIV that constituted 61 per cent of all young people living with HIV.

Among the total estimated 1.7 million new HIV infections among adults (15 and older) globally, 790,000 or 48 per cent were among women.

An estimated 59 per cent of new HIV infections among young persons aged 15 to 24 in 2016, occurred among adolescent girls and young women.

## Kahama council offers no-interest loans worth 64.2m/- to 20 groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

KAHAMA municipal council in Shinyanga Region has provided no-interest loans worth 64.2m/- to 20 groups of people with disabilities (PwDs) to help them improve their businesses.

The funds have been disbursed to the groups in a period of three years from the 2018/2019 financial year to 2020/2021.

The municipal's community development officer, Robert Kwela said the move has helped to end their long time cry over lack of business capital.

Speaking to this paper on how the municipal has been struggling to empower small scale entrepreneurs and people with disabilities, he said such loans would improve their family's welfare and reduce street beggars.

The law requires district councils to use 10 percent of their internal revenues for issuance of loans to special groups—PWDs, women and youth, but the amount allocated for the purpose differs at each of the district councils

"We have provided 64.2m/- in loans to PWDs in three years; in the 2018/2019 financial year, we provided loans worth 15m/- to seven groups of entrepreneurs. They have so far repaid 11.588m/-," he said.

Kwela said that in the 2019/2020 financial year the municipal offered loans worth 5m/- to groups small scale entrepreneurs, adding they have so far repaid 3.33m/-. He said they are expecting them to complete repayment of the 2.97m/- in coming months.

He said a total of eight groups received loans amounting to 44.215m/- in the 2020/2021 financial year whereas they have so far repaid 13.470m/-. He said the municipal is finalizing plans for issuance of loans to special groups in this financial year.

"We have been allocating funds from internal collections for issuance of loans to special groups, we are finalizing processes for issuance of loans to the groups this fiscal year," he calling upon beneficiaries to ensure timely repayment of the loans to enable many people to benefit with the

program.

Speaking in the National in February this year, Deputy Minister in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Festo Dugange said that issuance of loans have improved following implementation of the Local Government Finance Act, CAP 290 which started in the 2018/2019 financial year.

Since introduction of the law, some 79 district councils have issued the loans by 100 percent whereas 54 district councils have implemented the Act by more than 85 percent.

Deputy Minister Dugange stated that provision of loans to the special groups—women, youth and people with disabilities have been improved following amendment of the Local Government Finance Act Cap 290 in July 2018.



**"We have been allocating funds from internal collections for issuance of loans to special groups, we are finalizing processes for issuance of loans to the groups this fiscal year," he calling upon beneficiaries to ensure timely repayment of the loans to enable many people to benefit with the program.**

Dugange added that the amendment included adding of Section 37A which insists on issuance of the loans in each financial year.

He said that before amendment of the law in the 2017/2018 financial year, loans amounting to 26.1bn/- were issued by district councils across the country.

He said the amount is small compared to loans worth 42.06bn/- which were issued after introduction of the law in the 2018/2019 financial year.

He added that loans worth 40.7bn/- were issued in the 2019/2020 financial year.

The Deputy Minister noted that the law requires all the district executive directors to issue the loans. Failure to provide loans to the special groups may result in disciplinary measures as per Section 24 (2) of the law.



Association for Spina Bifida and hydrocephalus Tanzania coordinator Hidaya Alawispeaks at a workshop in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## TASAF programme transforms lives of many poor households

By Getrude Mbagu

IMPLEMENTATION of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) programme in Mkuranga District, Coast Region has transformed lives of hundreds of poor households that were previously living in abject poverty.

According to TASAF coordinator in Mkuranga, Safina Msemu, over 2500 poor households out of the total 3694 beneficiary households, are now engaging in various income generating activities, something which they were unable to do before being enrolled in the project.

She made the statement this week, when the Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Public Services Management and Good Governance, Deogratius Ndejemi visited TASAF beneficiaries in Kiparang'anda A village in the district.

She said the project which commenced in 2014, is bearing fruits especially in the areas of education, health and household income.

She said a number of students in the households have art trained

graduating from universities while others benefit from vocational education.

Msemu said six students from poor households have reached higher education and that three are female and the other three are male.

"There are 32 young people from the households who have received training in electrical engineering, automotive, driving, food processing as well as 'batik' making from Ikwiriri Community Development College and the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO)," she said. She further said a total of 1437 households improved their houses by rehabilitating them with iron roofs, constructing new ones as well as connecting their homes with power.

"A total of 2695 households used the funds and the entrepreneurship education which they receive from TASAF by initiating small-scale income generating projects including shops, snacks making, fruits, cassava and beans farming. This has helped them to improve their income and lives," she explained.

Mkuranga District Executive Director (DED) Mwantum Mgonja said in the implementation of the second phase of the TASAF's Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN), a total of 1922 poor households have been registered and approved to be included in the current programme.

She said a total of 205 savings and investment groups have been formed and that out of these 156 groups are registered in the Central Bank system. Mgonja said most of the beneficiary households in the district are now able to afford basic necessities including food, clothing and permanent settlements.

Deputy Minister Ndejemi urged beneficiaries of the TASAF's grants to make proper use of the funds and training they receive by initiating small-scale income generating projects to improve their economic well-being.

He said that without investing in proper use of the funds that beneficiaries receive, they will not see any improvement and the programme will not achieve its intended goals.

He wanted the grant recipients to refrain from lavish spending and instead focus on basic social needs. He said the project aims at supporting the fight against poverty at household level.

"All beneficiaries should make good use of the knowledge and resources they are receiving to establish income generating activities which will assist them later especially when the programme will end," he said.

Villagers in Kiparang'anda hailed the TASAF's poverty reduction strategy saying that the scheme has apparently reduced poverty and hunger among them.

Zainaba Saidi, one of the beneficiaries from the village said that the project has become an ideal vehicle for poverty alleviation by engaging poor households into income generating activities thus improving their welfare.

According to her, the cash transfer has improved food security at her home and other household level as beneficiaries use part of cash benefits to start farming while keeping on with other businesses.

## Tanzanian farmers not reaping more due to poor systems - Bashe

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe has said Tanzanian farmers are not reaping more from sweat due to poor systems developed by cooperatives that do not enable them to practice commercial agriculture.

Bashe also urged leaders of the farmer's cooperative unions to properly supervise and direct farmers on the kind of crops to cultivate when the specific agricultural season is over. He said there are a number of short-term strategic crops which can be cultivated and enable them to continue earning money even after the agricultural season.

He said it was not beneficial for farmers to cultivate a single crop throughout the season because there are crops which can be planted and harvested within a short period.

"Farmers should be assisted to move from the traditional system of cultivating a single crop per season;

they should be assisted to practice mixed agriculture by planting short term crops to enable them to have monies throughout the year," said the Deputy Minister.

"Our farmers are not poor; the government has been putting in place good strategies to ensure availability of agricultural inputs, but systems set cooperative unions needs to be changed to enable farmers to benefit from their sweat," he added.

The Deputy Minister was happy with selling of various cash crops during the previous agricultural season. He said most of the crops including cashewnuts and cotton were all sold fairly.

Assistant Registrar of the Cooperatives, Charles Malunde urged the farmers union to work on the deputy ministers directives. He said to ensure quality and increased productivity, leaders should make sure all the directives by the ministry of agriculture are implemented accordingly.

## Dar es Salaam municipality councils directed to look for competent garbage collectors

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister, Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Hamad Hassan Chande has directed all the councils in Dar es Salaam Region to look for competent garbage collectors to operate at its major markets.

Chande directed the councils to make sure they enter into contracts with competent garbage collectors and supervise them closely.

He made the directives yesterday shortly after inspecting a market at Tegeta-Nyuki in Kinondoni District. He was disappointed that authorities at the market have failed to supervise waste disposal.

"You should look for competent garbage collectors to manage the market's waste dumping sites. Contractors must operate accordingly and ensure frequent removal of wastes," he said.

Kinondoni District Environment Officer, Awadhi Jambo said they have plans to renovate all the markets, and that the Tegeta-Nyuki market would be reconstructed.

The Deputy Minister also made the impromptu visit at the H & J Fibre Investment which produces raw materials for manufacturing of sacks, whereas he gave the factory management

a 14 days ultimatum to repair its waste water management systems.

"There should be proper waste water management to protect the health of residents surrounding the factory. I am giving you 14 days to repair all the waste water infrastructures," he said, adding the government will take stringent measures.

Nestory Lucas from the Wami/Ruvu Basin said ordered the factory management to visit their office to be provided with procedures on how to dump water in the Ng'ombe River.

He said it was illegal for the factory to direct all its waste water to the river, the thing that poses health risks to water users.

Assistant Manager from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) Lilian John said the industry discharges waste water without following procedures.

She said some of the workers do not have protective gear and that there is no environment officer.

H & J Fibre Investment Operations Manager, Kelvin Payomela promised to work on all the deputy minister's directives. He said they will also purchase protective gear for their employees.



Eden Twins Foundation chairperson Diana Mbenalooks at triplets born at Buguruni Malapacentre in Dar es Salaam recently after presenting food stuff donation. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Uganda confirms 1,800 new COVID-19 cases - govt

KAMPALA

UGANDA has recorded 1,809 more cases of COVID-19 with four more deaths from the virus, the ministry of health has announced.

Cases in the East African nation have risen to 139,079

since March last year when the first case was confirmed.

The new cases recorded were out of 8,313 tests done on December 28, according to the ministry.

The number of recoveries stands at 98,379 while the

death toll rises to 3,291.

According to data from the ministry, 2,136, 079 tests have been conducted with 11.37 percent administered across the country.

President Yoweri Museveni is scheduled to address the

nation on December 31 on the COVID-19 situation in Uganda and the reopening of the economy that has been under lockdown put in place for the past two years to curb the spread of the virus.

**"You should look for competent garbage collectors to manage the market's waste dumping sites. Contractors must operate accordingly and ensure frequent removal of wastes," he said.**



Tanzanite businessman Saniniu Laizer (L) speaks after receiving a gift of candle for his contribution in education sector presented to him by O'Brien primary school Dr Wia Mae (C). Right is O'Brien school's head mistress Nimla Mbangi. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Reporter

THE Independent Allocation of Vaccines Group (IAVG) has issued a set of recommendations to make the allocation of COVID-19 vaccines more equitable and effective.

The group was established a year ago to validate and assess vaccine allocations recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Gavi's Joint Allocation Taskforce (JAT) of COVAX.

COVAX was envisioned to be the world's primary distributor of COVID-19 vaccines, with IAVG serving as an independent referee for needs-based allocations.

But rich nations largely

## Group issues recommendations to achieve 70 per cent COVID-19 immunisation by 2022

sidestepped COVAX, hoarding doses for their own populations and cutting deals directly with low- and middle-income countries. This has made subsequent allocation decisions even more challenging.

The IAVG is concerned that the primary priority use of available vaccines is not consistent with the goals outlined in the Strategy to Achieve Global COVID-19 Vaccination by Mid-2022 in October 2021.

The group also noted that it has validated the allocation of only 730

million of the estimated 8 billion doses of vaccine that have been administered globally, which is less than 10 percent.

The rapid emergence of the Omicron variant is a stark reminder of the on-going threat posed by the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and reinforces the critical need to achieve high levels of immunization coverage in all countries, including in highly vulnerable populations, in a timely manner.

The IAVG is calling for achievement

of 70 percent coverage with COVID-19 vaccines in all countries as a global imperative.

As the overall vaccine supply to COVAX is anticipated to continue to grow substantially next year, COVAX will have a greater opportunity to contribute to achieving this goal.

Manufacturers, vaccine-producing and high-coverage countries must prioritize vaccine equity and transparency, including the sharing of information about manufacturing capacity and supply schedules with

COVAX, as well as vaccine access plans.

Greater attention must be paid to who is being immunized. Equity must remain the overarching principle, and priority must be given in all countries to ensuring that the primary series is offered first and foremost to all adults and adolescents, in the step-wise manner recommended by the WHO, given that a high proportion of these populations still require primary immunization.

Given the global health and epidemiologic consequences of failing to immunize vulnerable populations, including those in humanitarian settings, the IAVG recommends that COVAX continue to work with all manufacturers and countries to immediately increase the availability and uptake of vaccines in these populations.

It suggests that all countries must have a steady, predictable supply of COVID-19 vaccines, which meet the unique needs.

In order to increase demand for COVID-19 vaccines, on-going, concerted global, national and local leadership is required to address vaccine misinformation.

# Prioritise agriculture in New Year, cleric tells the Ugandans

By Jessica Nabukenya

THE chairperson of Uganda Episcopal Conference, also Kiyinda-Mityana Bishop Joseph Antony Zziwa has asked Ugandans to prioritise agriculture in the New Year, saying it will help them get money to help their families.

Bishop Zziwa expressed worry that some families, especially in the central region, are selling off their ancestral land, which they could instead use to engage in productive commercial agriculture.

"I sometimes talk to fresh graduates from universities and they tell me they are looking for jobs. Yes, it is good to look for jobs, but still, they can use the available land owned by their parents to generate income as they wait for the white-collar jobs. They [graduates] can keep animals such as cows or grow crops, including coffee, which can help them get out of poverty," he said.

The prelate made the remarks while handing over 52 Frisian cows to residents of Kyenda Trading Centre in Mubende District on Monday.

The cows were donated by the Integrated Cow Programme through which Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese is supporting people in the diocese to fully engage in farming.

A survey dubbed 'More Food, Less Money' carried out between

November 15 and November 27, 2018, by SautiZaWananchi, revealed that poverty levels among Ugandans had doubled.

The report singled out poverty as a major problem Ugandans are grappling with, with 29 percent of the population slipping below the poverty line in 2018, up from 14 percent in 2017.

The survey also found out that the high levels of unemployment in the country and the high cost of living made it difficult for many households to provide a daily meal. The researchers interviewed 1,905 people aged 18 and above and were picked from across the country.

Under this agricultural project, the bishop said people have a chance to improve their lives both socially and economically.

"When a good number of our people embrace this project and we get enough milk and coffee, we will go to the next step of adding value so that the beneficiaries can earn more money," he said.

Since last year, a total of 258 cows have been donated to different beneficiaries in the parishes of Mirembe Maria, Rwanjiri (in Kassanda District) and the proposed Ssenkulu Catholic parish in Mubende District.

Bishop Zziwa advised the beneficiaries to always follow the advice of the veterinary officers so that they can safely keep the animals.



**"I sometimes talk to fresh graduates from universities and they tell me they are looking for jobs. Yes, it is good to look for jobs, but still, they can use the available land owned by their parents to generate income as they wait for the white-collar jobs. They [graduates] can keep animals such as cows or grow crops, including coffee, which can help them get out of poverty," he said.**



A student of Tanzania Gemmological Centre in Arusha region practising gem mining value added during the journalists visit at the centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Novatus Makunga

# New food safety community of practice helps share knowledge, improve security

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced the launch of a new Food Safety Community of Practice (COP), a new peer-to-peer online forum for global professionals working on and sharing interest in food safety issues.

The forum seeks to deepen their knowledge and expertise in the area,

exchange information and discuss ideas by interacting on an on-going basis.

The COP's goal is to expand learning potential, share diverse experiences and knowledge, encourage an understanding of new perspectives and stimulate individual and collective learning.

This functional and active

community of practitioners serves to streamline and expand quality technical information over time.

The community of practice will share, exchange and develop knowledge and improve the practice, learn first-hand from experts at regular events, access updates on WHO food safety resources and new publications, share lessons learned and knowledge

based on collective reflection of its members.

Members will receive access to regular webinars, monthly updates and food safety resources.

They will also submit their resources, event announcements and other content on food safety to be shared with other members of the Community of Practice.



Songwa residents in Muheza district, Tanga region participate in classrooms construction for a secondary school ward recently. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

# RC directs district commissioners to ensure school-age children are registered to school

By Guardian Reporter, Bariadi

SIMIYU Regional Commissioner (RC) David Kafulila has directed district commissioners to ensure that all school-age children are registered to start school saying that this is a mandatory requirement.

He made the directives yesterday here when receiving 449 new constructed classrooms from district commissioners in the region. The classrooms were constructed under the Covid-19 funds.

Kafulila said that parents and guardians of school-aged children should understand that this is not an optional but mandatory.

"We have completed the construction of classrooms by 100 percent, so go and make sure that all students who are required to go to school are registered," he said.

Commenting on the construction of the classrooms, Kafulila said that Simiyu Region was given 8.9bn/- for the construction of 449 classrooms including 380 of secondary schools and 69 for makeshift schools.

He said that the construction of all classrooms has been completed and the region is ready to receive all the form one students and commended all the committees involved in overseeing the construction.

"I commend all the committees that have supervised the construction of these classrooms, you have done a great job, we thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for providing the funds," Kafulila said.

He also urged the people in the areas where the classrooms are built to ensure that they maintain and use them for the intended purpose, urging them to see the classrooms as a gift from the President.

Malimbo Buhalata, a resident of Sina commended President Magufuli for constructing the classrooms at their makeshift school as previously children were walking 6-km to reach school.

Ahadiel Mohamed said the classrooms will also cut hurdles of parents accompanying children to school due to long distance and animal attacks.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

# Songwe registers increased number of campaign awareness on vaccinations

THE number of people who came out to vaccinate against Covid-19 in Ileje district, Songwe region has increased after the government launched a campaign to create awareness on vaccination.

The national coordinator for the campaign in the region Moses Lyimo made the remarks in the district saying the campaign has

increased awareness among the residents.

He said most of the people were against the vaccine have now been vaccinated and the number of those vaccinated have increased.

Lyimo said before the

campaign many people were against vaccination but after implementation of the awareness exercise many have confidence in the vaccine and have started doing so.

"We were getting few people for vaccination,

but now we receive more than 900 per month so this campaign is very important," he said.

The coordinator for the vaccination drive in Ileje district Innocent Charles said the drive has made families and individuals

change their mindset hence spreading the message.

He said many people have voluntarily turned up in their large numbers to get vaccinated making the drive easy compared to earlier days.

"The exercise is going very well. What is needed is more education and we believe more people will get vaccinated," he said.

For his part, the head of sensitization team from the president's office, regional administration

and local government Subisya Kabuje called upon Wananchi to turn out in large numbers to get vaccinated.

He called upon all regional and local government officials to ensure they participate in

sensitizing people to get vaccinated.

Songwe was among the regions in the country with a low number of people who turned up to get vaccinated but the number increased to 40 people per day.

## 2022 starting with clear view of tasks

STOCK taking is customary for each year for an individual, a family, a business entity, a social collectivity or the state as a whole, to see what benchmarks were attained, or by contrast, tragedies survived. This gives one the peace of mind needed to embark on another patch in the struggle for survival, tied up with those with whom life is shared, in which case stock taking is more of the life of an entity as an individual is tied up with an entity. There is plenty of continuity in life, but sharp contrasts also occur.

Such was the case in 2021 for Tanzania, one of the most tumultuous years and at the same time one that was remarkable for its peacefulness and elevation of hope at each passing moment, at the time that the first quarter was ending. The death of fifth phase President John Magufuli was at once a sharp disruption of the country's political life and the start of a new language in how politics is conducted, meanwhile as fundamental continuity was observed in commitment to oversee the public good. That is now ascertained.

In a sense the departure of the fifth phase leader brought about a sort of stock taking and reorientation, without the benefit of a 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' as South Africa entered at the end of the apartheid era. Coincidentally the principal mover of the platform, Archbishop Desmond Tutu breathed his last on Boxing Day, a global event that drew condolences and obituary reflections from titans like Pope Francis and Queen Elisabeth II, while it remained uncertain if the Dalai Lama would succeed to attend

his funeral. Again, by December 30 it was clear Ethiopia had turned a corner in a reunification war.

A rare platform was visible towards the end of December in neighbouring Kenya where President Uhuru Kenyatta was actively canvassing for 'Baba,' Raila Odinga to seek the presidency in the August polls, a sharp break with the past where standing alliances would be maintained. As a matter of fact, Kenya was being run by a government of national unity where the Orange Democratic Party (ODM) wasn't formally in government but Raila was virtually back in office as de facto prime minister. President Kenyatta saw the need to engage with the opposition leader to clean up governance before the country slides into chaos.

Hope was also around the corner in eastern DRC after Allied Democratic Forces (so-called) overreached themselves and bombed the centre of Kampala, forcing the hand of President Yoweri Museveni and facilitating cooperation with President Felix Tshisekedi. DRC was also given the signal to join the East African Community (EAC) after one year, boosting the mood of understanding that incoming President Samia Suluhu Hassan did a lot to cultivate. Kenya and Uganda were also ending COVID-19 restrictions.

By the end of the year senior public sector officials were beginning to learn what is right and what is wrong in the new dispensation. A series of faulty policy moves were stopped, with liberal economy starting to shine.

## Farmers bear the brunt of attacks from wild animals, cattle keepers

SETTLED agriculture is becoming something of an imprisoned sector in the country, where it suffers from nomadic cattle keepers on the one hand and uncontrolled wild animals on the other hand, meanwhile as farmers, even without these external threats, have enough on their hands to put up with such attacks. It is unclear for how long this situation will be maintained without a wider breach of the peace, as clashes of this sort don't create a major rift until living conditions can't bear it any longer. Then it ignites civil war.

We are far from that situation but the pointers of disruption of peace are numerous, but as it often happens in African countries, the few dividends such conflicts may have for local administrators and sections of the police lull them to sleep, until the situation is intolerable. It becomes a routine of animals grazing on a farmer's crops, a scuffle breaks out and someone is injured or killed, some people are arrested - and getting out of that snare will cost a lot of money. Really some people wait for it to happen to make a buck.

That seems to have been one line of complaint as a key city radio channel organised a discussion on the issue, on the basis of a day of activism around cattle herders' invasions of farms and destruction of crops that a family depends on for the year ahead. This habit is so systematic that it is even apparent that it is a line of culture among cattle herders, whether it is most

of them or specific groups, in ethnographic terms. Political correctness disables all reference to nomadic cattle keepers by tribal identities, i.e., to avoid bias.

The central aspect of the day of activism was 'what should be done' to solve the problem, where for some of us the answers were by and large unsatisfactory as they were seeking to remind administrators of their vows. They emphasised on the need to be fair and just, refrain from taking bribes, lay stricter rules about land use plans and observing them, and most of us know we have been there before. Cattle raising farms is like a traffic offence to another category of civil servants - instead of regretting it, they relish to use it.

Where farms aren't raided by cattle keepers there are other unwanted visitors, namely marauding animals from nearby bushes as habitats, farms and schools are built close to village or ward forest reserves, and quite often in game controlled areas. Animals need vast expansive territory knowing what it is to hunt down an animal or to occupy territory outside the range of other predators, or to follow water sources in terms of extended dry weather. When people live close to animals or build on their paths, and soon there are hyenas pursuing small animals or avoiding lions, people are likely to suffer if the rabid canines are disturbed. At times national park authorities reintroduce wild dogs, and there is a village just 20 km away!

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## Building collapse in Nigeria : Concerns, practicable remedies

By Olawunmi Alade  
Oghenekevwebodje

Aderemi Fagbemi, Bayo Owojori

Building collapses are not uncommon around the world. Many countries, including USA, have had their fair share of failures which have resulted in the collapse of buildings. Recently, on June 24, 2021, a 12-storey beachfront condominium complex in Miami partially collapsed, leaving 98 people dead. On November 1, 2021, one of the three high-rise buildings in the 360 Degrees Towers Complex located at 44, Gerrard Road, Ikoyi, Lagos fell down like a pack of cards claiming 46 lives. What really happened? Putting conspiracy theories aside, Olawunmi Alade and Oghenekevwebodje, Aderemi Fagbemi and Bayo Owojori tackle the legal and regulatory issues arising from the monumental disaster from which the nation is yet to come terms with

Ikoyi Building Collapse: Challenges of Building Construction, Regulation and Protection

### Background

On November 1, 2021, one block of an under-construction 21-floor luxury apartment building located in the highbrow Ikoyi area of Lagos State collapsed, taking with it tens of innocent lives. The collapse of the building has the whole city talking, and stakeholders scrambling to understand what exactly happened on the fateful day.

All over the world, building collapse is not new. In June 2021, a beachfront condominium in Miami collapsed killing 98 people. An apartment building in Cairo also collapsed, killing 25 people. Building collapse could be as a result of wide-ranging "acts of God" like earthquakes, hurricanes, flood and landslides. However, human factors such as negligence, flouting of building codes, use of defective or substandard materials, incompetence and corruption are also factors resulting in building collapse. Such factors account for the preponderance of collapses in Nigeria. It is why we need to pay close attention to building regulations, laws and codes in Lagos and in Nigeria at large.

### Introduction

The real estate sector in Nigeria is a vibrant one, growing in leaps and bounds. According to the Bureau of Statistics, this sector recorded

a 3.9% growth in Q2 of 2021 as compared with 1.8% in Q1 and -22% in Q2 of 2020. This represents its best performance in the preceding six years. The growth in this sector has translated into increased and easier housing for citizens, and asset diversification for investors.

Framework for Construction and Real Estate Development in Nigeria  
The right to own property in Nigeria is guaranteed by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) ("CFRN"). This right is modified by the Land Use Act 1978 ("LUA") which vests all urban lands comprised in the territory of each State (except those vested in the Federal Government or its Agencies) solely in the Governor of the State, to hold in trust for the people and to allocate to individuals and organisations for residential or other uses. Given this proviso, the highest level of interest that can be held in land is a mere right of occupancy (NWOKOCHA v GOVERNOR OF ANAMBRA STATE). Thus, a person seeking to develop real estate must first acquire land in accordance with the LUA, and obtain the relevant permits under the applicable laws.

In addition to the LUA and the CFRN, the major State laws on property development include the following:

The Lagos State Urban and Regional Planning and Development Law regulates the administration of physical planning, urban development, urban regeneration and building control in Lagos State. This law recognises the Lagos State Ministry of Urban and Regional Planning, as the apex regulator of planning and property development in Lagos State. Other administrative agencies established under this law include (i) the Lagos State Planning Permit Authority ("Planning Permit Authority"), (ii) The Lagos State Building Control Agency ("Building Control Agency") and (iii) The Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency ("Renewal Agency").

The Planning Permit Authority is empowered to enforce these Regulations, in accordance with its mandate to issue planning permits to developers and builders for any form of physical development and construction on any land in Lagos State. A 'Planning Permit' is an approval or assent given for the time being to a development, and includes layout or subdivision plan and building control authorisations given at construction and post-construction stages.

The Planning Permit Authority

may revoke planning permits where (i) the developer or owner of the planning permit has developed in excess of the approval granted, or has not complied with the terms and conditions under which the permit was granted; or (ii) the permitted development or use has been modified, altered, varied, added to, or renovated without permit.

The Regulations provide that where any person develops beyond the limit prescribed in a Planning Permit, it is an offence, and such person may apply for a fresh permit within 21 days of being served an enforcement notice, and an application for regularisation must be made to the Planning Permit Authority within the same timeframe.

It is an offence for a public officer to encourage or conspire with members of the public, to violate the provisions of the Regulation.

The Building Control Agency is responsible for enforcing these Regulations, which begin to apply from the commencement of construction activities on site till completion of the project. The Building Control Agency is required to conduct periodic inspection of building developments within the State, to identify defective and distressed structures, and has the power to demolish buildings that do not conform with the Regulations and Planning Permits.

Prior to commencing building construction, real estate developers are required under this regulation to notify the Building Control Agency of such intention to commence construction, and the notice must be accompanied by a Planning Permit and a General Contractors' All Risk (CAR) Insurance Policy for buildings above two floors, amongst others. The Developer must ensure that a project site board is erected at the construction site, showing the Planning Permit number, title of the project, names and addresses of the professionals and consultants of the project, name and address of the main contractor and number of floors.

### Recommendations

Government agencies in charge of building construction must be stringent and uncompromising, in enforcing compliance to existing laws. These agencies must be held accountable and sanctioned for any act of negligence or corrupt practices on their part that may have led to or lead to poor building standards, defects in building structure and/or building collapse.

For the developers, there must be graver consequences meted out to them for the flouting of regulations. Criminal and civil proceedings can be brought against them. Developers should be deterred from the practice of compromising quality, in order to maximise profit.

Also, with the current realities, the need for investors, builders and buyers to engage professionals in property development, cannot be over-stressed. No longer should any of the parties be eager to discard the services of architects, engineers, estate surveyors, Lawyers etc, when making decisions on building or buying.

There exist some laws and insurance policies in developed countries which help to protect the off-takers, and keep the developer liable for the construction of a building for a specific number of years. An example of such is the Builder's Legal Liability (BLL) Act and the Inherent Defect Insurance (IDI). The BLL provides that the builder is liable for the building constructed by him for a specific period, typically for 10 years. Any factor that would make the building unfit for use, like use of low quality material, incorrect use of materials, faulty design, poor workmanship or any defect, would be on the developer's hands. But, such a law will prove futile if the builder disappears, or lacks any financial resources to correct the defects. In such cases the IDI comes into play, covering the cost of rectification or reconstruction if any structural defect occurs. Unfortunately, these are not present in our country.

### Conclusion

The real estate sector has been a major economic booster; the setback in mode of practice, provision of Acts and regulatory and enforceability of same notwithstanding. The practice of property development through real estate developers/contractors is the norm in developed parts of the world, which in turn has immensely contributed to development of infrastructure, commerce and easy housing for its citizens. Therefore, the recent happenings without making light of its high effects on loss of lives and resources, should not be allowed to discourage stakeholders or make light the progress the sector has achieved. Rather, the recommendations stated above together with the global best practices, should be encouraged and emulated.



## DESMOND MPIOLO TUTU (7 OCTOBER 1931 - 26 DECEMBER 2021)

# Reflection: Archbishop Desmond Tutu deftly combined the art of prayer with strategy

The last white elections in South Africa, in early September 1989, were sheathed in violence.

Throughout the day and into the night, roads in Cape Town's black townships were blocked by burning barricades. Gunfire punctuated the air. By the next morning, at least 20 people were reported killed.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu wept when he heard the news and retreated to his chapel in Bishopscourt. Then head of the Anglican Church, Tutu, who died this week aged 90, had spent most of the past month at the centre of increasingly violent clashes between police and anti-apartheid protesters.

St George's Cathedral in Cape Town had become both a rallying point, and a place of refuge. On 2 September, police had broken up a protest. They whipped and beat bystanders, including foreign tourists. From armoured water cannons, they sprayed the protesters with purple dye - the idea being that those stained purple could be easily identified for arrest afterwards. (This was the genesis of the wry graffiti on a city building: "The purple shall govern.")

In a scene reminiscent of the Tiananmen Square protests in Beijing earlier that year, a lone protester managed to mount a water cannon and turn the nozzle towards office buildings. Infuriated, the police resorted to more traditional weapons of control - teargas and batons - attacking even medics who came to treat the injured.

Many took refuge in the cathedral and Tutu was summoned to protect them. After urging the police to back down, he told the wounded and frightened protesters: "Say to yourselves, in your heart, God loves me, God loves me... God created me for freedom... My freedom is inalienable". He urged them to straighten up their shoulders "like people who are born for freedom".

The violence around the elections a few days later though was of a different order. The Archbishop was lost for words.

After a day of prayer, he told his assistant at the time, Matt Esau, that he had decided to call for a protest march through the city centre. "He blanched a bit," Tutu told me in an interview later. And the UDF leaders, some just out of prison, were doubtful they would survive another assault by the police. It is an incident UDF veteran Cheryl Carolus recalled in her tribute to him at the memorial service.

It was at the time of "Well, do you have a mandate...", Tutu told me later.

As his biographer, John Allen, writes in his book, *Rabble-Rouser for Peace*, he replied: "God told me and I'm afraid we can't argue with God. It looks as though you are arrogant and presumptuous, yes, but the trouble is that I knew I was not my own master. At least I believed that."

Whatever the role of a higher being, Tutu had judged the political climate at the time more accurately than the battered anti-apartheid leaders.

His vocal opposition, first to apartheid, then to other worldly wrongs, sometimes hid his deep spirituality and belief in prayer. Likewise, his clerical robes sometimes disguised his keen strategic sense.

At a time when it made him deeply unpopular among some of his own congregation and when it was a criminal offence, he campaigned for international sanctions against South Africa. He played a central role in lobbying the US Congress to support the 1986 Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act (CAAA) - legislation that President Ronald Reagan twice vetoed in the House and the Senate. Both times his veto was overridden, the "first override of a presidential veto on a major foreign policy question since 1972", as Allen notes.

By 1989, South Africa, the combined effects of sanctions, a mounting debt crisis, and fierce internal resistance had led the apartheid government to a precipice.

The cantankerous, hardline apartheid leader, PW Botha has

signed less than a month before, and FW de Klerk became acting president in mid-August. De Klerk seemed to understand the international pressures he was under.

In the northern hemisphere summer of that year, recalls Moeletsi Mbeki, then a journalist in exile, senior US Congressional and Senate members at a conference in Switzerland warned that unless there were serious reforms in South Africa, the US would call on its European allies, to impose sanctions similar to the CAAA.

So Tutu and the Mass Democratic Movement, a loose coalition of anti-apartheid organisations, tested FW de Klerk's commitment to reform. Their target was the coastline. Beaches had long been officially segregated but in the mid-80s police tended to turn a blind eye to transgressions.

However, in mid-August 1989, when Tutu and hundreds of activists arrived at the Strand, a sandy stretch of coastline on the eastern end of False Bay, they found a sign on the beach next to one that read: "DOGS NOT ALLOWED." It said: "DANGER, NO ENTRY, SAP DOG TRAINING." (SAP was the South African Police) Scores of riot police stood alongside barbed wire coils. Tutu walked briefly on the

beach. But after he left, police beat and arrested many of the beachgoers including cameramen and journalists.

He then left for another protest in Bloubergstrand, where he found several people already severely injured by the police. "Daggers were drawn," Tutu told me in a subsequent interview. "When I got there, I said to the people, look, you have made your point, now you've got to demonstrate that you are disciplined. In fact, I asked the police if I could use their loudhailer." He chuckled. "I don't think they were overkeen but they realised the situation was very tense. And I got people to sing *Nkosi Sikelela iAfrika*". He persuaded the protesters to get back on the buses.

The next day at a service in St George's Cathedral, Tutu summed up the quandary of the incoming president De Klerk: "They say apartheid is dead but really it's one of the most extraordinary corpses I've ever seen... They had dogs, they had tear gas, they had quirks. To do what? To stop black people walking on God's beaches." If "we'd got to the beaches we won. If we didn't get to the beaches, we won."

De Klerk, who died last month, was installed as president only on September 20, but was de facto head of

the country at the time. His first act, seen around the world, was to enforce beach apartheid, and it had cost him. Prominent white leaders such as the Cape Town mayor, Gordon Oliver, expressed despair at the actions of the apartheid government.

So when Tutu called for the peace march in the wake of the election violence, he did so with the hope that he would be breaking new ground.

Two days before the planned march - held on 13 September - De Klerk announced it would be allowed. It was, wrote Patti Waldmeir, the Financial Times correspondent in her book, "the first irreversible step to a new South Africa", and quotes De Klerk's fellow Cabinet member Gerrit Viljoen saying it was a "more fearful leap into the dark than any the president had made later - including the release of Nelson Mandela".

The march itself was a watershed. Some 30,000 people, led by Tutu and other religious and political leaders including Cape Town's mayor, thronged from the cathedral to the Grand Parade outside the City Hall. Less than a kilometre away, it took the crowd more than two hours to snake their way through the streets. Police lined the march but honoured Tutu's request to

the then minister of police, Adriaan Vlok, to "keep their hands in their pockets".

From the balcony of the City Hall, Tutu addressed the crowds: "We are inviting you Mr de Klerk... come here. Can you see the people of this country? Come and see what this country is going to become. This country is a rainbow country".

He called them "the rainbow people of God".

Next to me in the crowd, a young woman wept: "Our freedom will be beautiful when it comes," she said.

The following month, De Klerk released Nelson Mandela's fellow trialists and ANC leaders from prison, all sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964. Three months later, he was to legalise the African National Congress and release Mandela.

In the last interview I did with Tutu in 2016 to mark 20 years since the start of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which he chaired, he addressed what he called "the tragedy of now" - the poor living conditions of so many people and the disappointments since that moment of triumph 25 years before.

It was at the time when the Nkandla scandal dominated headlines - the vast amounts of public money spent on former president Jacob Zuma's homestead.

"It is totally unacceptable... you don't want to be clobbering people and making out that you are better than them... but it is very difficult to understand how you could agree to have those millions spent on one establishment when similar investment would have given quite a few people decent homes... you are not being anti-Zuma or anti-ANC. You are just saying, man, do you realise what the Struggle was for, do you realise that these people... sacrificed? They expected that by now they would have a government that was really sympathetic, not just verbally, but sympathetic in its actions, in the things that it did and the things that it didn't do."

And to the narrative that the TRC was a "sell-out", that even Nelson Mandela was a "sell-out", he noted: "Had you been there, you would have realised that had we gone the other route there would have been very few around. The apartheid government was armed to the teeth... I hope the young people will read history properly... and realise that those who made accommodations with the Afrikaner were not cowards. You can't be a coward when you were the commander-in-chief of MK, you were not cowards when you spent 27 years in jail."

The black community, he said, "was encamped. It was easy to control them; guns and ammunition were mainly in the hands of the supporters of apartheid. I would hope young people would say, thank you. Thank you for what you have done. It's not perfect but we will try to perfect it".

This week, Cape Town's City Hall where Tutu addressed the 1989 peace marchers, has been lit up in purple - more a nod to his clerical robes than to the infamous "purple rain" water cannons. It is meant as a gesture of thanks to the man who so deftly combined the art of prayer with strategy.

DM



# Nigeria bids farewell to challenging 2021 as optimism grows for new year

ABUJA

The outgoing year 2021 has witnessed a string of old challenges besetting Nigeria, including the persisting security challenge, while the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a heavy toll on the most populous African nation.

Despite a volatile security situation, rising food prices, and weak revenue, the West African country looks forward to fostering strategic growth in the coming years with a new national development plan, having made progress in reducing violence in the northeast region in 2021. In October, while presenting the 2022 fiscal bill, which Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari described as a “budget of economic growth and stability” to the bicameral legislature, he acknowledged these challenges but said a strategy to deliver on goals and aspirations of the government had been designed in the recently launched National Development Plan (NDP 2021-2025).

According to Buhari, as reflected in the budget proposal, the focus and priorities of the government in the coming years will center around areas including diversifying the economy; investing in critical infrastructure; strengthening security and ensuring good governance; and reducing poverty and minimizing regional, economic and social disparities, among others. Nigeria has been inundated by a security situation that is a major issue for the government in the past decades. The year 2021 has also witnessed a series of gunmen attacks across the country, including attacks on schools and kidnappings of students, and attacks on security facilities such as police stations and prisons which resulted in the deaths of security personnel and jailbreaks.

At a recent meeting of the Economic Community of West African States, Buhari said Nigeria continues to face security challenges that pose a threat to democracy, noting the growing instability and violence in parts of the country is alarming while calling on global partners to support Nigeria’s efforts in tackling insurgency and terrorism. Violence across the northwest region of Nigeria alone has killed over 8,000 people since 2011 and displaced over 200,000 people, according to a report by the International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based transnational non-governmental organization. However, successes have also been achieved in reducing violence in the country, especially in the fight against the extremists in the northeast region, the stronghold of the



notorious Boko Haram and its sister group the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP).

According to reports by local media in June, Abubakar Shekau, the top leader of Boko Haram, was killed in a faction conflict in the northeast region of Nigeria. The Nigerian military also confirmed in October that Abu Musab Al-Barnawi, the leader of the ISWAP, was dead. At a press briefing mid-December, Minister of Information and Culture Lai Mohammed said there was significant progress in the fight against terrorism, pointing at the recent surrendering in droves of Boko Haram militants, alongside their family members in different parts of the northeastern state of Borno.

However, local observers said the death of leaders of Boko Haram and the ISWAP would not be the end of insurgency in the northeast as there are many extremists still in the bushes while security issues also persist in other parts of the country. Sheriff Ghali, professor of political science at the University of Abuja, told Xinhua in a recent interview the government needs to be more aggressive

in partnering with the international partners and private sector and individuals in the country to curb the rising insecurity. Since 2009, the Boko Haram, which later together with the ISWAP, has aimed to establish an Islamist state in northeast Nigeria, and extended their attacks to other countries in the Lake Chad Basin.

Local economic experts remain optimistic despite security challenges and the recent surge of COVID-19 infections in the country. The largest economy in Africa is expected to expand by 2.79 percent in the full year ended 2021, according to recent estimates by a Nigerian financial advisory firm, Afrinvest. That would be a growth increase of almost 5 percentage points from the -1.79 percent GDP growth in 2020 when the impact of COVID-19 lockdown affected economic performance. Opportunities in coming years, according to local observers, also lie in the country’s investment in the digital economy and infrastructure.

In late October 2021, the country recorded significant innovation in the financial sector when it became the first in Africa and one of the earliest in the world

to launch the digital currency, eNaira. Buhari said at the launch ceremony that the adoption of the country’s central bank digital currency and its underlying technology, called blockchain, can increase Nigeria’s gross domestic product by 29 billion U.S. dollars over the next 10 years. Local experts said this will bring about innovations and improvements that come with an increased focus on electronic transactions in the country. Tope Fasua, an economic analyst and former banker, told Xinhua in a recent interview the adoption of digital currency is “commendable”, adding it is a step in the right direction by Nigeria since it will benefit the economy by saving the huge cost of managing physical cash and including more Nigerians in the financial sector.

On June 10, Nigeria also started the full commercial operation of a China-assisted railway linking the southwestern cities of Lagos and Ibadan, to ease public transportation and goods movement in the country. The project is the first double-track standard-gauge railway to be built in West Africa. The construction of the 157-km Lagos-Ibadan railway, and an

extension of about 7 km to a busy port in Lagos, was described as another milestone in the drive to revitalize the railway system in Nigeria by Buhari.

Buhari said recently that his administration was taking infrastructure expansion in Nigeria seriously, conscious of the fact that new investments in critical sectors of the economy would help lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty by 2030. “There is a nexus between infrastructure development and the overall economic development of a nation,” the Nigerian leader said.

The NDP (2021-2025) launched earlier this month also aims to provide for the implementation of major infrastructure and other development projects across the country. Speaking at a short ceremony to launch the document, Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning Zainab Ahmed said the government aimed to take necessary actions that will fundamentally change the structure of the economy and how government businesses are conducted for efficiency and effectiveness through the new medium-term development plan.

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS  21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI  09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI  01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# Somalia's deadly drought displaces over 2,000 more, says UN

MOGADISHU, Somalia

OVER 2,000 more internally displaced people have arrived in the Somali capital Mogadishu in the last two days fleeing from the deadly drought battering the Horn of Africa country, the UN humanitarian cooperation agency said Wednesday.

In a statement on Twitter, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Somalia said: "Over 2K new internally displaced people arrived in Banadir, Somalia, in last 2 days, a total of 20K in past weeks. These people lost livestock & other means of livelihood due to drought. More movement is expected."

These displaced people urgently need water, latrines, food, shelter, and nutrition services, according to the OCHA.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Hirey Ahmed Roble, the secretary-general of Banadir regional administration, in which Mogadishu is located, said the

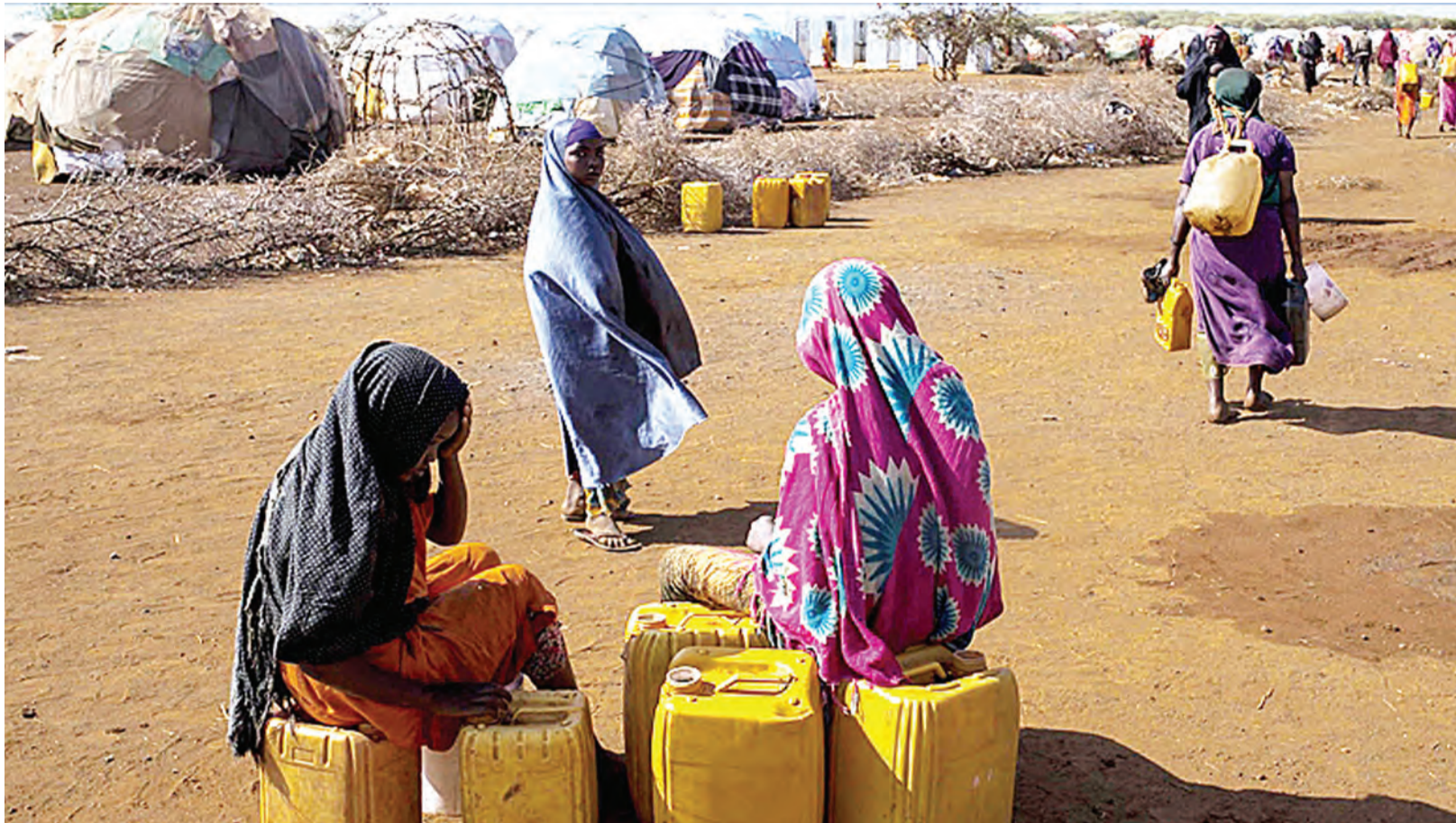
current humanitarian crisis is beyond the capacity of the administration.

The administration has transferred over \$20 million meant for development to deal with the current humanitarian situation and also donated money to local provincial capitals, including Baidoa, Baledwayne, and Garowe.

Somalia is currently facing one of the worst droughts in decades, according to humanitarian organizations in the country.

The Somali government has already declared the situation "a state of humanitarian emergency," urging the international community to double its efforts to help people in need.

The UN on Tuesday said food insecurity remains critical in Somalia, adding that under the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, 75 partners will aim to improve access to food for 3.1 million people facing severe acute food insecurity, including 1.1 million internally displaced people in 64 districts.



By Getrude Mbago

## Msichana Cafe, local government leaders form bylaws to strengthen girls protection

IN efforts aimed at bolster child rights protection, Msichana Café Forum in collaboration with ward councillors and local government leaders in Bahi District, Dodoma Region have developed by-laws which will help them work in synergy and address challenges facing girl children.

The move stems from the situation where majority of children were seen engaging in risk behaviors something which stimulate school drop-outs, child labour and early marriages.

With a median age of 18 years in Tanzania, children represent a large majority of its population who face tremendous challenges and are directly affected by poverty and essential children rights being violated such as the right to education.

Msichana Cafés are informal community platforms under Msichana Initiative, and they are there for identifying, discussing and finding solutions for key pressing issues which girls are facing in their communities like child marriages, teen pregnancy and abuse.

Director of Msichana Initiative in Bahi, Sylvester Meja explains that 'Msichana Café' is a forum that brings together community members including parents, villagers, religious and traditional leaders, girls and youth to discuss challenges which a girl child faces and then look how to address them.

He says Msichana Café-Bahi has been working with local government



authority leaders, ward councillors and stakeholders to end child marriage and gender based violence (GBV). The Forum has been sensitizing community members to stop child marriage and encouraged them to educate a girl child.

"Under the platform, we have been working and providing education in 15 wards of the district on issues of child protection and has greatly helped reduce the problem and keep more girls in school," he says.

According to him, many children in the wards they

work with have been dropping out of school due to several reasons including poverty, child marriages, early pregnancies and lack of awareness thus failing to achieve their goals

"Parents in the districts have been sending their children to sell alcohol and other stuff in local clubs. With this, children have no time to study."

He adds that the majority of the communities are still back on education investment for their children, it is among the places where children's education is not a

priority among parents.

Meja says the Msichana Cafe Forum decided to involve village and ward officials and draft regulations that would guide the district and later sent them to councillors and they are now officially approved.

Mariam Shabani, a member of the forum from Idiva Ward, Bahi District, when passing through villages and streets to educate the public, discovered at violence against girl children was on the increase as the majority of them get married soon after completing standard

seven.

He says apart from other stakeholders, the forum works closely with the police gender desks to ensure that child marriages are fought and prevented in Bahi.

Bahi Ward Councillor, Augustine Ndonu says after receiving the recommendations and identifying the challenges, they drafted and improved the laws so that they do not conflict with the mother law to protect children.

He explains that many parents in the district have been evading their respon-

sibilities, which is now common to find children walking during night bars or other recreational areas which leads to great moral decay.

Munewa Ward Councillor, Stanley Mtati explains that the council has passed the by-laws and they expect to start organising village and ward officials to hold meetings to inform the public on their operations.

He explains that among the prohibitions in the regulations is that a child under the age of 18 will not be allowed to be out of the house from 7pm so as to prevent them from abuse including rape and others.

A paralegal from the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), Andrea Shiwena says through the forum they were able to provide education in village governments, schools and eventually ask councillors to pass bylaws to protect children in the district.

He explains that in protecting the girl child from sexual violence and failing to achieve her goals due to lack of education, they have succeeded in enabling the district to pass the by-laws which, if implemented, will help greatly in protecting girls.

"In the by-laws which have been enacted and approved by councillors, states that the village executive officer will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the by-laws and ensuring that they are followed by the community," he adds.

Among the prohibitions in the by-laws is to ensure that all ceremonies or gatherings are approved

by the village government, but also ensure that all school-age children are registered early and start school.

"They also enforce that all music festivals such as baptisms, confirmations, weddings, school graduation ceremonies and other ceremonies allow a child under the age of 18 to be present no later than 6pm," he explains.

Also to set up study clubs for girls and provide training as well as monitor the progress of each student in the club.

"The by-laws also prohibit acts including having or engaging in sex with a girl aged under the age of 18, marrying any girl between the ages of six and 18, aborting any girl from the age of seven to 18 and ensuring protection of students."

The by-laws stipulate that anyone who violates any of the orders and is found guilty shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 250,000/- and not less than 45,000/- or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both.

This does not apply to offences that violate the Penal Code, Chapter 16, 2002.

Tanzania demonstrated regular commitment to children's rights protection and ratified the Convention on the Right of the Child in 1991 and in 2009 passed a bill known as the Law of the Child Act which effectively domesticated the UN Convention on the Right of the Child and provided the legal framework through which the rights of the country's children can be protected.

# African voices must lead the global climate conversation

By Vanessa Nakate

EGYPT would likely host COP27—the 27th UN Climate Change conference.

This will come on the heels of two more Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, due to be released next year, that will outline the worsening impacts of climate change, the adaptations the world needs to make, and our vulnerabilities to the climate crisis.

These are issues that particularly affect the African continent. The combined focus that COP27 and the IPCC bring will mean Africa's

climate story is at last in the global media spotlight.

Africa has been facing escalating climate-related disasters for years. This summer, 6 million people in Angola faced starvation as a result of the worst drought the country has seen in 40 years.

Thousands of Angolan "climate refugees" have been forced to cross the border into Namibia. Similar droughts have crippled the north and the south of the continent, with Algeria and Madagascar both devastated by water shortages.

Meanwhile, locusts—exacerbated by cyclones—are swarming East Af-

rica, and agriculture in West Africa is being deeply affected by a shifting monsoon.

Africa has long suffered a lack of attention from countries and populations outside the continent. Climate events such as flooding in Germany and China and wildfires in Canada and Greece this year, have, rightly, been covered around the world. Flooding in Nigeria and Uganda has largely been ignored.

In 2022, this balance will shift. As bodies such as the IPCC focus on how climate change is already affecting people and what we must do to adapt, Africa cannot be left out.

The continent has contributed only 3 percent of global historic emissions, yet it is experiencing some of the worst impacts of climate change and has the fewest resources to be able to adapt.

Conversations will begin to center on how rich countries—which are also the biggest polluters—can help African countries (and others without the means) become more resilient to the inevitable devastation they face.

The UN's "Loss and Damage" policy proposal, the idea that big polluters compensate affected nations for the damage and destruc-

tion they have already experienced due to climate change (an idea often opposed by developed nations), will be brought back to the international climate agenda by African voices.

Africa, although historically a very small contributor to pollution, will also need to play its part in reducing global carbon emissions.

In particular, it will need help transition to clean energy, as electricity demand on the continent is predicted to double by 2030. However, money and investment still continues to pour into African countries from non-African corporations and governments seeking to

extract and burn fossil fuels.

The 1,400-km East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline from Hoima, Uganda to the port of Tanga in Tanzania—currently being built by French oil company Total—is a potent example of this. The project will displace local people and destroy farmlands and biodiversity, yet profits will largely be taken out of the continent.

Next year, we will need that money to stop flowing into fossil fuels and be used instead to scale the adoption of renewables and invest in nature. The Congo, for example, is home to the world's second-largest tropical rainforest.

# South Africa's basic education needs a major revision in 2022

BEIJING

Government often thinks big but implements small. A teacher offers a few solutions to the myriad problems faced by an education sector bashed by Covid-19.

"We've failed the year. We're thinking of dropping out and getting internships instead," a 16-year-old tells me.

"Internships?" I asked, puzzled.

"Oh, we can do car-washing and I can braid hair."

This conversation is top-of-mind as I think about what to expect in 2022. I have empathy for the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the myriad problems it has to solve. We cannot divorce the injustices our school communities face from the injustices of our broader socioeconomic and political context.

The DBE has several policies to remedy social evils. Programmes exist to improve infrastructure, social cohesion and school safety, and efforts are under way to increase learners' access to transport, connectivity and learning resources.

But, as Ravi Naidoo, writing in Daily Maverick, pointed out, South Africa "has an overabundance of big-thinking policies and a critical shortage of im-



plementation". The DBE is no exception, and there is little indication this will change in 2022.

The DBE is busy, but it confuses busyness with effectiveness. The unprecedented amount of learning time many children lost during the pandemic (50% to 75%) is a glaring concern, yet, reading

the DBE presentations to Parliament and scrolling through its social media feeds, one would think it was a minor setback that did not require immediate action. No clear communication from the department about how to catch up is forthcoming, beyond its own expressed confidence that

its trimmed curriculum will help schools to get back on track in the next three years.

A lack of urgency about lost learning time sets the stage for what to expect in 2022. Unfortunately, by refusing to confront and prioritise the continued stagnation and atrophy of knowledge and

skills in too many schools in 2021, we can be sure that the gap between exposed and fortified schools will continue to grow next year.

So, 2022 will probably be an easier year for resourced schools that have had time to refine their pandemic teaching methods, and their co-curricu-

lar activities can take on more pre-Covid normality. But many resourced schools will probably also continue to feel the pinch in terms of fee payments.

Exposed schools will have to face the huge learning backlog of the past two years. They are unlikely to have the support or know-how to deal with this effectively. Increased drop-out rates would not be a surprise, even if all schools returned to full capacity. The state matric exams are not a reliable gauge of education standards, so ignore the fanfare that will inevitably accompany the results.

A silver lining is that trade union federation Cosatu supports a mandatory vaccination policy, which might reduce school disruptions if vaccine-hesitant people decided to strike. At the time of writing teacher unions Sadtu and Naposa still had to finalise their stances on such a policy.

It is possible to reduce the gap between the haves and the have-nots next year. The DBE can play a crucial role here.

First, it needs to prioritise the issue of lost learning time, and assume it will continue next year. Time is lost in official closures or rotations - and when classes are suspended because children and teachers have Covid.

Second, it needs to re-imagine a differentiated, high-impact, innovative curriculum structure it can offer to exposed schools.

It doesn't make sense for children to cover 25% of each subject's content in 25% of the prescribed learning time. Some schools could suspend certain subjects and use those subject teachers to oversee academic support and enrichment. The DBE should reconsider how many subjects students need to take to matric, if only in the interim.

Third, a multisector approach is needed to conceptualise a streamlined school curriculum. Identify the core skills and foundational knowledge that different post-school institutions require and what bridging courses they can offer. Don't burden all

matrics with content only a minority will need. Matric exams should also be restructured to promote subject depth and skills development.

Fourth, see the potential for a lighter curriculum load that rotation and freed-up lessons can bring. Time outside the classroom should be seen as an opportunity to practise skills taught in in-person instruction.

The above requires high-quality, systematic, easy-to-understand physical (not just digital) resources for all subjects so that students can do a variety of exercises. Younger children need tactile learning-through-play activities. We need to up-skill our kids by providing them with numerous and consistent opportunities to develop core skills.

Last, businesses and civil society can come together, with or without government support, and collaborate with teachers to conceptualise, coordinate and implement an informal grassroots national enrichment programme. Volunteers (or deployed teaching assistants) can offer daily sessions in a dedicated space for local children to do the work set by teachers, and adults can facilitate a simple enrichment programme - in a church marquee, a car park or an open field.

Time is running out: 66% of our youth are unemployed, yet teenagers with potential have more hope in looking for car-washing jobs than staying in school. A bleak 2022 awaits child education. Immediate, decisive and effective action is required. DM168

*Maryke Bailey is a history teacher with experience in various education-related projects, including resource creation, sessional lecturing, and developing and delivering professional development programmes.*

*This story first appeared in our weekly Daily Maverick 168 newspaper which is available for R25 at Pick n Pay, Exclusive Books and airport bookstores. For your nearest stockist, please click here.*

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 195 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 LETTERS: SEE, LIT, GET  
 4 LETTERS: BACK, UEFA, CAFE, RAGE, EBON SOON, IDEM  
 5 LETTERS: ABODE, AGAIN, LASSO, ELECT, NDAMA,  
 6 LETTERS: ELITES, ADHERE, STAGER, PLUNGE TABOOS  
 7 LETTERS: ALLOWED  
 8 LETTERS: LEGALESE  
 10 LETTERS: BOUNDARIES

1 2 3 4  
 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 11 12  
 13 14 15 16  
 17 18  
 19 20

**CLUES: Across**

1 a native of the south  
 5 a large perching bird with mostly black plumage  
 7 bear native to bamboo forests in China  
 8 Kathmandu is the Capital city of the country  
 10 the ship built by Noah  
 11 Latin from Greek Khorea  
 13 break with a sharp cracking sound  
 15 accept  
 17 movements of hands when you talk  
 19 a person who uses something  
 20 feel doubt

**Down:**

1 ill  
 2 formal term for on  
 3 not imagined or supposed  
 4 tolerate  
 6 put on clothes  
 7 canal connects the pacific ocean and Atlantic ocean  
 9 medium for communications  
 12 stoat  
 14 stone in Greek  
 16 a diving waterbird with a long neck  
 17 a weapon with bullets  
 18 join fasten

**WORD-FIT**

**SOLUTIONS**

F R E E M A R K E T  
 L V E R A  
 O V E R L A R G E  
 W N O V E L L  
 M M A P E T  
 M O D E R N  
 R O T  
 M O O S O M B R E  
 C P E J  
 A C C O U N T S E  
 P O U R E C  
 E M T W A R A T

**CROSSWORD**

U N D E R W H E L M  
 M E M O A M A S S  
 A A N G L E A S  
 C A T A S K Y  
 F A M O U S A  
 M A R C A S I D E  
 V R H N  
 M A L A Y S L A U  
 U N I T  
 M P E B B L E E

By Magezi: 0755429240 telmagazi@gmail.com

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

## JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 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FAMILIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS WAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBAYU ZANGU 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WAMBO MSETO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

## PRESERVATION

## Egypt 'digitally unwraps' mummy of famed pharaoh

CAIRO

Egypt has "digitally unwrapped" the mummy of famed Pharaoh Amenhotep I, revealing its secrets for the first time since it was discovered in 1881 without disturbing his funerary mask. Thanks to the advanced digital 3D imagery, researchers unearthed new mummification techniques used for the pharaoh whose rule dates back more than 1,500 BC.

The research was led by Sahar Saleem, a professor of radiology at Cairo University, and the renowned Egyptologist Zahi Hawass, a former antiquities minister, the tourism and antiquities ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

"Saleem and Hawass used advanced X-ray technology, CT (computed tomography) scanning, as well as advanced computer software programs to digitally unwrap the mummy of Amenhotep I in a safe non-invasive method without the need to touch the mummy," it said.

"The Egyptian study revealed for the first time the face of King Amenhotep I, his age, health condition, in addition to many secrets about the mummy's unique mummification and reburial." Analysis showed Amenhotep I was the first pharaoh to be mummified with arms crossed and the last not to have had his brain removed from the skull.

The tomography scan revealed the pharaoh, who conducted several military campaigns during his 21-year rule, had died at the age of 35, apparently of injury or illness. The mummy discov-



**Saleem and Hawass used advanced X-ray technology, CT (computed tomography) scanning, as well as advanced computer software programs to digitally unwrap the mummy of Amenhotep I in a safe non-invasive method without the need to touch the mummy**

ered in Luxor, southern Egypt, is the only one not to have had its tight bands unrolled by archaeologists, in order to preserve the mask and garlands of flowers that surround it like hair.

The same method of "technical unwrapping", as described by Saleem, revealed in 2012 the "harem conspiracy" in which Ramses III had his throat slit, a conspiracy hatched by a wife seeking to have her son on the throne rather than the first-born of a rival.

## SWEET-LOVE

## Another Sh49m gift to salon owner by boyfriend frozen

NAIROBI

**H**igh Court has frozen another Sh49 million that a Belgian man had sent to a sister of his girlfriend as a gift on suspicion that it is proceeds of crime, bringing the total amount blocked to Sh264 million.

The money frozen last week was in two Equity Bank accounts, one holding Sh3.1 million and the other 355,990 euros (Sh45.6 million), in the name of Jane Wangui Kago. Ms Wangui is sister of Tebby Wambui Kago, whose Sh108 million from Belgian Marc De Mesel was also frozen last month.

She claimed the Belgian was Ms Wambui's boyfriend, adding a fresh twist to the cash-freeze suit given Mr De Mesel was also linked to Ms Felesta Nyamathira Njoroge whom he had sent another Sh107 million that was frozen amid suspicion of the source of the millions from the cryptocurrency dealer. The Belgian had indicated in the declaration documents that Ms Njoroge, a 21-year-old Nairobi Technical Institute student, was "free to use the money to secure financial security for our future children."

Ms Wangui had indicated that the Sh49 million "gift" was meant to boost her salon and clothes business in Ruiru. The woman told the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) that she opened the Euro account in July for purpose of receiving the funds from De Mesel.

"The respondent (Ms Wangui) is suspected to be part of a syndicate involved in a complex money laundering scheme involving a foreign national Marc De Mesel who is suspected to be the kingpin of the money laundering scheme,"



Kenyan student, Felesta Nyamathira Njoroge wither boyfriend.

the agency told the court.

When asked by the agency how she came to know the Belgian, Ms Wangui revealed that the man was a boyfriend of her sister-Wambui-and had resided with her in Ruiru before acquiring an apartment at Garden City on Thika Road.

He later flew out of the country and has been sending money to them, she said. In a statement filed before the agency Ms Wangui says De Mesel started living with her sister sometimes in November 2018. She further says the Belgian and her sister met in 2017 at the famous Pirates public beach in Mombasa and soon became lovers. Ms Wangui says the two later moved in together at an apartment in Garden City a year later and got a child.

The man later gave Wambui Sh20 million, which she used to build a house for their mother in Thogoto, Kiambu County. The

statement is, however, different from that of Ms Njoroge whose accounts were the first to be frozen last month after receiving Sh107 million from Mr De Mesel.

Ms Njoroge claimed the Belgian was her boyfriend. The Agency suspects that the Belgian is a money laundering kingpin and the money should be frozen awaiting completion of the probe into the source.

Justice Grace Nzioka prohibited Ms Wangui from withdrawing the money, pending the determination of the case. "The respondent, her servants, employees, agents or any other person is prohibited from withdrawing, transacting, transferring or dealing in any manner with the said money," the judge ruled.

The agency told the court that there was imminent risk that the funds may be withdrawn, transferred or dispatched if the preser-

vation orders are not granted. Last week, Ms Njoroge told the court that the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) had cleared the Sh107 million sent to her by De Mesel.

Ms Njoroge said in court filings that the taxman froze the money on August 18, about two weeks after De Mesel wired the millions to her accounts. The taxman cleared the money two weeks later. The KRA froze the money under Section 43 of the Tax Procedures Act but upon conclusion of investigations, the student says the order was lifted.

"Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) returned a not guilty verdict and unfroze the account of the applicant on 30th September, 2021," her lawyer said in the submissions filed in court. Justice Esther Maina later froze the money after the ARA argued that the funds are believed to be part of money laundering scheme.

## INNOVATIVE

## UCT students design WiBOX that keeps people online during load shedding

CAPE TOWN

Three entrepreneurs, all students at the University of Cape Town, who developed a device that can help South Africans stay connected during load shedding, are reaping the rewards of their hard work. The three students from Claremont, Gardens and Muizenberg designed a cleverly reusable device, called a WiBOX, which has already sold more than 5

000 units since its launch last year.

The device specifically keeps modems, routers and fibre boxes on when power outages strike. Brian Gadisi, Alan Gie and Thembaletu Hadebe, all 24 years old, told News24 that they met in their business class at the university and instantly developed a bond.

"We were part of a Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship, also

known as the Genesis Programme. One of the assessments was that we had to come up with a business idea that would benefit ordinary people. We had to research it, finance it and make it market-friendly," said Gadisi.

According to the three, load shedding had just made a "come back" in 2019, which caused them major frustrations as they couldn't do

comprehensive research with the lights being off. This sparked the idea of developing the WiBOX.

"We launched the product with the funds that we generated by selling cakes on the UCT campus back in March last year. Since then, the business has been self-funded through the assistance of family and friends. Our company, Arion Power, acquired its first expansionary

round of funding from SEDA (Small Enterprise Developing Agency) this year, which will certainly help in the expansion of the business," Gadisi added.

"The WiBOX idea came about during the first return of load shedding in 2019. I was frustrated that, during load shedding, it was impossible to access the internet through cellular data, and the products on the market

were all unaffordable, with inverters being pretty much the only solution. We had to do something that would take the frustration of load shedding away," said Gie.

**How it works:**

The device is a compact and affordable Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) solution designed to keep you online during power outages and load

shedding. The WiBox is permanently plugged into the wall socket and your devices. There are two supplied leads, one to power your router and the other to power your fibre box if required.

During a power outage, the box will automatically switch from Eskom power to battery power, providing you with an uninterrupted connection. When the power switches back on the device will automatically switch from battery mode to power mode - charging the WiBox and powering the router and fibre box.

"It's so cool. We've seen a significant number of companies and people purchasing our devices for their gain. It's wonderful to see how we can make people's lives a tiny bit better with our creation," he added. According to the trio, one of their highlights was when a major insurance company wanted to purchase their devices.

"To receive a call from a big company was amazing. The company believed so much in our devices that they purchased numerous devices for their employees who are working from home," said an excited Hadebe. The youngsters, who started their business in a garage in Muizenberg, have moved premises to the Capricorn Business Park where they now manufacture their devices.

"We've managed to create and maintain six permanent employment opportunities, which is great news. And hopefully,

we'll be able to triple that as the years go by," Hadebe said. While WiBOX are an apparent necessity and in-demand product, the young entrepreneurs quickly realised that they were onto something "revolutionary" following the first round of load shedding and the response from the public.

"We always realised the potential. But our first meeting with a major corporate chief information officer (CIO), and the numbers he was talking about with regards to potentially providing our solution to all his employees, was mind-blowing," said Hadebe.

These devices are not only transforming several industries, but simultaneously collecting significant awards along the way. The three recently won the 2020 Genesis Award and now hold the record for highest revenue by any member of the cohort class since the inception of the Genesis Programme at the university.

"The launch of the product is a much-needed reminder of black talent and the ability to recognise gaps in the market, and how to remedy these gaps. In a matter of months, Arion Power has proven itself to not only be a luxury, but an absolute necessity as the country continues to navigate its way through load shedding," added Gadisi. The youngsters believe that incorporating WiBOX into people's everyday lives will quickly become a much-needed "light at the end of the tunnel."



Some cabin crew graduates of National Institute of Transport during this year's graduation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam. Photo courtesy of NIT.

CALL

# Land experts recommend responsible land based investment in the country

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE year 2021 witnessed agro investments in different parts of the country. Both local and foreign investments were welcomed by both district and village leaders in their respective areas. One of such example is Kilwa district in Lindi region.

After being given education on responsible investment by land and investment experts, Kilwa villagers of Mavuji, Nainokwe, Migeregere and Liwiti where the investors had acquired land for agricultural investment, they questioned several agro investments in their area. The investments include Bioshape introduced since 2016 to grow Jatropha but was abandoned and no reason was given to the villagers.

After Bioshape, other investments such as Somanga Property Ltd, Pan Tanzania Agricultural Development limited, AfricaOrama and Great Tanzania Ltd (Thailand Company) were introduced. Citing an example of Pan Tanzania Agricultural, Development limited, the villagers said during land acquisition of 35,000ha of land from the four villages, the process and procedures were not followed. Kufuruni Juma, a peasant and resident of Migeregere village, Mikole ward in Kilwa district, Lindi region said many villagers don't have knowledge on the proposed investment and the status of the contracts from the investors.

However, when reached for comments, Kilwa district executive director Renatus Mchau commended the investors and their investment saying the investment was genuine and it aims at developing Kilwa. He said the villagers were involved in all stages of land acquisition process and procedures. He said the investment has many benefits to the villagers that include employment opportunities.

When this paper visited the district to get their comments, Former Kilwa DC Christopher Ngubiagai commended the investment saying Kilwa was lack for the investment. He said the district was satisfactory of the investment that will invest in cassava and provide job opportunities for the locals.

But some villagers said in some meetings, only village leaders were invited to sign the contracts but not the villagers and when the leaders returned, they were no feedback.

Likawage ward councilor Rashid Msaka said there is a need for participation of all people from the beginning to the end so that people can understand the contracts and the details of the investment.

One of Migeregere village leader who pre-



Advocate Masalu Luhula from Landesa.

ferred anonymity said he was called to join his counterparts from other villages to sign the last page of the contract but no one among them was allowed to read what is contained in the contract.

"In July this year, the investor and the district council officials came here, they talked to the villagers about the investment and went back, but since then there has never been any feedback," said Mohamed Shaban, a resident of Nainokwe village.

The neighbouring village of Liwiti, the village leaders said the investor was introduced to them but they needed more time and more education to thoroughly understand the investment.

Land use planning expert Alphonse Zenus from the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRFF) said that for the past couple of years the National Engagement

Strategy (NES) that include Tanzania Land Alliance, Land Based Investment and Rangelands working groups have been monitoring land based investment in Tanzania. He said for the case of Kilwa, lack of transparency was noted, there were many aspects that were not put open to the villagers of all the four villages.

"Citing an example, he said during the meeting with the villagers, some revealed that at times, the leaders used intimidation strategy to threaten the villagers to agree with the investment," he said.

Advocate Masalu Luhula from Landesa advised that the Land use planning Act, 2007 and the revised (2013 and 2020) guidelines require effective participation of communities in their land use planning process. The law also gives planning powers to the village authorities on village land.

District planning team support as technical advisers in the process and decisions are made by the villagers through Village Council and Village Assembly. The law and its guidelines require the land use planning reports be owned by the community and implemented by the village council. For villagers being not aware of whether a review was done in 2019 and also having no information of the reports leave many questions unanswered if the process was integrative and participatory as a legal requirement. It is also a constitutional right for villagers to decide on their matters which they are either directly or indirectly affected. Land Use planning affects all villagers and their future generations if they do not agree freely and with prior information.

Masalu further explained that it is irregular and unlawful to conduct land Use

plan to a village with boundary conflicts (particularly systematic adjudication) and also without Village land certificates and village registration certificates at the village level. This is the very first stage to consider during preparation for land use plan. For proceeding with land use plans at Migeregere and Liwiti villages with boundary conflicts and Migeregere, Liwiti and Nainokwe villages without village land certificates and also without village registration certificate in Liwiti village, the process was improperly conducted.

It is important for the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) to verify legality and authenticity of the 2019/2020 land use planning reports from the four villages before approval for gazette. This shall include verification on whether the required procedure was duly adhered to protect the right to land tenure of the communities whose ignorance to land governance and administration may be used as opportunity.

For his part, National Coordinator for the from Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA) Benard Baha said the village land Act and investment best practices requires villagers to make decision on land acquisition with prior and informed consent (FPIC). The villagers seemed frustrated with introduction of different investors at different times by the same people from the District. In the discussion at all villages, it was evident that villagers decided to agree with request to land by Pan Tanzania Agriculture Development limited without clear understanding of the status of the land on whether by that time land was village land or general land.

"This situation influenced villagers to decide on matters which had limited information to give them room to openly and freely deliberate," he said.

I hear that at one of the villages for example, and without much discussion, a question was asked by a representative from the regional authority and in the presence of the investor on whether villagers agree and disagree to investment. This was a clear leading question for a yes or no answer, he added

CRISIS

## SA bottle stores face a New Year's eve champagne shortage

JOHANNESBURG

Bottle stores and distributors across the country are feeling the burden of an ongoing Champagne shortage leading up to New Year's Eve. Night clubs and restaurants could lose out on sales of Champagne, potentially causing a possible loss in expected profits.

Liquor stores in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban all confirmed this week that they are facing a shortage of Champagne. Business Insider South Africa asked a distributor of premium alcohol brands of Veuve Clicquot and Moët Chandon, the Really Great Brand Company, for comment it will be added when received.

Durban North Liquors Distributors is a regional distributors of alcohol to the greater area of Durban. Owner of the distributing company Strini Moodley says that the shortage has affected them significantly, especially their sales to night clubs and restaurants.

Norman Goodfellows, a bottle store located in Johannesburg, says the shortage has affected the store for the past three months, though their most expensive bottles may not be among those in short supply.

Offerings from top Champagne houses such as Veuve Clicquot, Dom Perignon, GH Mumm, Armand de Brignac, Moët & Chandon, and Taittinger are all being affected by the shortage, sellers said. The coronavirus upset the wine market in 2020. In that year, the French committee of Champagne, Comité Champagne, said that the shipment of Champagne had decreased by 18%. The committee also confirmed a reduction in the harvest yield.

This year frost, rain, and hail had upset the Champagne market in the region, the committee said. "Comité Champagne stresses that this year's exceptional weather conditions may impact the quantity of grapes, but not the quality," read their statement issued on 8 September 2021. Sparkling wine not from the Champagne region of France, and so not eligible to carry its name, is much more readily available on shelves, and in restaurants and clubs.

COMPETITIVE

# Priscilla on fitting in 'Big Tech Shoes'

NAIROBI

Ten minutes into our chat with Priscilla Muhii, the general manager of Glovo Kenya, the talk gravitates into colour energies. There is red, yellow, green, and blue.

The 38-year-old is certain that her energy colours are yellow and green. Yellow, because she is a radiant person whose entry to a room will be noticed by everyone. And green because she is a people person. "If you show me how a job impacts people, I will love it," she tells Elvis Ondieki at her office in Westlands.

But had everything gone to her plans as a high school student, she wouldn't be talking about e-commerce and technology. She would have been a doctor, injecting people somewhere and probably just radiating white as her energy colour and not her preferred green and yellow – which are incidentally the Glovo brand colours.

How does one move from studying food science in university to heading a tech firm?

When I was in high

school, I loved sciences so much so that in my KCSE I scored straight As in maths, biology, chemistry, and physics. I wanted to do medicine because it's a science and I love dealing with people.

The only problem is that at that time I was narrow-minded. I didn't think about a backup plan. Unfortunately, I missed my dream course by a point. My father could not afford a parallel programme, so that was that.

I had to settle for the second option (food science and technology) I chose in high school as my preferred university course. It wasn't something I gave much thought to back then because I knew that for me it was just medicine.

When I went for my internship, I realised food science and technology weren't what I wanted to do. It was more individual than team-based. I did a couple of odd jobs and then I bumped into marketing. For some years I worked in marketing, rising from an intern to a marketing manager.

Then when I got to a point where I was not



Priscilla Muhii.

learning anything new I decided to target the tech space when it was nascent. To cut a long story short, I joined Glovo in 2019 and I was leading the marketing efforts in Africa. In July 2020, I became the general manager for Glovo in Kenya.

Do you now feel you're at a place where you're challenged enough?

Yes, I do. I feel like I have a huge responsibility to take care of my team,

making sure they feel like Glovo is the job of their lives; making sure that I am supporting their careers as well.

Having worked at OLX, Sendy, and now Glovo, would you call yourself a tech girl?

I'm not a techie but I love the tech industry for its dynamism. For instance, there is absolutely no way we can have structures that make us take five days to make decisions. We usually make decisions

on the spot. That's what I love about the tech space; the dynamism. You move very fast and then you fail fast. If you're failing, you fail immediately. Then you learn and you go on. There is no time to overthink.

And there is this line my management team likes using: 'We always ask for forgiveness and not permission.' What it means is that in the event you can't reach me for whatever reason, and you

don't know what decision to make, you make the decision then ask for forgiveness if it fails as opposed to waiting for me to permit you. That's our policy.

We were given a brief saying your hobbies are dancing and travelling. Why those two?

I had been struggling with physical activity before I came across dancing and I can't imagine missing a class. If you go to my calendar, it's already blocked. Right now if you try and put anything in the slot, it auto-declines. Everyone in the company knows that you cannot book Priscilla's dancing class time.

I think a couple of gyms have gone with my money because I was paying for sessions but not attending. But I found that dancing makes me happy. I enjoy doing it and at the end of the day, I'm sweating like hell. So, I go to dancing classes four times a week. What I like about it is that we do a proper routine.

If it's a song, you do a routine, you practice for two hours and then do the final video. As for travel, I like beaches. I

like travelling, learning about new cultures, meeting new people, and such. But because I have small children, it's been a challenge for me. Ah, family.

I'm a mother of two boys but I also have one boy I live with. So, I am a mother of three boys. My boys are 13, 11, and 6. They are the reason I wake up every morning. There must be a lot of chaos in that house. Yes, you can imagine. Especially the eating part. My food bill, you don't want to imagine. Food is my biggest expense every month.

My shopping is like Sh30,000 a month because I buy bales and bales of unga. We don't cook one packet of unga wa ugali twice. But motherhood must have taught you something about management.

Yeah, patience. Motherhood changes you. You tolerate things that, before, you probably wouldn't. For me, it's patience and being caring. By that, I mean that the same way I'll take care of my children is the same way I'll take care of my team.

I have had to do sessions with people individually; not for work but just to know what was happening in their lives and if there was anything I could do to help. I also started doing the same thing to people who don't report to me. I call the sessions 'Coffee Catch-Up with Priscilla'. I like to ask this question: 'If you were the general manager today, what would you do? What do you think is missing?' Then they give me a lot of insights in terms of what can be improved.

Are you reading any books at the moment?

I'm reading Africa Rising, a book about African consumers; understanding them better. My previous book was Atomic Habits. It's the best book I've read in a while. It's about how habits can influence the outcome of your life, and understanding how you can change bad habits into good ones.

Glovo aside, what app can't you live without? It's WhatsApp. I can't imagine. Even for the office, we have WhatsApp groups for various tasks. It's the one app I have to go through every day.

## GROWTH

# Bamboo and rattan exports reached US\$3.4 billion in 2019

BEIJING

In its most recent trade report, the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) breaks down international trade of bamboo and rattan products.

According to data from the UN Comtrade database, in 2019, exports of bamboo and rattan commodities reached USD 3.4 billion. This is an increase of 5% on 2018, and an apparently dramatic increase from the years leading up to 2017, due to more accurate reporting. (Read more on this below.)

Bamboo products made up the bulk of overall trade: USD 3.054 billion-worth of bamboo products were exported in 2021. The Asia-Pacific remained the largest exporter for bamboo products. In particular, China exports accounted for 67% of the global total: the country exported more than USD 2 billion bamboo products in 2019.

European companies are beginning to produce more high-quality bamboo products, such as

this decking and furniture. Credit: MOSO BV Ltd. The European Union and North America are becoming increasingly important traders of bamboo and rattan products. These two regions together imported more than 60% of all traded bamboo and rattan goods. The European Union is also becoming a larger producer of bamboo products, particularly tableware, kitchenware and panels for construction: in 2019, the region sold USD 289 million-worth of bamboo goods.

Unsurprisingly, given its history of rattan production and use, Indonesia remains the largest exporter of rattan products. In 2019, the country exported USD 37 million-worth of rattan products: 38% of the world total.

The apparent growth in international bamboo and rattan trade is due to new trading codes. The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (HS) codes are used by more than 200 countries and economies to classify internationally traded products. Historically, there has been a lack of specific HS



A woman stacking rattan furniture in Cirebon, Indonesia.

codes to describe non-timber forest products like bamboo and rattan. However, with cooperation from INBAR, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, and China's General Administration of Customs, a number of new codes have been approved, most recently in 2017.

Currently, there are 24 HS codes describing a broad range of commonly traded bamboo and

rattan commodities, such as bamboo charcoal, bamboo pulp and paper-based articles, bamboo flooring panels, and rattan basketwork and furniture. This new ability to classify products has resulted in a significant 'increase' in the total global trade of bamboo and rattan commodities since 2018.

Importantly, it is likely that exports still make up a very small portion of

overall bamboo and rattan trade. In 2019, the China Bamboo Industry Association estimated that the total output value of the bamboo industry was as high as CNY 300 billion (USD 46 billion), which means exports accounted for only 5% of the total trade. This is likely to be even more true of countries which do not have highly developed bamboo value chains.

With their abundant spread across the tropics and subtropics, and their diverse uses, bamboo and rattan are already a critical source of fibre, fuel and income for millions of people. According to Dr. Wu Junqi, a trade specialist at INBAR, "A better understanding of bamboo and rattan trade is critical to raising awareness about these plants, and providing appropriate support to developing products. This latest report is great news for the visibility of bamboo and rattan goods, and the growth of the sector."

Established in 1997, the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) is an intergovernmental development organisation that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan. It is currently made up of 48 Member States.

As the Common Fund for Commodities' International Commodity Body for bamboo and rattan, INBAR collates and analyses data about international bamboo and rattan trade. Previous reports can be accessed on the INBAR Resources Centre. INBAR also maintains a trade database on bamboo and rattan products.

## CONCERN

# Record high coal power demand in 2021 threatens net-zero targets, IEA says

PARIS

Global coal-generated power demand is expected to hit record highs this year, threatening the world's net-zero targets aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

Power generation from coal globally is expected to jump by 9 per cent in 2021 to an all-time high of 10,350 terawatt-hours, driven by rapid economic recovery that has pushed up electricity demand much faster than low-carbon supplies can keep up, the IEA said in its latest annual market report.

Overall, coal demand worldwide - including uses beyond power generation, such as cement and steel production - is forecast to grow six per cent this year, according to the IEA's Coal 2021 report. Depending on weather patterns and economic growth, overall coal demand could reach new all-time highs as soon as 2022 and remain at that level for the following two years, underscoring the need for "fast and strong" policy action, the agency said.

"Coal is the single largest source of global carbon emissions, and this year's historically high level of coal power generation is a worrying sign of how far off track the world is in its efforts to put emissions into decline towards net zero," Fatih Birol, executive director of IEA, said. "Without strong and immediate actions by governments to tackle coal emissions - in a way that is fair, affordable and secure for those affected - we will have little chance, if any at all, of limiting global warming to 1.5°C." In China, where more than half of global coal-fired electricity generation takes place, coal power is expected to grow by 9 per cent in 2021, the IEA said.

In India, it is forecast to grow 12 per cent this year. This would set new all-time highs in both coun-

tries, even as they roll out significant amounts of solar and wind capacity. "The pledges to reach net zero emissions made by many countries, including China and India, should have very strong implications for coal - but these are not yet visible in our near-term forecast, reflecting the major gap between ambitions and action," Keisuke Sadamori, director of energy markets and security at IEA, said.

Asia is dominating the global coal market, with China and India accounting for two-thirds of overall demand, Mr Sadamori said. These two economies - dependent on coal and with a combined population of almost 3 billion people - hold the key to future coal demand, he added.

In 2020, global coal demand fell 4.4 per cent, the largest decline in decades but much smaller than the annual drop that was initially expected at the height of the lockdowns early in the pandemic, the report showed.

Coal prices have been on a rollercoaster ride over the past two years. After falling to \$50 per tonne in the second quarter of 2020, they started to climb towards the end of the year, with supply cutbacks balancing the market before rebounds in economic activity and coal demand in China started pushing prices up.

In 2021, prices were lifted further by demand outstripping supply in China - the global coal price setter - as well as by supply disruptions and higher natural gas prices globally. Coal prices reached all-time highs in early October 2021, with imported thermal coal in Europe, for example, hitting \$298 per tonne. Quick policy intervention by the Chinese government to balance the market had a fast effect on prices. As of mid-December, European prices were back below \$150 per tonne.



Fatih Birol, executive director of IEA.



ITV

## SATURDAY 1 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebecca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:00	Igizo: Rebecca
21:30	Art and lifestyle
22:00	ITV TOP 10
22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15	DWTV

## SUNDAY 2 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35	Bongo Movie rpt
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Rebecca
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie:
00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

## MONDAY 3 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habai za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Jagina rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Alya ya Jamii
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt:
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Yu wapi
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30	Uchumi na biashara
19:00	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:45	Chetu ni chetu
22:20	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

## WEDNESDAY 5 Jan

12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjue Zaidi
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:15	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Aibu yako rpt
18:15	DWTV: Kesho leo
18:45	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo
19:00	Alya ya Jamii
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Dakika 45
22:00	Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW
22:15	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

## FRIDAY 7 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habai za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Uchumi wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru rpt
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Soap: Rebecca rpt
18:45	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo
19:00	Ijue Sheria
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Aibu Yako
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:35	Ripoti Maalum
22:10	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

## THURSDAY 6 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habai za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Ijue sheria rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Shamsham za pwani
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30	Jagina
19:00	Usafiri wako
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Malumbano ya hoja

## SATURDAY 8 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebecca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:00	Igizo: Rebecca
21:30	Art and lifestyle
22:00	ITV TOP 10
22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15	DWTV

## SUNDAY 9 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35	Bongo Movie rpt:
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Rebecca
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie:
00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

## CAPITAL

## Sat 01 Jan

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n'about rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30	Our Earth rpt
13:00B	usiness edition rpt
13:30	Korean Drama rpt: Emperor Of The Sea
14:30	Televetela rpt: Lover her to death
17:45	Chetu ni chetu rpt
17:45	Bundesliga kick off
18:15	Capchat rpt
19:15	Mizengwe
19:30	The Decor
20:00	Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea
21:00	Out n' About
21:30	Movie: Hummer Lock (tape no:5691)
23:00	Series rpt: Beats of Love
01:00	Al Jazeera

## Sun 02 Jan

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
12:00	Jagina rpt
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00	In good shape rpt
13:30	Series rpt: Beats of Love
15:15	Aibu yako
15:30	Rev rpt
16:00	Dakika 45 rpt
16:45	Mizengwe rpt

## WORLD

## Mourners pay respects to South Africa's anti-apartheid hero Tutu

CAPE TOWN

HUNDREDS of mourners queued on Thursday to pay their respects to Archbishop Desmond Tutu whose body lay in state at St George's Cathedral in Cape Town where the anti-apartheid hero preached against racial injustice.

Tutu, a Nobel Peace prize winner widely revered across racial and cultural divides for his moral rectitude and principled fight against white minority rule, died on Sunday aged 90.

His death represents a huge loss for South Africa, where many called him "Tata" - father. Since Sunday, church bells have been rung every day in his honor and tributes and prayers have poured in from around the world.

Tutu lay in state at the cathedral on

Thursday and yesterday, ahead of a requiem mass funeral service today where President Cyril Ramaphosa was expected to deliver the main eulogy.

"I am basically just here to pay my respects," said Randall Ortel, a medical doctor and one of the first members of the public in line to enter the church. "He is definitely one of my role models and I want to emulate what he has done in his life," he said.

Amanda Mbikwana said she had arrived as early as 5 am (0300 GMT) with her mother and nephews.

"We have known Tata's work, he has stood up for us and we are here today in a free country to give him the honor, to celebrate his life and to support (his wife) Mama Leah and the family," said Mbikwana, a human resources manager.



People queue to pay their last respect to Archbishop Desmond Tutu as he is laying in state at the St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa on Thursday. AP

"The voice of reason"

Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 in recognition of his non-violent opposition to white minority rule. A decade later, he witnessed the end of that regime and chaired a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to help unearth state-sponsored atrocities during that era.

"He was always the voice of the voiceless and always the voice of reason," said fellow anti-apartheid activist Chris Nissen, as he waited in line outside the cathedral.

Tutu's simple pine coffin with rope handles, adorned with a single bunch of white carnations, was carried into St. George's, which provided a safe haven for anti-apartheid activists during the repressive white-minority rule.

Emotional family members met

the coffin outside the entrance, where six black-robed clergies acting as pallbearers carried the closed coffin inside to an inner sanctuary amid a cloud of incense from the Anglican thurible.

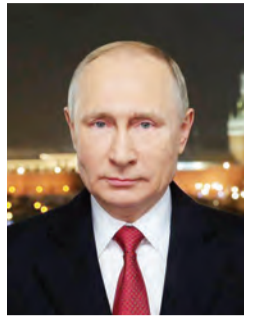
Tutu, who requested the cheapest coffin and did not want any lavish funeral expense, will be cremated and his remains interred behind the cathedral pulpit he often used to preach against racial injustice.

In Johannesburg, a memorial service was held at St Mary's Cathedral, where Tutu was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1961 and where he later served as the first Black Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg in 1985.

An interfaith prayer service was also held in Pretoria, the capital city.

## Putin calls good health a top wish for everyone for 2022

PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY



IN his New Year address to the Russians President Vladimir Putin wished everyone good health in 2022. According to the head of state, this is the main wish and success in various fields will follow.

"In a few seconds, the New Year will come, and in many families, including our compatriots outside Russia, the traditional words will sound: 'Happy New Year!'" he said.

Russians pronounce these simple words with special feeling because they are passed down from generation to generation, the President said.

"I sincerely congratulate you! The top wish to everyone is, of course, good health. And I am sure that success in work, studies, creative activities and favorite occupation will follow," the President said.

The head of state wished every household had as many joyful events as possible, new families were established in Russia as often as possible and children were born.

"May they grow up healthy, smart, honest and free! May love be in every heart and inspire all of us to achieve our goals and conquer the greatest heights - for the sake of their loved ones and for the sake of our only, great Motherland! Happy New Year, dear friends! Happy new year 2022!" he said to the Russian citizens.

In his New Year's address Putin expressed support to everyone who lost loved ones due to the pandemic.

He noted that in the outgoing year, the citizens of the country faced huge challenges, but learned to live in such harsh conditions, to solve complex problems "and were able to do this thanks to our solidarity."

"Together we continued to fight a dangerous epidemic that gripped all continents and is not receding yet. The insidious disease has claimed tens of thousands of lives. I want to express my sincere support to everyone who has lost their loved ones," the President said.

The Russian leader noted that hopes for good changes bring people together on the verge of the New Year.

"Dear Russian citizens, dear friends! The year of 2021 is coming to the end and the time will take us from the past to the future very soon. Yes, so it happens every day, minute and second. However, we clearly hear this continuous pace of time when we welcome the New Year. We wait for it as for the landmark in the life. All of us are united now by the hope for good changes but we understand they cannot be pulled away, separated from developments of the departing year," Putin noted.

Only the improvement of the well-being and the quality of life of people will allow making Russia stronger, Putin said.

"When welcoming the New Year, we hope it will open new opportunities; we certainly expect to have good luck but understand at the same time that the achievement of what we thought for depends in the first instance on ourselves, on our priority, on our daily life content, on the degree of taking up a matter strongly and proactively and achieving specific, visible results," the head of state said.

Implementation of nation-wide plans will evolve exactly from such results, Putin said. "Their main goal is to improve the well-being and the quality of life of people. Solution of exactly these tasks will make Russia stronger," the Russian leader said.

Further development and flourishing of the motherland can only be supported by joint efforts, Putin stressed. "The mood for creation, the aspiration for definite implementation of personal plans and being of benefit for the society and the homeland are particularly important in such challenging times as now," he added. **Agencies**

## 177 asylum seekers evacuated from Libya to Niger, says UN

TRIPOLI

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Thursday said it has evacuated 177 asylum-seekers from Libya to Niger.

"In the last evacuation flight of the year out of Libya, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has brought 177 vulnerable asylum seekers to safety in Niger."

It is the second evacuation flight to Niger this year, since the Libyan authorities lifted a blanket ban on humanitarian flights in October, the agency said in a statement.

This is the 30th evacuation flight to Niger organized since the Emergency Transit Mechanism was established, according to the statement.

The mechanism was established in 2017 by the government of Niger, which agreed to temporarily receive on its territory asylum seekers and refugees facing a life-threatening situation in Libya, the UNHCR said.

Xinhua

## President Xi gives 2022 New Year speech

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping delivered a New Year speech to ring in 2022 yesterday evening.

In his speech, the president hailed 2021 as a year of exceptional significance, saying the Chinese people have lived through landmark events in the history of the Communist Party of China and the country.

At the historical convergence of the Two Centenary Goals, China has set out on a new journey of building a modern socialist country in all respects and is making confident strides on the path toward the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, Xi said.

Xi called for vigorous and determined endeavor to fulfill the responsibility to history, prove worthy of the times and live up to people's expectations.

Noting that the Communist Party of China celebrated its centenary on July 1, Xi said that Chinese Communists have led the Chinese people in an unyielding struggle against

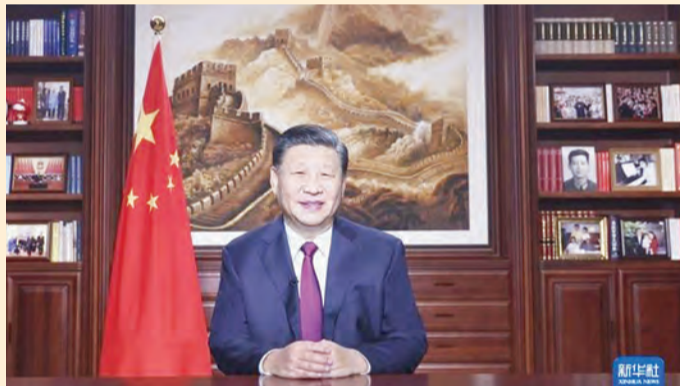
all obstacles and challenges, and scoring spectacular, epoch-making achievements over the past century.

Noting that the sixth plenary session of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee has adopted the Party's third resolution on historical issues, Xi said the Party's 100-year achievements provide a source of motivation and its 100-year experience a wellspring of inspiration.

"To realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation will be no easy task like a walk in the park; it will not happen overnight, or through sheer fanfare," said Xi.

"We must always keep a long-term perspective, remain mindful of potential risks, maintain strategic focus and determination, and 'attain to the broad and great while addressing the delicate and minute,'" he added.

Realization of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and elimination of extreme poverty is what the Communist Party of China has delivered to the people, and it is also China's contribution to



President Xi Jinping delivers a New Year speech to ring in 2022 yesterday. XINHUA

the world, Xi said.

Those who once lived in poverty no longer have to worry about food or clothing, or access to education, housing and medical insurance, thanks to the sustained efforts of the Chinese people from generation to generation, he said. The president underscored the importance of the human-nature relationship, saying "if we do not fail nature, nature shall never fail us"

The country must never rest on past achievements on the long way to ensure a better life for everyone, he said.

The president underscored the importance of the human-

nature relationship, saying "if we do not fail nature, nature shall never fail us".

He particularly mentioned the Yellow River, saying that a Yellow River well harnessed is a millennia-long aspiration of the Chinese people. He recalled his visits to all nine provinces or autonomous regions on the upper, middle and lower streams of the river.

Xi also mentioned the Yangtze River, Qinghai Lake, Yarlung Zangbo River, the South-North Water Diversion, the Saihanba forest, as well as the northward trek and homecoming of elephants in Yunnan province, and the migration

and return of Tibetan antelopes to illustrate the importance of a harmonious human-nature relationship.

The year of 2021 has recorded many memorable Chinese voices, Chinese moments and Chinese stories, said Xi.

These included youthful vows of "pledging to the Party to make my country strong"; affectionate expression of "pure, true love saved for the motherland"; the Zhurong rover probing Mars, the Xihe satellite chasing the sun, and the Tianhe space station core module traveling among the stars; athletes outdoing themselves to excel on the sports field; the whole nation staying united in solid COVID-19 response; people in disaster-stricken areas standing together to rebuild their homes; members of the People's Liberation Army and Armed Police devoted to building a strong military and protecting our country, Xi said.

"The hard work and dedication of countless unsung heroes have all added to the great momentum of China's march forward in the new era," said Xi. **Xinhua**

## Ex-S. Korean president Park Geun-hye set free

SEOUL

FORMER South Korean president Park Geun-hye was set free yesterday under a special pardon granted by the incumbent President Moon Jae-in, according to Yonhap news agency.

Park, who had been imprisoned for 57 months over corruption charges, reportedly received the certificate of pardon at a hospital in Seoul, where she has been treated for over one month due to her chronic

shoulder and waist pain.

The 69-year-old, after receiving shoulder surgery in 2019, allegedly planned to get treatment at the hospital until Feb 2 next year.

A week earlier, the justice ministry announced that Park was included in the list of Moon's special amnesty for the new year.

Park was sentenced to a combined 22-year prison term and had served the sentence since 2017 after being impeached and removed from office over cor-

ruption charges.

According to the presidential Blue House, Park's deteriorating health was considered to make the pardon decision.

Park will be protected by the presidential security service, but she will not be subject to other privileges as a former president, including the provision of special pensions and personal secretaries, for her conviction.

Agencies



## Farmers' skiing team in Beijing actively provides voluntary services for Beijing 2022

IN the snow-covered Haituo Mountain in Yanqing district, Beijing, a team of skiers in red winter coats weaved from side to side between flags in an S-shaped trajectory. They are members of Haituo Farmers' Skiing Team, a well-known farmers' skiing team in Yanqing district.

As the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games approach, many of them have joined in providing voluntary services for the grand event.

Most of the members of the skiing team are from Zhangshanying township located at the foot of Haituo Mountain and the surrounding townships. Before Beijing's successful bidding for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Zhangsh-

anying was only an ordinary township in northern Beijing. In less than two months, the township will host some of the snow sports events of the Beijing 2022.

Over the past few years, as the township witnessed changes with each passing day, the number of skiers of the Haituo Farmers' Skiing Team increased quickly and their skills also improved by leaps and bounds.

Lang Enge, leader of the skiing team, was a shepherd before the team was established in July 2017. "We have members who used to grow apples, do odd jobs, sell second-hand cars, and work in the wedding industry. I once raised more than 300 sheep. The Winter Olym-

pics near our home has brought us together," the 32-year-old farmer recalled.

Although the average age of the initial 18 members of the skiing team was less than 30 years old, and all of them were native villagers of Yanqing district, they had an average of about 10 years of skiing experience, and many of them were master skiers of some renown in the locality.

Nevertheless, Lang knew clearly that the team needed guidance from professional instructors and professional skills training if it wanted to really accomplish something.

During the first two snow seasons since the team was set up, members of the team learnt from skiing experts, coaches, master skiers and

other professionals, and made great efforts to practice their skiing skills at ski resorts.

Their hard work paid off. In the first year since the team was established, 11 of the team members passed relevant examination and obtained level-I international ski instructor certificate.

As the skiers of the team gradually grew more professional and the management of the team became increasingly standardized, the team members' dream of serving the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in their hometown becomes a reality.

In October 2020, Yan Qingsheng, a member of the Haituo Farmers' Skiing Team, became one of the safety

personnel of the National Alpine Ski Center in Yanqing district. Some of the members served as assistant referee at the test events of the Beijing 2022. And more than 40 members of the team have volunteered for the preparations for 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

The current size and the achievements of the team have proven that the efforts made by the team members in the past four years were worthwhile, according to Lang.

"The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics is inching closer. We hope Chinese athletes will win glory for our country and claim many gold medals. Our famers' skiing team will serve their needs at the foot of the mountain," Lang said.

Haituo Farmers' Skiing Team has carried out voluntary training in skiing skills on a regular basis over the past four years, training a cumulative total of more than 12,000 people.

"Our trainees come from all sectors of society and vary from three-year-olds to people in their fifties and sixties. Our job is to help them have fun skiing and tumble less," Lang said.

The farmers' skiing team pays special attention to students. It has given lectures on subjects including ski safety and snowboarding tips to students of elementary and middle schools in Yanqing district, laying a foundation for their participation in ice and snow sports.

People's Daily



## Decision to recognise Taliban govt depends on their fulfillment of promises - Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE official recognition of the Taliban (outlawed in Russia - TASS) government in Afghanistan will depend on progress in their fulfillment of promises, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told TASS in an interview.

"The issue of official recognition of the Taliban authorities is premature for the time being. The positive decision will depend on evolution of developments in Afghanistan, to be more specific - when the Taliban will fulfill their promises, including the establishment of the inclusive government, and efficient combating of terrorist and drug threats coming from the territory of Afghanistan," the



Minister said.

"We will gradually move together with other members of the global community in linkage to that towards exclusion of the Taliban from sanction lists of the UN Security Council, which will create in its turn the basis for official recognition of the new government of Afghanistan," Lavrov added.

## Five Eyes Alliance must stop meddling in Hong Kong affairs

THE recent election for the seventh-term Legislative Council (LegCo) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) was exactly a testament to the broad representation, political inclusiveness, balanced participation and fair competition.

The election was of vital importance for developing democracy that suits Hong Kong's actual conditions, shaping a new and sound paradigm of governance in Hong Kong, and promoting the long-term and stable development of the "one country, two systems" principle.

However, Five Eyes Alliance countries, including the United States and the UK, are unwilling to see Hong Kong implement the new electoral system and embrace stability and prosperity. They deliberately turned a blind eye to the election results which were achieved according to the will of the people in Hong Kong and relevant legal procedures, and blatantly published a so-called "joint statement" to smear the election, saying there was an "erosion of democratic elements." Such mean and sleazy acts were the gross interference in China's domestic affairs, and will inevitably come to a dead end like a repeat of the past.

Facts have proved that the election for the seventh-term LegCo was a success. Altogether 153 candidates competed in the election and displayed their patriotism and governance capability. The election was also joined by all walks of life in the HKSAR. More than 1.35 million Hong Kong citizens exercised their democratic rights, expressing their firm support and high recognition for the new electoral system with concrete actions.

90 members of the LegCo with different backgrounds and political views were elected. They will better balance interests among different regions, different functional constituencies and the special administrative region as a

whole, and better represent the will of the people.

A Hong Kong citizen told People's Daily that the election this time was more diversified and representative than ever before, and it totally conformed to the general interests of Hong Kong and was a milestone of Hong Kong's democratic system.

The Five Eyes Alliance countries, slandering Hong Kong's electoral system and smearing the LegCo election under the disguise of the so-called "democracy," revealed their true intention to meddle in Hong Kong's politics, interfere in China's domestic affairs, and contain China's development.

They see those who remain in prison or fugitive for opposing China and attempting to destabilize Hong Kong as "meaningful political opposition." Their mean practices are exactly what "undermine Hong Kong's rights, freedoms and high degree of autonomy."

It's known by all that Hong Kong had never enjoyed democracy under the 156-year British colonial rule, until the door of democracy was opened when it returned to its motherland. The Five Eyes Alliance countries should open their eyes widely to see the fact they are never "grade-A students" of democracy, or qualified to lecture other countries about democracy.

The election for the seventh-term LegCo fully indicated that the aspiration of the Hong Kong people for social stability and their firm determination to oppose anti-China and destabilizing forces are unchallengeable, and the democratic development of Hong Kong is unstoppable under the "once country, two systems" principle.

Hong Kong must be governed by those who love China, and anti-China disrupters must be knocked out. That's what guarantees a brighter future of the special administrative region, and a common aspiration of the Hong Kong society.

People's Daily

## Africa tightens measures to contain post-Christmas COVID-19 flare-up

BRAZZAVILLE

WITH the Omicron variant circulating and people traveling and gathering for year-end festivals, post-Christmas COVID-19 cases continue to surge across Africa, as countries are counting on vaccination and tighter measures to keep the pandemic under control.

POST-CHRISTMAS FLARE-UP

In South Africa, one of the first in the world to fall victim to Omicron, 9,020 new COVID-19 cases have been reported in the past day, bringing the accumulated confirmed cases to 3,433,554, said the National Institute for Communicable Diseases on Wednesday. In Kenya, the positivity rate has been over the threshold of 30 percent for the last consecutive days. The East African nation is one of the busiest transport hubs in Africa and has so far reported 288,951 confirmed cases. Zambia on Wednesday also reported 5,255 new cases in the past 24 hours, the highest number of daily COVID-19 cases since the advent of the pandemic, its health ministry said. Zambian health minister Sylvia Masebo said Tuesday the government was concerned with the high number of positive cases and attributed the surge to workplaces and large gatherings during the year-end holiday season. Zimbabwe on Tuesday recorded 24 COVID-19 deaths, a new record high since the onset of the Omicron variant in the country early this month, as COVID-19 deaths



A health worker administered a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to a man on the Transvaco Vaccination Train in East London, South Africa, Oct. 8, 2021. Xinhua

have been steadily rising over the past two weeks, jumping from single-digit figures in the first two weeks of the month to double-digit figures now.

MEASURES TIGHTENED

Angola has also hit a record number of daily new cases over the past month, after confirming Tuesday 5,035 new cases, pushing the country to reimpose tighter restrictions, including reduction of the workforce in public and private services from 75 percent to 30 percent. As the presentation of the vaccination certificate or negative COVID-19 test becomes mandatory in countries like Kenya, Congo-Brazzaville, and Gabon for access to public

services and places, countries across the continent are counting on tighter measures to curb the surge.

The Cape Verde government has decided to ban all gatherings for New Year celebration while reintroducing since Tuesday the state of emergency due to cases surge.

Malawi, out of fear of importing cases, has ordered that arriving passengers without proof of vaccination be either vaccinated onsite or undergo a 10-day quarantine at their expense. In prelude to the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), which will be hosted in Cameroon in January after a year-long postponement, local authorities have already made vaccination and

COVID-19 test mandatory to access football stadiums during the highly anticipated sports event.

LOW VACCINATION COVERAGE

Facing the recent COVID-19 flare-up, African countries have stepped up efforts in getting their people vaccinated and introducing booster doses. Togo has started on Monday, right after the Christmas weekend, the administration of the booster dose, targeting persons of 18 years old and above. Botswana has also announced Wednesday to begin vaccinating people aged 12 to 17, and booster doses. To date, nearly 1.2 million of Botswana's 1.6 million adults have received the first dose of the vaccine, with over one million fully vaccinated. "The COVID-19 vaccination will move to Phase Four, which will cover those aged 12 to 17," said Shirley Mukambo, the ministry's Acting Permanent Secretary, adding that details on booster dose schedule will be provided in due course.

## White House bedeviled by COVID-19 surge fueled by Omicron, Delta variants

WASHINGTON

JUAN Garcia was planning a New Year's trip to his home country in Latin America. He needed a COVID-19 test before being allowed to fly.

But Garcia, working in management in the state of Virginia, tried for two hours to register online at various testing centers, only to find out that all appointments had already been taken, he told Xinhua.

Garcia's experience is common this holiday season, as many Americans strive to ensure they can safely gather with relatives amid the rapid spread of the omicron variant.

Americans are facing long lines at testing centers this holiday season, or are finding that testing centers are fully booked when they try to register online.

U.S. President Joe Biden is in the hot seat. Critics are crying incompetence in his handling of COVID-19, as the lingering Delta variant and the new Omicron variant surge through the United

States.

With a caseload nearly twice that of the worst single days of last winter, the United States shattered its record for daily coronavirus cases, according to a report by New York Times on Thursday.

As a second year of living with the pandemic is drawing to a close, the new daily case total topped 488,000 on Wednesday, according to a New York Times database, adding that Wednesday's seven-day average of new daily cases, 301,000, was also a record, compared with 267,000 the day before.

"In the past week, more than two million cases have been reported nationally, and 15 states and territories reported more cases than in any other seven-day period," said the report.

The new peak in cases comes as the Omicron and Delta variants are spreading throughout the country simultaneously.

The United States is seeing over 1,500 daily deaths, although that's less than half the highs

seen in Jan. 2021, which exceeded 4,100 deaths, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Deaths are mostly among the unvaccinated.

"The rapid increase of cases we're seeing across the country is, in large part, a reflection of the exceptionally transmissible omicron variant," Rochelle Walensky, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said at a White House briefing earlier this week.

"While our cases have substantially increased from last week, hospitalizations and deaths remain comparatively low right now." While the president vowed to provide 500 million more testing kits to be distributed in January, that has come too late for the holiday season, when millions of Americans travel to see relatives nationwide.

"It's clearly not enough. If we'd have known, we'd have gone harder, quicker if we could have," Biden said in an interview with ABC news, but added that he didn't view this as a failure.

Chief White House medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci told CNN Monday that testing could be better, after repeated warnings from experts for months that there aren't enough tests available to the public.

"Obviously, not making any excuses for it: we should have had more tests available," Fauci said. All this could hurt Democrats in next year's midterm elections, and give ammunition to Republicans who have lambasted Biden for what they said was a failure to achieve his number one task -- to defeat COVID-19 and get the country fully back to normalcy.

Joe Biden claimed he would shut down the virus, but a year later he failed to do so and says there is no federal solution to COVID-19, the GOP tweeted. Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua that criticism of Biden's lack of tests is "a legitimate criticism of the administration."

Xinhua

## Uganda sees end of 2021: The year marked by tense election, pandemic and war against terrorism

KAMPALA

UGANDA has had a frantic 2021 as it experienced one of the most contested presidential elections, a devastating pandemic and a new war against terrorism.

A three-month presidential election campaign culminated on Jan. 14, with the incumbent, 76-year-old Yoweri Museveni tussling it out with the 38-year-old Robert Kyagulanyi, a popular musician turned politician.

There were also other candidates. Museveni won the elections with 58.6 percent of the vote, beating his rival Kyagulanyi, who got 34.83 percent of the vote. Observers described the elections as the most contested in the country, pitting the young against the old. The election period was characterized by violence.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic compounded the election process and months later, as argued by some experts, the results were evident. The country was in June hit by the second wave of the pandemic, overwhelming the health sector.

Hundreds of lives were lost and hospitals were full of patients, forcing President Museveni to announce a 42-day total lockdown. "In the previ-

ous wave, it took us three to four months to get to the current state of critical and severe patients, while in the second wave, it has taken us less than two weeks to get to the same situation," Museveni said on June 7 as he announced the second lockdown after the earlier one in March 2020.

Economic experts argued that the continued COVID-19 restrictions were adversely affecting the country's economic recovery.

Bank of Uganda, the country's central bank, said that the emergence of "vaccine resistant variants" would continue to weigh on economic activity.

The central bank in a statement issued in September said economic growth was expected in the range of 3.5 percent and 4 percent in the financial year 2021/22, a downward revision compared to the June 2021 projection.

The economic activity might "remain well below the pre-pandemic path" for an extended time and return to 6-7 percent in the financial year 2024/25.

The Ministry of Health in recent weeks announced that the country might be going into the third wave of the pandemic as cases have started going up following

the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

The central bank warned that the Omicron variant could further disrupt the global supply chain, which may have spillover effects thus having a negative impact on the domestic economic performance.

Contact intensive sectors like education and hospitality could further face the brunt of the pandemic if the infection rate increases and containment measures are taken, the bank said.

President Museveni is scheduled to address the country on Dec. 31 on the new measures to deal with the current upsurge of COVID-19 cases.

Last month, Museveni said he would fully open the economy in January. All schools would be reopened after close to two years of closure due to the pandemic. Uganda on Nov. 16 received a rude awakening after two separate bomb blasts went off in the national capital of Kampala, leaving six people including three suicide bombers dead and 33 other people injured.

Scenes of cars burning, people calling for help and security personnel cordoning



A counterterrorism police officer stands guard at the scene after a bomb blast at the parliamentary avenue in Kampala, Uganda, Nov. 16, 2021.

off the bombed places were telecast to the rest of the world.

The attacks came about three weeks after two separate blasts, which were blamed on the Allied Democratic Forces

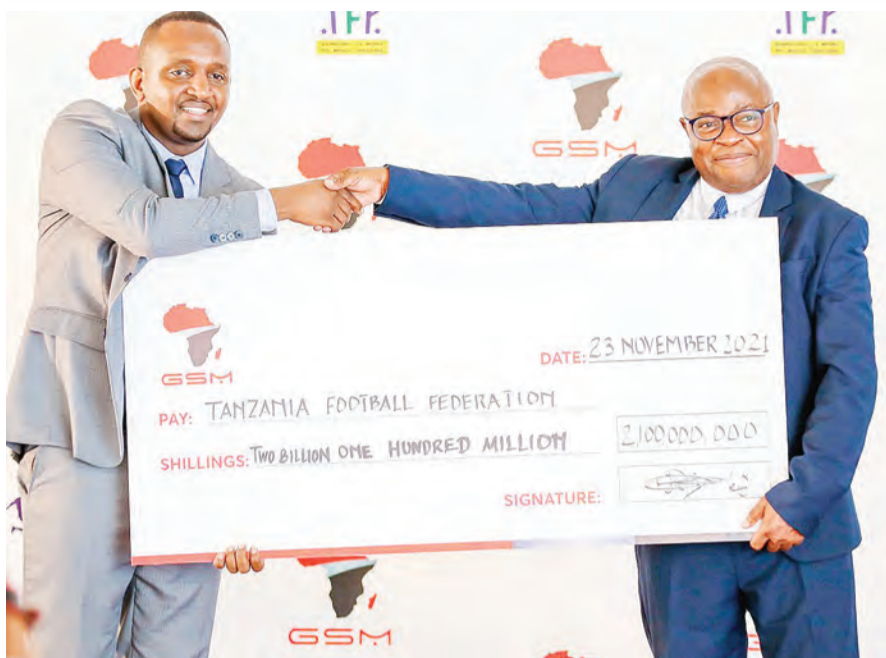
(ADF), an affiliate of the Islamic State in central Africa, killed two people and injured several others in central Uganda.

President Museveni in a televised address blamed the Nov.

16 attacks on the ADF, formerly a Ugandan rebel group, pledging to track down the ADF in their safe haven in the jungles of neighboring eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Ugandan military on Nov. 30 started joint military operations with its Congolese counterpart against the ADF.

Xinhua



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) First Vice-President, Athuman Nyamlani (R), and GSM Group Investment Director, Hersi Said, pose for a picture with a dummy cheque once the firm sealed the contract with the federation for sponsoring NBC Premier League in Dar es Salaam recently. The two-year sponsorship is valued at 2.1bn/-. PHOTO: TFF

## Premier League Board ought to operate independently

By Lydia Sospeter, TUDARCO

A recent saga in the NBC Premier League, which had the top flight's defending champion, Simba SC, contesting the presence of the tournament's new co-sponsor, GSM Group, has had football fanatics in Tanzania issuing varying opinions.

The GSM Group entered into a two-year contract with Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) worth 2.1bn/- to back the NBC Premier League.

According to Simba SC, the firm, the firm's financial support for the Premier League will likely create a conflict of interest as the company as well sponsors Yanga, the former's age-old rival.

Even before the signing of the contract, there was a secret war against the sponsorship that the same company has offered some of the Premier League clubs.

Before the situation had ended, GSM Group signed the contract with TFF. The move led to another conflict.

Many negative opinions have been issued by some of the local football stakeholders following the contract signing.

The football stakeholders said to have issued the opinions are the ones that oppose the sponsorship.

I do not want to repeat the issue, I want to talk about the good side of the sponsorship.

The Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) operates as a TFF department, which is not the purpose of the board's establishment.

This opinion is backed by the fact that some of the TPLB officials have at some point worked at TFF.

A section of the TPLB officials have left the board and landed posts at TFF.

Boniface Wambura, who had several years back serve as TFF information officer, joined the TPLB and, after a few years, for instance, returned to TFF to head the federation's Information and Marketing Department.

This is certainly not right. The TPLB should be an independent institution that employs its executives for its strategies.

The TPLB for example might find it difficult to contest a decision that has been issued by TFF even at a time the former feels such a decision is wrong.

This is the TPLB that operated under, among other leaders, Chief Executive Officer, Silas Mwakibinga.

The TPLB leadership was working alongside TFF that was under Leodegar Tenga.

The TFF leadership that came to power in 2013 began to interfere with the TPLB operation.

First TFF requested for 100m/-, the cash that Yanga was to receive from Premier League's Television rights' sponsorship the TPLB had sealed with Azam TV.

Yanga had rejected the cash as the club claimed it wanted a bigger amount of cash from the deal, considering the outfit commands a huge following. Mwakibinga protested the TFF request.

Later came the issue of TFF seeking to borrow money from TPLB, Mwakibinga became a stumbling block to the

move.

The final saga is that of the TFF leadership demanding five percent of every sponsorship deal that Premier League clubs will receive.

Mwakibinga, in his capacity as TPLB's CEO, opposed the plan and hired a learned lawyer, Damas Ndumbaro, to defend the clubs in the matter.

Ndumbaro became an obstacle to TFF, he was banned from having involvement in football activities and Mwakibinga was removed from his position.

The TFF was about to dissolve the TPLB and bring the Premier League management activities back to the federation's secretariat.

I think TFF was advised that the decision would lead to a major crisis, the federation, therefore, opted out of the move.

The TPLB by then was operating as an independent body, with TFF serving as one of the board's stakeholders.

The TPLB however lately operates as the TFF subordinate.

I think through this saga local soccer stakeholders can see to it there is a TPLB that will operate independently, opposing any sort of interference.

If TPLB CEO, Almasi Kasongo, had stood firm and opposed TFF's plan to sign a sponsorship contract with GSM Group, and have TPLB seal the deal, all this would not have happened.

Kasongo would have been working for outfits, which brought him to power, he would have sent the outfits a contract proposal so the latter can review and eventually reach an agreement.

Clubs want to be involved in all sponsorship contracts for the Premier League because the outfits are taking part in the league.

The outfits do not want to carry a load whilst they hardly know the load's contents.

The decision by TPLB officials to block Simba SC Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez from accessing Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium when the outfit faced Yanga in an NBC Premier League duel, played at the stadium on December 11, raised eyebrows.

Simba SC advisor, Crencentius Magori, for example, posted a message on his Instagram account calling on the club's Board of Directors' Chairman, Simba SC's Chairman and shareholders to make sure they build a stadium for the outfit at Bunju in the city.

Many Simba SC members and fans have supported Magori's idea and are contributing to the project.

The Barbara incident boils down to the fact that clubs do not have authority when it comes to taking charge of their home matches.

That is, the home team cannot have an opportunity to arrange entrance fees for a fixture, people that should enter the stadium, and the invitees.

This is not right at all. The clubs should be left to run their matches, make promotions, set entrance fees, sell match tickets, and decide who gets in and who should not.

A match is a product owned by an outfit just like any other product that the club sells.

## Azam FC vs Simba SC, a match full of nightmares for coaches

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S soccer stakeholders have today welcomed the New Year with an NBC Premier League match between Simba SC and Azam FC that will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Most people know that Simba SC and Azam FC have some kind of historical relationship, but they do not know the details and misinterpret the relationship.

In football, each team has its history, and often that history starts with the other team, but history remains in the past and the relevant moment takes place.

This is the case with English Premier League's Liverpool FC and Everton FC - teams from the Merseyside suburb in Liverpool, England.

Everton FC, which was sponsored by the wealthy man John Houlding that was the outfit's Chairman and sponsor, is the older of the two. Houlding also owned the Anfield Stadium.

Later a dispute arose within the club and it led to a split that brought another club, Liverpool FC, to existence and the outfit also used the stadium.

Houlding became involved with the history of both clubs and the situation caused the match between these clubs to be very exciting.

That is the case with the match between Simba SC and Azam FC.

The two teams have historically been linked to one rich businessman, Said Salim Bakhresa.

The businessman was in the past one of Simba SC sponsors, when a dispute arose, he resigned and later set up his club, Azam FC.

The headquarters of his companies are at Mzizima in the city, a place where Azam FC was founded, it was as well a place he used to fund Simba SC.

In simple terms, Simba SC and Azam FC are linked to Mzizima, the headquarters of the Bakhresa Group of Companies.

The clash bringing together the two outfits is therefore known as 'Mzizima Derby'.

Just as Liverpool FC and Everton FC have a historic relationship that has nothing to do with their current lives, so are Simba SC and Azam FC.

Despite their historical connection with Mzizima, Simba SC and Azam FC have no other connection than that and the match between them could be likened to a battle.



Azam FC striker, Ayoub Lyanga (C), scores a second goal for his side during the previous season's Premier League clash between the side and Simba SC that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. The clash ended in a 2-2 draw. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

This is confirmed by events that happen either within the match or after the match.

They first met on October 4, 2008, at Uhuru Stadium in the city, with Simba SC cruising to a 2-0 victory.

After the match, Simba SC fans marched from the stadium to the home of the club's Chairman, Hassan Dalali, at Magomeni Makanya and demanded his resignation.

He resigned, but two days later he returned to his post after some fans went to ask him to reverse his decision.

When he returned to power, he took an action, suspending four players, Mussa Hassan, Henry Joseph Shindika, Edwin Mukanya, and Amani Simba, as the quartet was alleged to have sabotaged their outfit.

Simba SC's assistant coach, Jamhuri Kihwelo, and the outfit's goalkeeping coach, Iddi Pazi, were also sacked.

Hassan and Shindika were

later pardoned but Simba and Mukanya were expelled.

The nightmare moved to Azam FC in the second round match of the same season, held on April 29, 2009, and was brought to a halt because of rain and was repeated on April 30.

After the match ended in a 3-0 win for Simba SC, Azam FC fired former head coach, Neider Dos Santos.

The tendency of the two sides to sack coaches ended and later continued on October 27, 2012, as Azam FC fired head coach, Boris Bunjak, after the outfit's 3-1 defeat to Simba SC.

Four players, Deogratus Munishi, Aggrey Moris, Erasto Nyoni, and Said Morad, were also suspended pending completion of investigation for allegedly sabotaging the club.

This shows how these teams do not like to lose to each other.

It is similar to the Merseyside Derby which leads to the presence of many red cards in the English Premier League and this derby leads to the dismissal of coaches.

Hans van der Pluijm, a respected coach from the Netherlands, was sacked by Azam FC after the outfit's 3-1 defeat to Simba SC on February 22, 2019.

New Year's day will see the two outfits meet in the 27th Mainland Premier League game.

In the last 26 games, Azam FC has suffered a lot and that is why the defeats have led to the sacking of coaches after the game.

They have lost 12 times, whilst winning seven times. The club has conceded 37 goals in total in clashes against Simba SC while scoring 27 goals against the latter.

Seven matches between the two sides have ended in a draw.

## Mbeya, Makambako boxers set for non-title fights

By Guardian Correspondent

BOXING fanatics in Makambako District, Njombe are set for a treat given the district will on Saturday host non-title bouts bringing together boxers from within the district and pugilists from other parts of the country.

The fights' organizer Omary Yazidu stated the day's main bout will be an eight-round duel bringing together Heavyweight boxers Makambako-based Yona Kayuni and Alex Philemon from Rungwe, Mbeya.

There will be several other undercard bouts that will see boxers based in Makambo trade blows with pugilists from Mbeya and other parts.

In one of the undercard bouts, Udeze Masoud will take the ring to trade jabs with John Nzaliga.

James Julius from Mafinga, Iringa, will confront Njombe's Sadick Juma in the other bout.

According to Yazidu, the boxers will battle it out in the bout to promote boxing in the Southern Highlands.

Yazidu expressed sincere regards to various individuals and firms for facilitating the fights' hosting.

They include Makambako's Nobody Secondary School's Director, Neto Guest House, Kinyuny Hardware Shop, Kihwelo Auto Spare Shop, and Magoma Hagroves.

All bouts will be held at Midtown Hall in Makambako and, according to the organizer, the fights have been slated to start at 5 pm.



Morogoro's professional boxer, Charles Chilala (R), trades blows with the region's other boxer, Innocent Kanuti, in a past fight that was held in the region. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT



## Has the Premier League turned into a one-horse race?

DON

MANCHESTER City, Liverpool and Chelsea looked set for a titanic three-way Premier League title tussle just over two weeks ago but it is now beginning to look like a one-horse race.

The three clubs were separated by just two points before matches kicked off on December 14. Fast forward to the end of the month and City are now eight points clear of second-placed Chelsea.

Pep Guardiola's men were not at their best at Brentford on Wednesday but did enough to win 1-0 on an evening when injury-hit Chelsea conceded a last-gasp equaliser at home to Brighton.

Liverpool lost ground the previous day, beaten by a feisty and committed Leicester side after Mohamed Salah failed to convert a first-half penalty.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key factors in the title race heading into the new year.

**\*Points gap**  
Champions City could streak 11 points clear if they beat fourth-placed Arsenal today, with Chelsea and Liverpool meeting at Stamford Bridge the following day.

They are already overwhelming favourites to lift a fourth Premier League crown in five years and a double-digit lead even in early January could prove too much for their rivals.

Guardiola, predictably, is refusing to accept the title race is over, hailing the quality of City's challengers.

"There are many games to go," he said. "We are eight points in front but there are 54 still to play for and many tough games still to play.

"I'm not going to believe anyone who says it's already done. The teams we have with Chelsea and Liverpool are more than exceptional."

A disappointed Klopp admitted after his side's 1-0 defeat at Leicester that Liverpool, a further point behind Chelsea, could forget about catching City unless they upped their game.

Tomorrow's match at Stamford Bridge is surely a must-win now if either side are to have any chance of catching City.

**\*Injuries and Covid**  
Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel is struggling to cope with the toll on his squad from injury and coronavirus and admits he will use "trial and error" to pick his team to face Liverpool.

Wing-back Reece James hobbled off against Brighton with a hamstring strain a day after the club confirmed Ben Chilwell needed knee surgery, which has now taken place.

The European champions will sweat on Thiago Silva's thigh issue and Andreas Christensen's back problem -- but also on players still suffering the effects of Covid-19, including Timo Werner.

One plus point for Tuchel is the return to form of Romelu Lukaku, who made his first league start against Brighton since mid-October after ankle trouble and Covid isolation, scoring for the second consecutive game.

But Tuchel admitted he must continue to monitor the Belgium forward's continued recovery.

Klopp has also been forced to juggle in recent weeks, with coronavirus depriving him of a clutch of players including Virgil van Dijk, Fabinho and Thiago Alcantara, though until the defeat at Leicester they were on a 10-game unbeaten run in all competitions.

Pep Guardiola, by contrast, has relatively minor concerns. Kyle Walker, Rodri and John Stones were all absent from the squad at Brentford but he was still able to name a bench packed with quality.

**\*Africa Cup of Nations**  
Klopp faces a looming headache with the Premier League's leading scorer Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Naby Keita all heading to the Africa Cup of Nations, which starts early this month.

Most of the goalscoring burden will fall on Diogo Jota -- the league's second-highest scorer with 10 -- but other forwards will have to step up and the defence must tighten up after just one clean sheet in four league matches.

Chelsea will be without first-choice goalkeeper Edouard Mendy but midfielder Hakim Ziyech was left out of Morocco's preliminary Africa Cup of Nations squad.

Guardiola will only lose Algeria's Riyad Mahrez, with Raheem Sterling's return to goalscoring form more than compensating for his absence.

AFP

# Chelsea and Liverpool in last-chance saloon to challenge Manchester City

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

FIRST is first and second is nowhere, as the saying goes, so Thomas Tuchel and Jurgen Klopp fill need to find a way to motivate their Chelsea and Liverpool players ahead of Sunday's Premier League clash at Stamford Bridge. Unless Manchester City suffer an unprecedented collapse in the title race over the second half of the season, runners-up spot is the best either can hope for.

Since the start of the Premier League in 1992-93, no team has gone into the New Year with an eight-point lead like City's and failed to win the title. Pep Guardiola's men went eight clear of Chelsea -- and nine of Liverpool -- by winning at Brentford on Wednesday, so only the most optimistic of fans will believe their team can stop City defending the title.

But as Guardiola insisted after the victory at Brentford, there are still 54 points to play for. Liverpool, who have played one game fewer than City and Chelsea, have 57 points up for grabs, so maybe there is a grain of hope.

Yet if City are to be challenged over the final stretch of the season, this weekend's head-to-head



Thomas Tuchel and Jurgen Klopp

could well be seen as a playoff to decide which team will be best-placed to take advantage should City falter.

If City win at Arsenal on New Year's Day, they will open up a double-digit lead at the top, so it really is win or bust for both sides. Neither Chelsea nor Liverpool can realistically afford to lose.

But how has it come to this? At the start of the season, the Premier League looked to be shaping up for its most competitive campaign for years.

City, having won the title with a 12-point margin last season, strengthened their squad by signing £100 million winger Jack Grealish from Aston Villa, but missing out on both Harry Kane and Cristiano Ronaldo left Guardiola without a centre-for-

ward, so the champions appeared to have an obvious weakness.

Liverpool looked strong, adding defender Ibrahima Konate to a squad that still possessed the firepower of Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Diogo Jota, while Chelsea issued a real statement of intent by paying a transfer fee of £97.5m to sign Romelu Lukaku from Inter Milan.

Even Manchester United seemed likely to challenge following a spending spree that saw Jadon Sancho, Raphael Varane and Ronaldo arrive at Old Trafford. But as we approach 2022, United have long since fallen by the wayside -- and former boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer paid the price with his job.

Chelsea's title hopes

have also flickered in recent weeks. When they faced United at home on Nov. 28, Tuchel's team started the day a point clear at the top, but a 1-1 draw started a run of just three wins in eight league games that has seen them overtaken by City -- who have now won 10 games in a row to leave their rivals trailing.

Lukaku's poor return, exacerbated by five-week injury layoff, of just five goals in 13 league games has contributed to Chelsea's failure to compete more convincingly, but they also lack a Plan B when opponents shut down Jorginho in midfield. Chelsea have also taken just two points from a possible 12 against Liverpool, City, United and surprise top-four contenders West Ham, so they are certainly not delivering when it matters, as the best teams do

consistently.

Chelsea must also go into the game against free-scoring Liverpool with major defensive problems. Ben Chilwell already faces being out for the season, while Reece James and Andreas Christensen both limped off against Brighton and Thiago Silva is a doubt too.

Liverpool are arguably the best hope for a team to mount a challenge to City between now and May because they have title-winning pedigree and a manager in Klopp who knows how to beat Guardiola. They responded well to a 3-2 loss at West Ham on Nov. 7 by winning six successive Premier League games and they have scored 50 goals -- just one fewer than City -- and conceded only 16 in 19 outings.

But Liverpool have dropped five points against Tottenham and Leicester in their last two games and they are facing the prospect of being without Salah and Mane when they depart for Africa Cup of Nations duty with Egypt and Senegal respectively after Sunday's game, though their predicament is helped by a two-week international break for all Premier League clubs towards the end of the month. The pair may only miss the league games against Brentford (Jan. 16) and Crystal

Palace (Jan. 23), before returning for the home match vs. Leicester on Feb. 10, so they may get away with it.

The duo have scored a combined 22 league goals this season, so their loss will be keenly felt. Jota and Firmino, and Divock Origi, are capable of shouldering the goal-scoring burden, but it would be naive to suggest that losing two of their very best players won't hurt Liverpool.

But if Chelsea or Liverpool can bank three points with a win this weekend, it will generate the double boost of keeping the pressure on City and inflating belief having just beaten a direct rival.

For Chelsea, a win would give them a huge injection of morale ahead of the trip to Man City on Jan. 15, while a Liverpool victory would reinforce the mindset that only they can realistically threaten Guardiola's formidable team.

The two sides drew 1-1 in August, and the same result would play into City's hands.

But they are both running out of a margin for error. More dropped points on Sunday will leave Chelsea and Liverpool with nothing more than the underwhelming consolation of fighting it out for second, the place neither of them wants to be.

## Man United's win over Burnley is reason for optimism in 2022

MANCHESTER, England

"THAT's more like it," said the presenter as he opened MUTV's half-time coverage of Burnley's visit to Old Trafford on Thursday, and you could almost hear the relief spill out of the TVs dotted around the stadium.

The past 12 months have been a tough sell for Manchester United's in-house channel. It is, after all, difficult to put a positive spin on defeat in a European final, total humiliation at home to Liverpool and a run of form so damaging it forced the sacking of club legend Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Thankfully for the operators of United's television station -- obliged, rain or shine, to find the best in everything -- 2021 ended with an easy night. Ralf Rangnick's team scored inside the first 15 minutes of a Premier League game for the first time this season, scored three goals in the first half of a league game for the first time since February and eventually cruised to a 3-1 win.

More like it, indeed. "Now eight games in a row without a defeat, it is about taking next steps," said Rangnick afterwards. "As expected it was a very tough, physical game against a team who play very physical."

"We also showed the qualities we have in our team. It was important today to raise the energy level. The whole team performance was a lot better."



Ralf Rangnick

Watching United escape with a draw against Newcastle United four days earlier, it was easy to forget that these are still some of the best players in the world. The truth is that for much of 2021 they have not played like that, and success in 2022 will depend on whether the performances against Burnley -- collectively and individually -- are a flash of hope to be quickly extinguished or a sign of things to come.

Luke Shaw, poor since helping England to the Euro 2020 final in the summer, was back charging down the left. Jadon Sancho, driving forward with pace and purpose, gave a passable impression of a forward who used to play rather well for Borussia Dortmund. Shaw and Sancho combined for United's second goal -- put down as a Ben Mee own-goal -- after Scott McTominay had scored an eighth-minute opener

with a pinpoint finish from the edge of the penalty area.

With the ball safely nestled in the net, McTominay sprinted to the corner flag shouting "come on" at the top of his voice. It wasn't only the MUTV anchor feeling a sense of relief.

Cristiano Ronaldo got the third, the 14th goal since his return to the

club, after McTominay's effort came back off the post.

McTominay, outstanding against Burnley, has taken more than his fair share of criticism this year but his effort and attitude is not in question. The same cannot always be said for some of his teammates.

The first six months of 2022 will, undoubtedly, focus on the search for

the next manager, but if this group is going to be successful, they will have to learn you can't always hide behind the man in the hot seat.

Solskjaer came up short, and it was for the good of everyone that he left when he did, but he also wasn't helped by his players. It wasn't his fault, for example, that Harry Maguire got himself needlessly sent off during that disastrous defeat at Watford that was enough for the Glazers to finally run out of patience.

Rangnick, Mauricio Pochettino, Erik ten Hag or whoever it is next can change training or organise their teams in different ways, but managers can only do so much. Players, eventually, have to take responsibility for what happens on the pitch. Manchester City and Liverpool do not win simply because of Pep Guardiola or Jurgen Klopp. It helps, of course, but it's not all down to them.

It can't just be about being happy with the status of playing for United, but proving you belong there day after day. In that regard at least, McTominay is an example others can learn from, and it's something Rangnick is already trying to address.

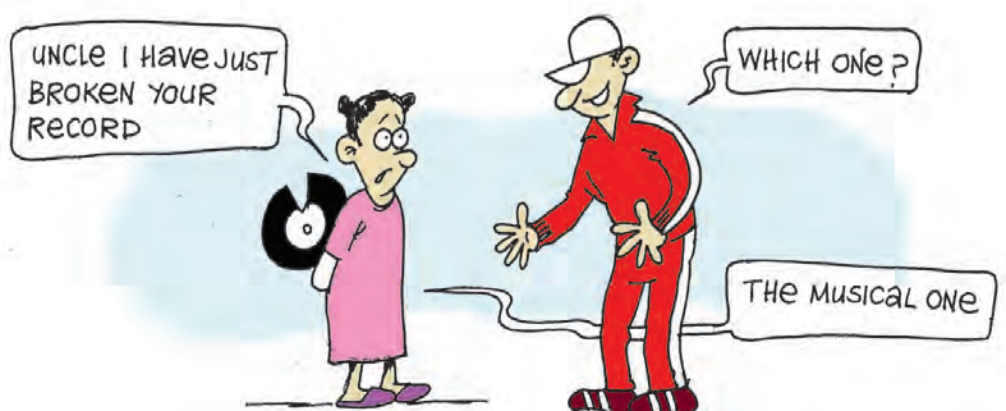
"Now is the time we really start stepping up and doing much, much better," said McTominay. "The manager is so demanding and we play for Man United, it is what we have to do. We need to do more and hopefully in 2022 we can do that."

Playing on the front foot with the right energy and intensity is easy when you're swatting away a Burnley side gutted by COVID-19 and without a win since October. The real challenge is to replicate it again and again and match City, Liverpool and Chelsea week after week.

Then MUTV would really have something to shout about.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

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## Rohit injured, Rahul takes charge as India captain for SA ODIs

MUMBAI

Everyone present in the meeting had asked Virat Kohli to reconsider stepping down as India's T20I captain on the eve of the T20 World Cup, chief selector Chetan Sharma said on Friday.

Breaking from the recent norm of announcing squads via press releases, Chetan featured in a press conference today to name the ODI squad for the three-match series in South Africa.

He was asked if Kohli was indeed asked to not give up the T20I captaincy when he conveyed that decision to the board and the selectors just before the T20 World Cup.

"When the meeting started, it was a surprise for everybody," Chetan said. "Because the World Cup is upon you and you hear this news, what will be the reaction of a normal person?"

Everyone present in the meeting asked him to reconsider, to rethink; 'we can talk about this after the World Cup'.

All the selectors felt this could affect the performance in the World Cup. It was told to Virat for the sake of Indian cricket to please continue as captain.

"It was told to him by everybody available in the meeting. All convenors were there, board officials were there. Everybody said that. Who will not say that when you hear such a piece of news? You will be in shock. What will be your instant reaction? It was a matter of the World Cup. We thought let's talk after the World Cup. We told Virat the World Cup is upon us, and everybody requested to let's talk after the World Cup.

"But he has his plans. We have to respect his decision. If someone has taken a decision, and he said in the media also, that he was thinking [along these lines] from the time of WTC, but at that time everybody told him to think about it."

Kohli had earlier contradicted similar claims from BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, saying, "I wasn't told you don't leave the T20 captaincy."

Instead, it was received well; I was told it's a very progressive step and in the right direction."

Ganguly had explained Kohli's removal as ODI captain as a natural progression once Kohli gave up the T20I captaincy, which, he said, they didn't want Kohli to give up at that time.

However, Kohli's denial created controversy, pitting the outgoing captain's word against that of the president.

"The main goal for everybody is the same: to keep India on top. We don't want controversies," Chetan said.

"That is the reason we don't come out. Our job is to select the team, make sure the best guy goes and plays for the country. When these controversies happen, it makes us sad as cricketers."

"I was joking that Ajaz [Patel] has been dropped by New Zealand after taking ten wickets. Imagine if we had done something similar, what would have happened to us."

Kohli's implication, perhaps, was that he had expressed his desire to continue as Test and ODI captain when he resigned as the captain of the shortest format, but the selectors only told him 90 minutes before the meeting to pick the squad for the South Africa Tests.

Chetan was asked why, then, did they not inform Kohli that if he gave up the T20I captaincy, ODI leadership would not be guaranteed either.

"If Virat told you about the T20 decision, would you be able to tell at that time that we want one or two captains," Chetan said.

"That wasn't the right time to do it, we were in the middle of a World Cup. The World Cup was upon us. We were only thinking that the decision should not affect us in the World Cup. We have to cool things down. At that time, we don't have the time to think about split captaincy, we had only requested that this can be discussed later. Everybody on the board said that."

"When you're in the middle of the series, you can't always say such things. You decide only when the selectors start thinking about that format. So, when the selectors discussed, and we feel we should have one white-ball captain, this is what we told Virat, and he agreed. We communicated what was on our minds, and we are always ready, 24x7, to discuss anything. There's no problem at all."

AGENCIES

# 'Pressing' the best out of players: Why Ajib is not a reliable example



Ibrahim Ajib

By Correspondent John Kimbute

VIEWERS are divided on the shift of veteran forward, Ibrahim Ajib, from Simba SC to Azam FC, meanwhile as a less debated shift, that of Abubakar Salum 'Sure Boy' from Azam FC to Young Africans SC, alias 'Yanga', as to how far the moves relate to changing techniques especially at the Msimbazi Street side.

The other view is that this is a routine shift that mirrors the relative strengths of the three clubs, whether it is in terms of 'squad depth' (which in Swahili is translated as 'squad breadth') or it is concerning tactical needs as such. While the more discussed view was the first, of tactical needs, the routine shift view is more convincing.

Were it that it was only Ajib who is available for discussion in the shift, anything could be said as it depends on sentiments of club leaders being interviewed or for that matter pundit assessments of his match performance in the past few months, etc.

The fact that this discussion is taking place along with the 'Sure Boy' change of club shirts, the reconcilia-

tion arising from the second example settles issues for the first, in the sense that the same standards will be applicable either way.

It radically reduces the number of 'unknowns' in the sense of hypothetical profile or attitude, abilities, etc of players that top clubs now seek.

The key issue is that tactics aren't something that a club comes up with in private, in which case the fact that Simba SC has a new coach bringing about a tactical shift and thus moving to evaluate players in terms of how they fit into this tactical demand.

Tactical shifts are waves experienced in the life of a league format, as the key issue is that each side needs results (in the sense of a win or at worst a draw, not a loss), in which case no new tactical advantage will be a secret beyond one match.

After that match, other coaches start looking into how that dominant-

ing side plays and square up, even with the players they have.

This consideration eliminates the viewpoint that the former Simba player doesn't fit into Pablo's tactics but that isn't a problem at Azam FC as they have a different mode of play.

Whatever formation the club, which boasts of owning the Azam Complex, may use, it ought to include the capacity to respond to the mode of play of their city rivals, the next street neighbours at Jangwani Street, and Msimbazi Street respectively.

In that case, a player marked with a clear downside would not be an easy pick for a top club side, and even other Premier League sides.

When a hypothetical explanation for the shift to Yanga from Azam FC is taken up, it definitely can't be a problem of tactics as playing at Jangwani Street club is likely to be more taxing than at Chamazi, as the issue isn't the

factual strength of a player but how he compares to others.

Shifting to Azam FC from Simba SC is a sort of refuge but within top city clubs, while shifting from Azam FC to Yanga is close to seeking greener pastures, but as both players are well past their playing peak, it is like the return of Heritier Makambo to Jangwani Street or Thomas Ulimwengu to TP Mazembe. The players are still capable and fit in the clubs.

In other words, what has been experienced is little more than transfer moves as the short transfer window was flung open, and the manner of shifting illustrates current club strength - the same as another expected registration that remains at large, the potential return of Clatous Chama to the Msimbazi Street squad.

That puts paid the argument that tactical shifts have led to easing out Ajib, as the shift was partially likely as he earned a regular in the squad this year but isn't a regular first-choice player.

When a relatively good player is unused from time to time, he can be enticed to other clubs, especially if it is within the big clubs.

There is hence every possibility that Ajib's relative weakness was noticed as the coach continued to pursue 'pressing' techniques, a fad going on in Premier Leagues around the world, and could even be said to be the new code-name of competitive football.

How it is organized differs from one coach to another but it wouldn't take time with Nasreddine Nabi or any other if certain match fitness yardsticks are applied.

A player who is well past his peak will crack at some point, and some will follow suit in Simba SC, just yet.

While tactical shifts appear to weed out players, the pace is slow and the sanctuaries are seemingly plentiful, for the simple reason that no new crop of excellent players will come up due to changed tactics, to suit 'pressing' techniques.

What is evident is that match fitness issues become more apparent when tactics change, with laid back and chancy collecting of ball making way to spirited possession and effective tackling, etc. The shift may assist younger players but replacing veterans won't be easy.

## Karatu Festivals identify talent, says Tanzania Olympic Committee

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC) says the Karatu Festivals are vital for the country's plan to develop athletics as they are used for talent identification.

Suleiman Jabir, the TOC official, said so at the end of this year's edition of the festivals.

He thanked Olympic Solidarity (OS) for being the sponsor of the Karatu Sports Festivals.

The official noted: "Karatu Sports Festivals are important in identifying sportsmen and women, this is one of the sporting events which is vital in identifying new talents."

"Tanzania Olympic Committee thank Olympic Solidarity for sponsoring these festivals," he said.

The festivals involved a 10km race, five kilometers race, traditional sporting events, cycling, and other sports activities.

This year's edition attracted many athletes including popular local runners, Alphonse Simbu, Gabriel Geay, and Failuna Abdi.

Faraja Lazaro beat the rest of the



Tanzania's athletes battle it out in the Ngorongoro Half-Marathon that took place in Arusha.

pack to emerge as the 10km winner, clocking 32:00:42 in the men's 10km race category.

Natalia Elisante clocked 18:34:20 to emerge as a winner in women's five kilometers race.

In the 60km cycling race involving male cyclists, Masunga Duba finished on top with 1:46:59.

Kelvin Ligasi took the second position with 1:51:40, while Diamond Julius was third with 1:53:43.

In the women's 30km cycling race, Regina Makiriri was first by clocking 1:11:26, Marry Joseph was second with 1:11:51, Maria Samwel was third with 1:19:08

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

