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## DIPLOMACY



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**The court is tasked with going through the evidence and deciding whether there is a case or not and if the accused have a case to answer or not. At this juncture the court has gone through the evidence and listened to all the witnesses; there is evidence that they have a case to answer.**

# Chadema leader, three others have a case to answer - Judge



Freeman Aikaeli Mbowe (in red T-shirt and glasses), the 60-year-old national Chairman of the opposition Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema), waves to the crowds shortly after his case was adjourned at the Corruption and Economic Crimes Division of the High Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The court ruled that he and his three co-accused had a case to answer. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter

**C**HADEMA national chairman Freeman Mbowe and his three co-accused persons have a case to answer, the Corruption and Economic Crimes Division of the High Court ruled in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Judge Joachim Tiganga told a packed court at its Mawasiliano Tower chamber along Sam Nujoma Road that after going through evidence adduced by the prosecution as well as documents presented, he was convinced that all the accused have a case to answer.

The court however struck out a charge on the first accused, Halfan Bwire, of being found in possession of uniforms belonging to the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) and that of the National Service, as the prosecution had made little effort to substantiate the charge.

Judge Tiganga issued the ruling after the prosecution had concluded presentation of evidence, bringing to court 13 witnesses for interrogation by the prosecution and defense sides. The court went through the evidence presented by the prosecution side to see if it was enough for the court to ask the accused to defend themselves, satisfied with the grounds cit-

ed. The first count said the accused, while at the Aishi Hotel in Moshi municipality, Kilimanjaro Region, and also at different places in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Arusha regions, conspired to blow up fuel stations, to blow up public gatherings and thus disrupt political stability, the constitutional order and the national economy. They intended to bring the good name of the country into disrepute.

In the second count, the accused are said to have conspired to injure former Hai District Commissioner Lengai Ole Sabaya and thus disrupt political stability.

In the third count, the fourth accused Mbowe while in Dar es Salaam and Morogoro issued 6.9m/- to other accused knowing the money will facilitate hiring people to blow up filling stations in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam to hurt Tanzanians.

In the fourth count, all the accused while at Aishi Hotel participated in a meeting to blow up fuel stations, to blow up public gatherings, to blow up political stability, constitutional order and the national economy, and bring

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## List with DCs' offices to leave, PM now invites Ngorongoro park residents

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has assured inhabitants of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) that the government will supervise transfer expenses for those who are willing to move out of the reserve.

He urged those who are ready to vacate the area to go and register themselves at offices of the Karatu and Ngorongoro district commissioners, or with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), in a speech to end the sixth meeting of the 12th Parliament here yesterday. He admitted that population increase in the NCA, environmental degradation and large livestock numbers threaten the sustainability of wildlife conservation thus calling for measures to address the situation in a decisive manner.

"I visited Ngorongoro and Loliondo areas and met with the residents, we discussed the issue and the good news is that they have agreed to cooperate with the government to conserve the Ngorongoro Conservation Area for the wider interest of the country," he said. The premier hailed the efforts of various departments and agencies in implementing development plans in the July

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# Kili cable car project: Tourism groups nervous

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

**T**OURISM industry stakeholders, mainly tour operators, guides and porters have sharply divergent views from regulators and business groups who wish to see a cable car project on Mount Kilimanjaro mooted in 2019 finally taking off.

Local operators, who gathered here early this week to air their views on the proposed project at a meeting with National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) officials, squarely opposed and poked holes in the plan.

Wilbard Chambulo of the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO)

said the cable car project is close to a fantasy as it seeks to make windfall profits in the first year, saying that this rarely happens in the tourism industry.

"This company cannot make \$10m profit in the same year as it tells the government," he said, expressing fears over the cable car harshly affecting revenues, owing to the Kilimanjaro mountain climbing service significantly reduced from eight days to one day.

They say the cable car benefits are mild and cannot outweigh imminent ecologic damage feared, but more significantly they point at suppressed employment of thousands of porters



**This company cannot make \$10m profit in the same year as it tells the government**

likely from the project, and alluding to "multiplier effects" of losing such jobs.

Zainab Ansell, operating Zara Tours, said the cable car will turn a six-day "incredible and lifetime adventure

of hiking the roof of Africa with substantial multiplier economic effects to local folks" into a mere outing for day-trippers.

Sharing her 36-year experience on Mount Kilimanjaro hiking business, Zainab said she used to pay \$890 in taxes for a single tourist visiting Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA), aside from company profit and wages for mountain guides and porters, along with paying suppliers.

Mount Kilimanjaro receives 56,000 hikers annually, adding to around \$50m earnings for the park authorities, twice as much as what is expected from the cable car project with thrice the number of tourists, the vet-

eran operator intoned.

Multiplier effects of the hiking business are totally divergent from the cable car project, as a tourist will pay \$141 and just two people are at any moment needed to operate the system, with the cable car expected to attract 177,000 hikers annually.

This will deny thousands of porters' job opportunities, with an average of 15 porters per tourist during the whole period of stay. The Mount Kilimanjaro Porters Society (MKPS) opposes the cable car product outright, saying it will deny employment to

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# Treasury adds 1.3trn/- to 2021/22 national budget

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

A total of 1.29trn/- has been added to the Budget estimates for the 2021/22 financial year in a bill tabled in the National Assembly, raising the total sum to 37.98trn/- from 36.68trn/- approved by the legislature last June.

Presenting the proposal for additional budgetary estimates in the House on Thursday evening, Finance

and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said the new sums result from the soft loan of 1.3trn/- from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Considering the budget trend from July to December 2021, the non-conditional loan from the IMF and a commercial loan for financing the third lot of the standard gauge railway (SGR) it is proposed that the budget estimates be pegged at 37.99trn/-, he stated.

As per agreement entered with the IMF, the secured funds have to be spent during the current financial year and were not part of funds endorsed by Parliament for the 2021/22 financial year he elaborated, noting that in line with securing funds from the IMF, first half assessment of the financial year 2021/22 showed that domestic revenues reached 90.7 percent of the target by end of last December.

The failure to reach the target arose from some business people being dishonest and continuing to avoid paying taxes, while mobile money transactions had also declined, he declared, reminding MPs that there was decline in production and sale of various products in the local market following impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Economic activities like the aviation industry, tourism and hospitality

were still being affected, he pointed out, affirming that assessment done showed that domestic revenues are likely to be attained by 97.4 per cent, amounting to a budgetary under-performance of 693bn/-.

A reduction of 20 per cent from the target, equivalent to 11.9bn/-, was

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## Chadema leader, three others have a case to answer - Judge

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the good name of the country into disrepute.

In the fifth count, the second accused Adamu Kasekwa was alleged that on August 2020 while at Rau Madukani was found in possession of a pistol (Ruger 5340) with three bullets, intending to blow up fuel stations and public gatherings in Morogoro, Dar es Salaam and Arusha regions.

In the sixth count, the first accused Halfan Bwire was on August 10 2020 at Kilakala in Temeke district in Dar es Salaam allegedly found in possession of TPDF uniforms and of the National Service.

The prosecution side was represented by eight state attorneys while the defense side enlisted 19 advocates.

"The court is tasked with going through the evidence and deciding whether there is a case or not and if the accused have a case to answer or not. At this juncture the court has gone through the evidence and listened to all the witnesses; there is evidence that they have a case to answer," the judge intoned.

Dwelling on the dropped charge, Judge Tiganga said in the third count facing first accused Bwire, said to have been found in possession of military equipments, the court dropped the charges because the prosecution side did not follow the law when they arrested the accused and that there was no evidence brought to court to substantiate why the accused should defend himself.

"On the first to fifth charges the court has gone through the evidence and has found that there is evidence on allegations raised against the accused so they

have a case to answer on five charges where they can defend themselves or bring witnesses," he said.

After reading the ruling the court allowed the defense side to explain how the accused will defend themselves, with advocate Anthony Mtobesya saying the first accused will defend himself on oath and will bring five witnesses. "This adds to six together with himself, and five documents," he stated.

Lead advocate Peter Kibatata who is defending Mbowe directly said his client will defend himself under oath and is expected to bring 10 witnesses. That adds up to 11 together with himself as well as 20 supporting documents, he stated.

The criminal trial of Freeman Mbowe, leader of the leading opposition party, started late 2021 with dramatic twists and turns. Mbowe and three others were put on trial for terrorism and economic sabotage, facing six counts including conspiring to blow up fuel stations, endanger national security and cause alarm. They vehemently deny the charges and say those accusations are politically motivated.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (L) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday addressing a virtual meeting with regional commissioners on the national Population and Housing Census lined up for this August. Photo: PMO

## List with DCs' offices to leave, PM now invites Ngorongoro residents

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to December 2021 period as showing continued improvement. As of December 2021, total revenue standing at 16.95trn/- had been collected from all sources, equivalent to 92.9 percent of estimated revenue collection that was pegged at 18.24trn/- for the period.

Actual revenue collected by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) for December

2021 amounted to 2.3trn/-, equivalent to 103.1 percent of the target, while 624.6bn/- was spent on tax refunds, he said.

He urged measures to strengthen public safety and security, directing the police force to strengthen patrols and other security operations at the street to ward level so as to fight criminal acts country-wide.

The premier said food availability in the

country was good, urging farmers and agriculture stakeholders to utilize the ongoing rains by planting various crops. He similarly directed the Tanzania Urban and Rural Roads Agency (TARURA) to closely supervise contractors implementing road projects, to ensure that the projects are properly executed. The agency should conduct an intensive assessment before granting projects to contractors, assessing their eligibility and

capacity to deliver on the scale of the intended projects, he said. TARURA supervisors need to ensure that road construction goes in tandem with planting trees along roads reserves to protect the roads and improve the urban environment, in particular, he stated. Coordinated efforts must be intensified to fight gender-based violence (GBV) as it is showing tendencies of increasing in some parts of the country, he added.



Said Juma of Kipunguni airs his views earlier this week at a meeting organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme in the Dar es Salaam suburb chiefly to discuss ways to end female genital mutilation in the country. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## National Assembly advises govt to invest in public institutions

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has advised the government to ensure that it invests in the development of the public institutions by supporting them for steady investment to stimulate sustainable development.

Presenting annual activities report in the House, the Parliamentary Committee on Public Investment and Capital (PIC) said the majority of public entities were not innovative enough in expanding services and investments for sustainability.

The government through the Treasury must ensure that

it advises and supervises well public organisations in exploiting various opportunities for beefing up the capitals, including investing in industries and capital market sectors," said Jerry Silaa, chairman of the committee.

He said public organisations need enough capital to carry out core duties including making efficient investments.

He argued that some public companies have failed to implement their responsibilities effectively, such as failure to implement various investment projects due to financial hiccups brought about by lack of capital.

Some organisations have even been experiencing negative net working capital, particularly those operating commercially.

Since lack of enough working capital has led to failure by the organisation to implement core activities timely and unable to pay debts without affecting performance, the committee advised the government through the treasury to closely supervise them so that they operate efficiently and have positive working capital.

Again, the committee poked holes in coordination among public institutions.

## Treasury adds 1.3trn/- to 2021/22 national budget

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likely due to the unsatisfactory trend of this revenue source especially in the first half of 2021/22 fiscal year, potentially slashing total rev-

enues by 704.9bn/-.

Due to this situation, it was proposed that part of Covid-19 relief funds, up to 11.9bn/- directed to the Union government be used for covering the deficit in revenues.

Implementation of this proposal will be made as per the Budget Act and its regulations as the Covid-19 relief funds are proposed to be included in the budget with their specific spending, he added.

# Kili cable car project: Tourism groups nervous

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nearly 250,000 unskilled porters scaling Mount Kilimanjaro for a wage on a regular basis.

MKPS vice chairman Edson Mpemba said that the cable car service doesn't require porters, thus the majority of tourists will climb Mount Kilimanjaro on a day trip basis using the new product to cut down costs and length of stay.

He was surprised that decision makers had overlooked interests of the huge number of an unskilled labour force "solely depending on the mountain hiking profession to eke out a living."

"Think of the ripple effect on families of the 250,000 unskilled porters," he stressed, cautioning that the cable car facility will initially look like a noble and innovative idea, "but it will, in the long run, ruin the future of the majority of

local people whose livelihoods depend on mountain climbing guidance."

Loishiye Molle, head of the Tanzania Porters' Organisation (TPO) said that one visitor from the United States often has up to 15 people behind him, whereby 13 are porters; one is a cook and the other a guide.

"All these jobs will be affected by the cable car facility," he emphasized, underlining that the mountain climbing business should be left as it is.

Engelberth Boniphace, advocate of the High Court, said that taking away porters' livelihoods means to deny them the right to life, while Beatrice Mchome, an official of Crescent Environmental Management Consult, had a different view.

Hired by AVAN Kilimanjaro Ltd to conduct an environmental and social impact assessment, she said the cable car would be rolled out along the Machame Route where the ascent will

start and end. The route, also known as the Whiskey Route is said to be popular as it offers a scenic climb. "But it is also difficult, steep and challenging" without a mechanical facility for the climber.

Victor Manyanga, a familiar face in the mountain tour guide itinerary, echoes those fears saying the glittering cable car product contradicts conservation policy as it will encourage mass tourism and build ecological threats to sustainable tourism on the mountain.

He says the cable car will be installed along the Machame route, which doubles as an irreplaceable bird migratory route, which may be affected by the cables.

Mervyn Nunes, a former civil servant in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, voiced his opposition to the cable car project, saying that "Mount Kilimanjaro is a sacred place

that deserves nothing short of being cherished."

Dr Damas Ndumbaro, the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, told a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the cable car project is driven by good intentions, as it will also enable disabled tourists to access the mountain scenery without having to scale the mountain.

"The debate over the plan is still underway, and we are organizing a major stakeholders' forum on March 8 in Moshi to deliberate on the issue. If the majority will oppose it then we will not implement the project, because the government of the day is people centered and issues oriented," he stated.

The cable car project is billed to take up \$72m in investment, arising from a plan in 2019 where the government set out to quadruple annual tourist visitation numbers to Africa's highest

mountain from 50,000 to 200,000 and accentuate earnings.

Local investors contend that no tender was floated for fair competition, with AVAN Kilimanjaro Ltd, a firm owned by six foreign investors, picked to execute the project, with advocate Boniphace maintaining that the law was violated by allowing foreign investors to operate a cable car service on the mountain.

"The law provides for exclusivity of Mount Kilimanjaro services to local operators. How come a company owned by foreign shareholders is licensed to operate a cable car in the area?" he queried, citing Section 58(2) of the Tanzania Tourism Act (No 11 of 2008) as enunciating that mountain climbing or trekking registration will be issued to companies fully owned by Tanzanians.

AVAN is said to represent a number of companies in mountain cable

business coming together to execute the unique project in Tanzania, hoping to attract 177,000 tourists per annum, observers said, affirming all the same that details of the cable car business plan are scant.

Another element bring touted is its proposed entry fee of \$141 per person, enabling the consortium to generate nearly \$25m in turnover per annum. It projects to make a \$9.8m windfall profit in the first year of operations and pay corporate tax amounting to \$1.8m.

Critics assert that initially, the government said the cable car was meant for physically challenged persons and aged tourists who crave to experience the thrill of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro up to Shira Plateau without wishing to attain the summit, "but now AVAN Kilimanjaro says the technology will cater for tourists of all walks of life."



Mkurunga district administrative officer Eliminia Kapufi (2nd-L) pictured yesterday presenting insecticide-treated bed nets to children representing their households, residents of the district. The nets were donated by a charity based in Qatar in collaboration with Ibun Jazar Foundation in a gesture meant to eradicate malaria. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Domestic tourism on the rise - govt

By Felister Peter

THE number of domestic tourists who visited various national parks in 2021 had reached 788,933 it is the highest number recorded in the country since 1961, said Natural Resources and Tourism minister, Dr Damas Ndumbaro.

However, despite the challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19, Tanzania received 922,692 foreign tourists last year.

During his meeting with Tanzania Editors Forum at the ministry headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday the minister linked the increased number of both domestic and foreign tourists with the enhanced tourism promotion as well as government measures to combat COVID-19.

"During the pandemic outbreak in 2020, the country experienced a drop in the number of foreign tourists from 1.5 million to 620,000 as countries were taking measures to control the disease which included lockdowns," stated Dr Ndumbaro adding the global tourism industry was also affected by 72 percent.

He said the increase in numbers of tourists boosted tourism revenues to 11.4bn/- in 2021 compared to 9.7bn/- recorded in the previous year. He said before the pandemic outbreak the tourism industry's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) was 17.6 percent and forestry 3.5 percent. "Tourism is one of the important sectors due to its contribution in the national economy; killing the industry would affect the national income," said the minister, noting the sector provides over 6 million jobs.

He said the government continued to take measures to combat COVID-19 resulting in the country being named by the United Nations World Trade Organization (UNWTO) as the most resilient country in promoting tourism during COVID.

He said following the recognition, Tanzania

has been honoured to host the Africa UNWTO conference in October this year. Dr Ndumbaro said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan's decision to engage in a Royal Tour has greatly contributed to promote the country's tourism industry as the number of visitors increases tremendously. He said over 70 percent of domestic tourists who visited national parks last year are women.

He said following the royal tour, a Bulgaria based company has shown interest to construct four five star hotels in different national parks. The hotels will be constructed in Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Manyara and Tarangire national parks.

The minister noted that apart from the increased number of tourists, Tanzania won ten awards and recognitions in 2021, among them being the first country in Africa and fourth in the world with a good number of tourist attractions. He said the World Travel Award named the Serengeti as Africa's leading national park attraction.

"It is our responsibility to continue conserving Serengeti and other national parks to boost revenues," he said.

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr Francis Michael called upon the media to help the government in educating Tanzanians on the importance of environmental conservation as escalating tree felling for fire wood and charcoal threatens the tourism sector.

"We need to educate Tanzanians on the importance of keeping the forests due to its importance. Wild animals stay in the forests and without them there is no tourism," said Dr Michael.

# French investors now on board after Samia's visit

By Guardian Reporter

A DELEGATION of investors from France is expected in the country in a few days to explore opportunities in various sectors, thanks to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's recent tour in France.

President Samia visited and held talks with French business leaders who in turn showed inter-

est in investing in various sectors in the Tanzania.

Addressing journalists yesterday, ambassador to Tanzania Nabil Hajloui said the coming of the French investors was a result of the tour by the head of state.

"The president met the business community in France and she assured them of conducive environment for investment,

as a country we have seen and encouraged French investors to come and see for themselves," he said. He added that France and other European countries have agreed to make Tanzania the centres for doing business in East Africa.

He named some areas where the two countries have agreed to partner as security, blue econ-

omy and the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

President Samia toured France from February, 10 where she witnessed the signing of agreements between the governments of Tanzania and France on development projects and cooperation in the blue economy.

The visit also open up Tanzania exports to France and be able to

attain at least a balance of trade between the two countries comprising exports in food, forestry, fishery and aquaculture products!

Tanzania geopolitical and geo-economic advantages detects new opportunities for France companies especially in energy, transport and construction sectors to start up business empires

here in Tanzania which also offers a strategic corridor for large African market of East Africa, Congo, Malawi and Zambia.

Zanzibar is also expected to mutually benefit from this visit while the Isles is embarking on Blue Economy as one of topical discussion between Samia delegation and France, will be on global marine resources manage-

ment! Other issues of concern during this State Visit will be exchanging experience and building a tie on maritime security issues. Tanzania being one of the countries with possibility to face threats to ocean attended the so called "One Ocean Summit" in Brest, France to join the few world committed leaders on the same agenda!




**Advertisement**

**BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

**Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-02-01	Fuel Supply: AGO (Bulk Diesel) Ex tank Dar-es-Salaam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ewura wholesale licence</li> <li>TRA importation licence</li> <li>Long term Hospitality agreement or proof of depot ownership</li> <li>Proof of registration with Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency of Tanzania</li> <li>Approved as an OMC by Ewura</li> <li>Regular importer of Diesel of an average of 10,000m3 per month for at least 12 months</li> <li>Proof of prior supply to Mining companies in the region</li> </ul>

The above goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced suppliers will be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Company profile(s); Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate, Ewura licence etc.;
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registrations as required

**Expression of Interest**  
If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (RFP), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com).


Applicants must quote reference "BUL-22-02-01 Fuel Supply" in the subject line of your email.  
The mine reserves the right to invite any other supplier/s which did not submit an EOI submission

**Key Dates**  
• Last date to submit EOI **25th Feb, 2022**

*For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED*

**216713201**

## DCMCT TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR MWELE NTULI MALECELA



**DR. MWELE NTULI MALECELA.**

The Registered Trustees, Management, Staff and Partners of the Dodoma Christian Medical Center Trust (DCMC) received with immense shock the news of the demise of DCMCT Trustee, Dr. Mwelecele (Mwele) Ntuli Malecela, which occurred on Thursday 10th February 2022, in Switzerland.

The Registered Trustees of DCMCT, Management, Staff and Partners offer most profound condolences to the Malecela family, friends and the World Health Organisation, following the death of Dr. Mwele Ntuli Malecela.

The late Dr. Mwele Ntuli Malecela played a big role in DCMCT, providing exceptional contribution towards sound governance, strategic foresight, and institutional direction. She was very instrumental to the sustainable development of DCMCT and contributed immensely in overseeing the operations of DCMCT, together with other Trustees ensuring that the public's trust is upheld, the mission remains focussed in addressing community needs, the practices are ethical, and legal requirements are met at all times.

The late Dr. Mwele started serving as DCMCT Trustee in June 2013, the position she has held until her untimely death. She served as a Trustee while working at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) as Director General and later while at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Dr. Mwele Ntuli Malecela was one of the world's most respected scientists and researchers, stemming from her extensive educational background and career in the field of science. She climbed up the leadership ladder to become the first woman to hold the Director General position at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR). She then received prestigious appointment as the Director of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Dr. Mwele was a woman of great intellect, vision, courage and profound faith in the Eternal God who contributed immensely to the growth and development of Our Institution. She was a friend, a mentor, and a charm to everyone around. Indeed, she was truly Mwelecele, the blessed one.

Today we mourn the passing of a great daughter of the United Republic of Tanzania and a gifted Trustee of the Dodoma Christian Medical Centre who leaves behind a rich legacy of humility, simplicity and dedication in working to bring Health and Hope to the people of Central Tanzania and Beyond.

The entire Dodoma Christian Medical Center Trust share with the bereaved family, the government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, and the WHO the feelings of great loss at this moment of deep unprecedented sorrow.

**MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD REST HER SOUL IN ETERNAL PEACE**

**AMBASSADOR PROF. EMMANUEL MWALUKO MBENNAH  
CHAIRMAN, DCMCT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**216713301**

## HESLB facing challenges with poor repayment of loans by beneficiaries

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has said the poor recovery of loans by beneficiaries of the Higher Education Students Loans (HESLB) was among major challenges affecting the progress of the Education Fund.

Deputy minister for Education, Science and Education Omary Kipanga made the statement in the House yesterday when responding to a question by Edwin Swalle (Lupembe).

The lawmaker wanted to know the major challenge thwarting development of the HESLB's Education Fund so as to increase the number of loan beneficiaries.

He highlighted another challenge as some employers fail to cooperate by reporting their loan beneficiary employees and facilitating the timely deduction and remittance of monthly loans.

Kipanga said the government has continued to provide education to beneficiaries and employers, encouraging voluntary repayment of loans in compliance with legal requirements.

Similarly, the government has continued to strengthen audits of employers by engaging strategic stakeholders such as the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) and Social Security Funds to identify new beneficiaries and accelerate the repayment of mature loans aimed at promoting and developing the Education Fund.

He said in the 2021/22 fiscal year, the gov-

ernment issued a total of 570bn/- for the loans of the higher learning students which is an increase of 106bn/- from the 464bn/- issued in 2020/21 academic year.

In November 2018, the Parliament amended the HESLB Act of 2004, raising the monthly deductions from gross salaries of loan beneficiaries from 8 percent to 15 percent.

The amended law also convicts defaulters who acquired loans during the years 1994-95 to 2005 and requires that employers cooperate by reporting their loan beneficiary employees and facilitating the timely deduction and remittance of monthly loans. Beneficiaries themselves are also required to notify the board in writing of their location and make arrangements for settling the debts.

The amendments, which took effect in January 2019, give beneficiaries a grace period of one year after completing their studies before they have to start repaying their loan. People who are self-employed are required to commit 10 percent of their monthly taxable income to repayment, while employers have 28 days to submit names of new employees to HESLB for verification, with failure to do so will be considered a criminal offence.

Failure by the employer to comply makes them liable for a fine of 1m/- or no less than a 36-month jail term. HESLB officials have the mandate to examine records of all employees to verify loan repayment status.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L) has an audience in Dodoma city yesterday with Dr Alphonse Chandika, Director General of Benjamin Mkapa Hospital. The referral medical facility is based in the national capital. Photo courtesy National Assembly

## National Assembly disappointed over NDC's sales of biolarvicide

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly is disappointed by the government failure for not fulfilling the contractual agreement it entered with the National Development Corporation (NDC) on the sales of the biolarvicide produced by the Tanzania Biotech Product Limited (TBPL).

The factory which is located in Kibaha district, Coast Region is experiencing challenges after the government failed to

implement its promises which include setting aside a budget to purchase the product for various local uses.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Investment and Capital (PIC) Jerry Slaa said this in the House on Wednesday evening when tabling a report on the committee's operations for the past one year.

He said the government has failed to fulfill conditions of the agreement despite the biolar-

vicides produced by the plant having vouched for its efficacy.

"The government has violated the contractual requirements between it and the NDC through the Ministry of Health which was signed on March 11, 2015 so as to facilitate domestic market security of the biolarvicides. Billions of money have been invested in the factory, so leaving it out of the government's priorities will be useless and a loss of public funds," he said.

The committee says that fail-

ure to implement the agreement has led to a decline for NDC revenues, the funds that would increase the organization's ability to fulfill its operations and contribute to the government's central Fund through mass production and selling of the product.

"In this view, the parliament wants the government to ensure that the Ministry of Finance and Planning allocates enough funds to enable the Ministry of Industries and Trade and In-

vestment to conduct a 'technical Study' on the best use of the biolarvicides and work on procedures to get certification from the World Health Organization (WHO).

"The Ministry of Finance and Planning should allocate a special budget (ring fenced) which will be used to purchase the biolarvicides so as to fight malaria larvae. This will enable the factory to secure a reliable domestic market, which includes facilitating it to repay the loan

used," he explained.

The chairman said while the Kibaha produced Biolarvicide is helping other countries, Tanzania is still lagging behind in using it as reports have shown that a number of African countries were using the formula to eliminate malaria.

The committee also wants the Health ministry to set aside a budget from its own sources to purchase the formula which includes resuming its contract with NDC.

"The government should also ensure that it supervises all the district councils to set aside budgets so as to also purchase the formula and implement anti-malaria campaigns in their areas," he added.

The committee also urged the NDC to put in place robust strategies to find more markets inside and outside the country so as to ensure that the produced formula is known and sold to many.



Students of Arumeru District's Sokoni II Secondary School students seated yesterday in one of three classrooms and 150 desks worth a combined 60m/- -- a donation by the Tanzania Education Authority. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## Govt allocates 43.8bn/- to facilitate completion of unfinished buildings of various health centres

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has allocated 43.8bn/- in this financial year to facilitate completion of the unfinished buildings of various health centres and dispensaries in the country.

Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Festo Dugange, informed the House yesterday here that the government recognizes that there are 1,715 unfinished buildings of health centres and dispensaries which needs a total of 98.7bn/- to complete them.

However, in the education sector, there are a total of 12,101 unfinished buildings of classrooms and laboratories which also needs 183.5bn/- to complete construction.

"There is ongoing construction of the buildings and by the end of this year a total of 1,073 health centres and dispensaries will have been fully constructed and

we will start sending health staff for operations," the deputy minister said.

Dugange made the explanations when responding to a question by Daudi Venant (Igalula wanted to know when the government will complete construction of unfinished buildings constructed by citizens in the areas of education, health and the Police Force.

Dugange responded that the government continued implementing programmes which include rehabilitation, construction and completion of building of health centres and schools.

He said in the 2020/22, the government has set aside 2bn/- for the construction and rehabilitation of 63 police stations which were established by support from citizens so as to strengthen security in their areas.

"By December 2021, a total of 1.85bn/- were already issued and the construction was progressing well," he said.

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

## National Assembly calls for infrastructure bond

THE Parliamentary Committee on Budget has called on the government to opt for an infrastructure bond to acquire enough funds for financing implementation of all targets in the national development plan.

Infrastructure bonds are borrowings to be invested in government funded infrastructure projects within a country. They are issued by governments or government authorized infrastructure companies on Non-Banking Financial Companies.

The committee made the advice in the

Parliament mid-this week when tabling a report on its activities for the past one year.

Daniel Sillo, the committee's chairman said they found that lack of funds was one of the major challenges that thwart the government in reaching targets in implementation of the national development plan.

Sillo said partnership between the public and private sector was an alternative way of financing development projects

that produce profits and is a means of engaging the private sector in implementation of development plans.

The committee suggested effective application of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in implementation of development projects.

However, since the enactment of the PPP Act in 2010 there has been no project implemented under this mode.

The committee urged the government to do assessment and identify key reasons

for failure to implement projects through the PPP so that the nation could benefit from this mode of implementing projects that could bring huge benefits to the country.

"Finance and planning ministry has to convene a meeting with players in the private sector to look at reasons for failure to implement projects under the PPP," he said.

The committee went on pointing out about the issue of ease of doing business in the country, mentioning the Blueprint as one of tools that could make the country achieve in

this endeavour.

However, according to the committee, the implementation of the Blueprint has been a challenge.

The committee told the government to effectively implement the Blueprint in order to improve the environment for investment and doing business in the country.

The implementation of the Blueprint would also enable the country's private sector to participate in the implementation of the Third National Development Plan.

# Exporters of food crops sensitised on procedures

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

EXPORTERS of food products and crops have been urged to get the required permits from local authorities that would enable their goods to be accepted in the foreign markets.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) acting director general David Ndbalema said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening a meeting between the organisation and exporters.

The meeting was meant to inform and sensitise all exporters of the various requirements that are needed before exporting their goods out of Tanzania, including a certificate of quality.

Ndbalema said most of foreign countries want to import crops and food products which meet required standards, failure to do so would make it very difficult for the local exporters to access international markets.

He urged exporters who want to conduct international trade to seek for crops and food testing services from accredited TBS laboratories.

"We have accredited laboratories which can test all types of food products and crops and provide results which are accepted world wide" he said.

According to him, normally the exporting requirement in terms of quality assurance and conformity assessment is deter-

mined by importing countries.

He also said Tanzania Bureau of Standards offers technical assistance to exporters who need to export various products to EAC, Africa and other countries in the world.

Ndbalema said the bureau would continue to educate exporters and other stakeholders to ensure they comply with standards within the region.

He asked manufacturers to attend various discussion groups relating to exportation procedures and give their comments regarding services provided by the TBS.

He said the organization has been organizing such seminars in various regions to enable exporters and other stakeholders conduct their business without a challenge.

Speaking on behalf of others, Paul Joseph, who is exporting food products, thanked TBS for organising the seminar.

He said the seminar plays a crucial role for them to understand various roles and procedures in exporting goods.

He asked standards watchdog to work on challenges under the Pre-Shipment Verification of Conformity to Standards (PVoC) in order to facilitate business and improve the economy of Tanzania.

The one-day meeting attracted more than 40 participants most of them being exporters of various food products and crops from Dar es Salaam region.



Audit firm Baker Tilly DGP & Co staff donate blood at Shree Hindu Mandal Hall in Dar es Salaam yesterday under the watch of the Tanzania Red Cross Society. A total of 93 people turned up as donors. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Climate change forcing teenage girls to venture into 'sex trade'

By Special Correspondent

INCREASING temperatures and sea levels, changing precipitation patterns and more extreme weather are threatening human health and safety, food and water security and socio-economic development in Africa; this is according to a report by the World Meteorological Organisation.

It however appears that the impact of climate change on the continent goes far beyond these, as it has forced some teenage girls to venture into sex work.

Onita Sibanda, from Hwange district in northwestern Zimbabwe, says most teenage girls

moved to urban areas to escape the effects of climate change.

"It's difficult to quantify the numbers flocking out the villages of Hwange. But our fields have not been producing enough in the past years," she said.

A 16-year-old girl (name withheld) who used to live in rural Zimbabwe now finds herself in the city engaging in sex trade. From married men, high profile people in society, to ordinary men, she does not discriminate. To her, all that matters is the ability to raise money for survival. "We are open for 24 hours," she says.

Though she seems to be making a living out of this trade, this

was not her original idea when she first moved to Epworth, Zimbabwe. "I came here as a babysitter. For six months, I worked as a maid, but it was not lucrative. When the COVID-19 pandemic started, it became worse because the woman I was working for reduced my already meagre salary. So I quit the job," she says.

For the girl, going back home was the least of her thoughts. That was how she finally settled here at Epworth, 12km (7.5 miles) east of the capital Harare, where after meeting friends she was introduced to sex work.

The city is notorious for violence, prostitution, and drugs with a population that contin-

ues to increase with rural-to-urban migration.

She and other teenage girls gather at a spot popularly known as the "booster", where a tall communications tower shoots into the sky. During the day, the area is quiet, with few people around. However, once night falls it is a beehive of activity as sex workers solicit clients.

She is not the only girl in this situation. Another said the sex trade is risky, but she has no option. Unlike in the past, job opportunities on farms in rural areas are becoming fewer each year because of the effects of climate change.

"I came at the age of 16. I have a sister residing here in Epworth

... I could not supplement my education because of no money. Later on, I found myself joining sex work. Sometimes we are infected with sexually transmitted infections, but its business so we seek treatment," she says.

Araba recounts the ravages of climate change in her rural home. The most worrying effects are not the droughts but flash floods, she says, which destroy crops and property - and sometimes human lives.

"In 2020, the year I finished school, I expected to plant soya beans, which is a less labour intensive cash crop, so that I could pay fees and rent a room. The rains came but they turned into floods and washed away

my project," she adds.

With well-paying work scarce in the country, the majority of people here get by as street vendors and informal manufacturers, with prostitution becoming another prominent job.

Many of the teenage girls have had to endure sexual abuse and assault from clients who sometimes refuse to pay after their sexual escapades. In Zimbabwe, it is a criminal offence to solicit for sex, which makes it difficult for young women to report wrongdoing against them to the police.

There are currently no available statistics on the number of girls involved in this trade but

Memory Kanyati, provincial director of the Zimbabwe Youth Council Harare, says the growing number of children in prostitution is worrying.

"We are seeing many of them involved in this dangerous trade, a situation which is not healthy for them. As a council we represent government aspirations of seeing children developing life skills and capacity to be responsible citizens," Kanyati says.

Most areas in Zimbabwe have been hit hard by climate change with heatwaves, low precipitation, or excessive rain resulting in flash floods.

David Marekera, the village head in Maramba in Mashona-

# TMDA intensifies inspection at borders to control entry of substandard goods

By Guardian Correspondent, Rombo

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) will intensify inspection in borders and entry points to control entrance of substandard goods posing risks to the health of Tanzanians.

Speaking during a tour at Tarakea and Holili custom centers, TMDA board chairman Eric Shitindi, said the aim was to increase scrutiny to protect the lives of Tanzanians from unscrupulous businesses.

"The aim of the visit is that we want to address the challenges facing our staff in the borders and other entry points so that our services are strictly aimed at protecting the health of our people," he said.

He called upon manufacturers and importers to follow safety and standard rules to win the trust of their customers.

TMDA Director General Adam Fimbo said the authority is mandated to control the importation and exportation of such products but also ensure it is abiding to safety rules.

According to Fimbo, the authority de-

stroyed 140,705.25 tonnes of food products worth 22.39bn/- in 2017/18 compared to 664.68bn/- which were destroyed in 2018/19 showing an increase in regulation.

He said the authority has also embarked on implementing its five years strategic plan which prioritises public health.

TMDA is an executive agency under the Ministry of Health, formerly known as Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) it was established in 2003 after enactment by the Parliament of the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Cap 2.

The Act was later amended in 2019 to Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Act, Cap 219 after the shift of responsibilities of regulating food and cosmetics to Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS). The change in legislative framework which was done through the Finance Act, No. 8 of 2019 also resulted in the change of name to TMDA.

TMDA is now responsible for regulating quality, safety and effectiveness of medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, biocidals and tobacco products.



Tanzania Women Mining Association vice chairperson Rachel Njau moves to inspect a recently improved tanzanite mining pit at Mirerani township in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

# EAC Secretariat called upon expedite regional consultative process on migration

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat has been urged to ensure the timely establishment of the Regional Consultative Process on migration as a permanent forum for addressing migration issues in the EAC as the initiative directly responds to the EAC Treaty commitments.

Rwanda's Minister of Public Service and Labour, Rwanyindo Fanfan made the call when speaking during the just-ended, EAC conference to establish Regional Consultative Process (RCP) on migration.

The meeting was meant to consider and discuss the proposal for the establishment of

the Regional Consultative Process on Migration for the EAC as a platform for regional information-sharing and policy dialogue dedicated to discuss specific migration issues in a cooperative manner among EAC Partner States.

Rwanyindo expressed her appreciation to all stakeholders and Partner States for the joint efforts to initiate the RCP, which would enable Partner States to enhance and facilitate orderly human labour migration in the region and beyond.

The minister noted that migration policies in the EAC are yes to be harmonised, therefore raising the need for Partner States to discuss various interventions

and collaboration on immigration, labour and employment as pressing matters.

"I implore you honourable ministers to utilise such a forum as a conduit to better collaboration, cooperation, and mobilisation of resources to support regional matters through a single platform," she added.

Kenya's Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Director General Immigration Services, State Department of Immigration and Citizen Services, Alexander Muteshi noted that a consultative process, especially at regional level, has advantages compared to binding processes such as treaty making process.

"It is less formal and non-binding forum bringing together migration officials of countries of origin and destination to discuss migration-related issues in a cooperative way," added Muteshi.

He noted that Intra regional migration is on the rise and prior to the advent of Covid-19 outbreak; there are long standing patterns of seasonal and circular migration; existence of refugees and migratory flows to the Middle East affecting migration among others. The director general informed the partner states that the establishment of regional consultative process is a key for the EAC focusing on policy dialogues and information sharing.

EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Christophe Bazivamo informed the conference that Article 104 of the Treaty for the Establishment of EAC and the EAC Common Market Protocol provide broad areas of cooperation under the movement of persons, workers, self-employed persons, as well as the rights of establishment and residence.

He said: "The RCP will give the community an opportunity to have a multi-sectoral dialogue beyond labour and immigration sectors which are currently the existing platforms but do not address other migration related aspects such as migration health, migration and environment, as

well as migrant development."

Bazivamo said that the RCP will be used as a platform to bring together stakeholders and development partners to collectively mobilize resources for priorities set out from the RCP forums which will benefit Partner States' efforts to facilitate governance of labour migration management, harmonisation of labour migration policies, and capacity building initiatives, research and all initiatives geared towards, a united approach to safe, regular and humane labour migration management.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa, Mohammed Abdiker said the

region was in need of a common approach in addressing migration in a holistic manner, creating intergovernmental networks to consult on migration governance and development.

"Let me take this opportunity to reiterate IOM's commitment to continue support EAC processes on migration through technical advice, capacity building, research, building synergies and networking," said Abdiker.

The ministers directed EAC Secretariat to enhance the Concept Paper for the Establishment of the RCP and the draft Operational Modalities/ Terms of Reference and submit the same to Partner States for inputs by March 4th, 2022.

## JUMAZA case against AG, ZLB stalled for third time

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Imams Association (JUMAZA) case against the Attorney General and the Isles' Liquor Board (ZLB) has stalled for the third time by the High Court Judge Abdulhakim Issa Ameir.

Judge Ameir said the verdict against the objections filed by the AG had not yet been finalized before the verdict was handed down.

The High Court judge said the verdict in the case will now be handed down on February 28, this year, after it has been written and reviewed to give the position of the primary case filed by JUMAZA.

"The verdict was handed down today (yesterday) but it has not yet been completed. We've adjourned the case," said judge Ameir.

JUMAZA advocate Ruhaia Kassim Mgeni said they have accepted the judge's decision to adjourn for the third time to give the verdict of the case until February 28, this year.

"The verdict in the case against JUMAZA, against the Attorney General and ZLB has been postponed because the judge has not yet completed his review of the verdict," said advocate Ruhaia.

In the objections filed by the Attorney General of Zanzibar through state attorneys alleging that JUMAZA has filed a lawsuit against the government illegally without giving a 60-day excuse to sue the government before filing a case when it is illegal.

But, the Zanzibar Imams Association in the primary case alleges that the Attorney General and the Regulatory Board have violated Law No. 9 on Alcohol Control Act 2020 after granting permits to more than three companies to smuggle liquor into the country illegally.

JUMAZA claimed in terms of section 33 (1) of the Zanzibar Alcohol Control Act that three companies are required to be licensed to import liquor after winning an annual tender. In fact, the tender winner must be a Zanzibaris, taxpayer and should have a warehouse and a delivery truck.

In addition, JUMAZA alleges that the Zanzibar Alcohol Control Board has failed to enforce the provisions of the Bar Act to be 1,000 meters away from social service areas such as houses of worship, schools, hospitals, classrooms and residential areas before bars are granted business licenses.



Kahama district commissioner Festo Kiswaga (2nd-L) inspects nine classrooms built with Covid-19 control support funds at Mama Samia Secondary School yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## Over 60pc of Tanzanians use traditional medicines - ministry

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 60 percent of Tanzanians use traditional medicines to treat different diseases before or after attending health facilities; this is according to the official from the Ministry for Health.

Acting Director of Preventive Services, Dr Caroline Damiani said this yesterday when closing training to traditional or alternative medicine practitioners aimed at sharing experience; discuss challenges and set strategies to improve the subsector in

order to benefit the community.

"Over 60 percent of Tanzanians use traditional or alternative medicine to treat different diseases before or after attending public health facilities," she confirmed.

The director said the training further aimed at ensuring medicines prepared by those practitioners meet quality since its early stage of planting up to the ultimate users to avoid harms to the users.

She said up to date; the Ministry for Health through Tradi-

tional Medicine Practice Council (TMPC) has registered 73 traditional medicines where out of those 20 medicines were effectively used during Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Caroline said during the training, they discussed the best ways to ensure traditional medicines are available and affordable in the country and abroad to benefit the community and the entire nation.

Apart from that, she urged them to unite and strengthen cooperation to improve traditional

and alternative medicine profession. She stressed on need to establish factories to produce traditional medicines to increase the availability in different parts of the country to benefit the community.

According to the International Journal of Health Policy and Management (IJPM), the demand for and use of Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) has recently increased worldwide drawing public health attention including malpractice, which puts the health

of its clients at risk.

Despite efforts made by Tanzania to integrate T&CM in the health system to protect the clients, regulating the subsector has remained a challenge due to lack of information and operational factors facing the regulatory frameworks in Tanzania.

Recently, the demand for and use of traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM) has increased in both developed and developing countries.

Furthermore, the existence of imperfect information in T&CM

practice calls for governmental regulatory action to protect customers against risky practices.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) developed a Traditional Medicine strategy (2014-2023) to guide T&CM policies, plans and regulatory processes.

It emphasizes, among other things, that for an effective regulatory framework: there must be clear and adequate legislation, regulation, guidelines and procedures, human and financial resources, transparency, cooperation and collaboration between

regulating authority and other stakeholders including the practitioners.

In Tanzania, the Traditional Medicine Act was enacted in 2002 and a Traditional Medicine unit in the Ministry for Health was initiated.

However, studies show that despite the integration of T&CM in the health system, the regulatory authorities and their operations are still ineffective and less efficient. Studies have found a knowledge gap on T&TC operations even amongst regulators.



Zanzibar's Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister, Nassor Mazrui (2nd-R), and his Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training counterpart, Simai Mohamed Said (C), pictured in Zanzibar yesterday with DKT International Tanzania managing director Kelvin Hudson (L) and DKT brand 'ambassador' Tamia Tibs (2nd-L) and prize-winning Tanzanian fashion designer Calisah Abdulhameed. It was during the launching cycle for HIV 2022 campaign, which is meant to sensitise young people in Tanzania on the need to protect themselves against HIV and AIDS. A competition to recognise DKT products is set to follow, with winners participating in cycling races in Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Benefits of AfCFTA to secondary industries will emerge - expert

By Special Correspondent

A Ghanaian trade expert on Wednesday projected the benefits that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has on the continent's secondary industries will gradually emerge since trade commenced one year ago.

Jonas Atangdui, the director of Economic Affairs at the Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institute, a local policy think tank, told Xinhua in an interview that the AfCFTA will create employment, income and tax revenue for governments, and reduce import bills of African governments through the development of secondary industry on the continent.

The African Union (AU) Ministers of Trade on Jan. 29 announced the conclusion of negotiations and adoption of rules of origin to cover 87.7 percent of goods traded by member states. These rules represent the criteria for using the national source of products to determine tariffs and restrictions on them under the trade agreements.

The expert said the conclusion of negotiations was a critical breakthrough, which would en-

able trading in products of African origin under the preferential trade agreement to begin.

"This means that you cannot trade goods wholly manufactured in Europe or elsewhere under the agreement.

A certain amount of value addition must come from inside Africa. And this will lead to the emergence of secondary industries to feed bigger industries and consumers," Atangdui said.

He also lauded the launching of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), describing it as a game-changer for trade facilitation on the continent.

"PAPSS is another milestone that we should celebrate due to its importance in trade facilitation. Then also, the speed with which African countries signed on to the agreement is commendable. This is a continent known for procrastination when it comes to these things. But this time, they seem to be working within time," said Atangdui.

The expert also described the establishment of the dispute settlement body to deal with trade conflicts in the free trade area as welcome news.

## 'Govt committed to resolving Meatu District water challenges'

By Getrude Mbagdo, Dodoma

THE government yesterday admitted that some villages of Meatu District in Simiyu Region are facing acute shortage of water and it was working hard on robust strategies to address the challenge.

The villages facing the challenge include Mwanjoro, Jinamo, Mbushi and Witamihya in Mbushi ward.

Deputy Minister for Water Maryprisca Mahundi said this in the Parliament when responding to a question by Leah Komanya (Me-

atu) who wanted to know the government's plans to supply water in villages that face steady supply of water.

Mahundi said that supply of water in the four named villages was currently at 24 percent from the 13 water wells constructed in the villages.

She however said the government also implemented the Mwanjoro water dam project which was completed in 2018 with the aim to further strengthen water supply in the villages of Jinamo, Mbushi and Mwanjoro.

"But according to a recent study, the dam

has been shown to decrease in depth due to sand logging caused by an increase of livestock consuming water at the dam as well as massive environmental degradation which also affected the quality of the water," she said.

She said in other efforts aimed to ensure that the Mwanjoro dam is used to supply water in the villages, the government will, in the next fiscal year, allocate funds for the rehabilitation of the Dam.

"The work will involve increasing the depth of the dam, rebuilding the existing dam edges, building sand trap infrastructure as well as

planting of grasses to help prevent soil erosion," she added.

Also in the budget the government will allocate funds for construction of charco for livestock, this will bar pastoralists from sending their animals in the special dams which are specifically for human use. Locals will also be educated on the importance of protecting water sources," Mahundi added.

In long-term plan, these villages will also be able to benefit from a major project expected to be built in Simiyu Region through the programme

Mahundi further said the villagers will benefit more from the mega water project which is set to be implemented in Simiyu region through the Climate Change Programme as the villages are located 12-km only from where the major pipe will be constructed.

She assured Tanzanians that the government was committed and is implanting a number of projects in various areas in the country and in the near future most parts which experience acute shortage of water will start getting relief.

# Project to enable women to own land and invest in agribusiness inaugurate

By Guardian Reporter

BLOOMBERG Philanthropies yesterday announced a partnership with CARE to expand existing Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) for agricultural funds in Tanzania and two other African countries.

A statement released yesterday by the organization said the programme will train women who are currently enrolled in or who are recent graduates from Bloomberg-sponsored training programmes, as well as their adult family members, adding that the investment is projected to have a secondary impact on more than a half million families and community members.

"In Tanzania, these efforts will focus on supporting small-scale farmers invest in land ownership, equipment, and infrastructure to increase agricultural productivity and export premium tea," reads the statement.

Other countries are Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo. The partnership will enable women who own small agriculture-based businesses to build capital and access credit to invest in and grow their businesses, ensuring long-term economic sustainability for themselves and their families.

VSLAs are member-driven community funds that encourage financial inclusion and independence by pooling resources and providing low interest rate loans. The partnership advances Bloomberg Philanthropies Women's Economic Development Initiative, which has invested \$65 million since 2007 in training opportunities for women internationally that build marketable skills across 12 vocational tracks in high-demand industries leading to economic independence for participants.

In 2020, Bloomberg Philanthropies piloted a VSLA programme in Tanzania which successfully trained leaders of 29,000 informal Village Savings and Loan Associations on how to use agricultural funds. Working with CARE, Bloomberg is taking the next impactful step in creating financial stability for women by teaching 150,000 people, over two years, how to invest their capital and grow their small businesses in Tanzania,

Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Bloomberg Philanthropies' Women's Economic Development Initiative brings together government agencies, corporations, and non-profits to provide individuals with sustainable income-generating and civic participation opportunities. Since 2007, Bloomberg Philanthropies has worked with partners to provide vocational training, financial literacy, and education on health and wellness to women and families. Globally, Bloomberg Philanthropies has invested in more than 568,000 women who have benefited more than two million children and family members.

"Access to capital and credit allows women to apply their skills, grow their businesses, invest in their families, and achieve economic independence - with benefits that spread throughout communities," said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg L.P. and 108th Mayor of New York City. "Too often, that access is lacking - but our partnership with CARE is helping to fix that, and we're looking forward to expanding our work together through this new collaboration."

"Women enrolled in the economic development programs funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies immediately invest in their children once they earn an income. With increased income and assets, they become decision makers on their children's education, competitors in the international marketplace, participants in local elections, and leaders in their local governments," said Verna Eggleston who leads Bloomberg Philanthropies' Women's Economic Development Initiative.

"We know that VSLAs work, providing entrepreneurs with access to banking resources and capital. Through this partnership with CARE, we are proudly providing more avenues for women to succeed for years to come."

CARE will collaborate with existing Bloomberg Philanthropies partner Sustainable Growers, which works with women coffee producers in Congo, Rwanda, and Tanzania, and Women for Women International, an organisation operating in nine post conflict regions, assisting women



Lightness Zablon (C), a business officer with NMB Bank Plc, makes remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday before conducting a draw to determine 100 winners of the bank's ongoing 'Masta Bata' Card usage campaign. She is with NMB customer care officer Suzan Manga (R) and Tanzania Gaming Board representative Elibariki Senga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

who are survivors of war. The partnership will: expand existing infrastructure for VSLAs, providing financial literacy training, increase women's leadership and negotiation skills, connect women with banks, access to small loans, and emergency insurance, create direct connections between VSLAs and private sector partners to ensure women have access to markets and build partnerships with governments and local authorities to help women with land acquisition.

In Rwanda and Congo, the work will focus on supporting existing VSLAs and identify opportunities in the coffee, cocoa, horticulture, and legume markets as well as improving gender equity in agricultural cooperatives. "We know it is impossible to reach economic prosperity if women are not able

to realize their full potential and capacity to contribute. Bloomberg Philanthropies and CARE are helping unleash that power," said Michelle Nunn, President and CEO of CARE.

"We took the long-standing and highly impactful model of small savings groups that work together to save, lend, and start small-businesses and brought these groups together to amplify their savings power and to pool their resources to invest in equipment and tools for the next harvest. This is just the beginning. We hope others will follow the lead of Bloomberg Philanthropies in helping us build on the potential savings power of millions more women working together."

"Sustainable Growers takes pride in being part of such a noble global partnership. It is such a huge opportunity for women farmers

in East Africa. Through the partnership women in this region and Africa as a whole shall have reliable and affordable access to more capital in their pathway to entrepreneurial growth and development," said Sustainable Growers Executive Director, Christine Condo. "Their economic growth and independence as well as entrepreneurial skills have brought impacts immeasurably on sustainable growth of the entire community. Working together we shall make it happen."

The partnership is being announced at Expo 2020 Dubai. Bloomberg Philanthropies' partner Sustainable Growers, home of Question Coffee and the Coffee Academy has been recognised as one of 50 development projects spotlighted by Expo 2020 Dubai's Global Best Practice Programme.

# Living Prof Hubert Kairuki's dreams alive

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Kairuki Health and Education Network (KHEN) has commemorated 23 years of the death of its founder, Professor Hubert Kairuki in different styles including undertaking free medical screening in Dar es Salaam.

The event is done each year to remember him for his good contribution to society during his lifetime.

In this year's commemorations, KHEN carried out several activities including free medical screening of different diseases at Kairuki Polyclinic Mbezi Terminal, whereby many people were diagnosed and those found with different problems were attended by doctors.

Some services offered at the free medical screening camp include prostate, breast cancer, eye screening,



and Hypertension (BP). At the camp, cancer screening specialists used modern technology of ultrasound.

KHEN chairperson, Kokushubila Kairuki says since the demise of late Kairuki his family has been following his footsteps in health services provision to Tanzanians.

Since then, she says that Kairuki Hospital stood firm to ensure all health services at the hospital are delivered in a professional way as it was the vision of its founder.

According to the official, the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) is doing better and better since its introduction in 1997 with number of graduates increasing each year. Since its inception, it has produced 1,512 medical doctors, 63 specialists, 1,205 nurses, and 205 counsellors who are currently working in different public and private hospitals.

She says HKMU has managed to produce 24 Masters of Science in Public Health and 41 Masters Degree in Social Work who are currently



**These programmes include public education through different channels like radio and TV stations, helping orphanage centers, reproductive health programmes and we have been providing first aid to Mikocheni Primary School free of charge**

working in different organisations inside and outside the country.

She says that KHEN continues with its mission to help the needy to ensure the community stays healthy through different programmes which they have been doing since the introduction of the Hospital 35 years back.

"These programmes include public education through different channels like radio and TV stations, helping orphanage centers, reproductive health programmes and we have been providing first aid to Mikocheni Primary School free of charge. And we do this to commemorate him because it was his vision," she said.

Speaking at the hospital commemoration climax, Ubungo Municipal Chief Medical Officer, Dr Peter Msanya commended the family for living the KHEN founder's dream.

"The decision to introduce Kairuki Polyclinic at Mbezi Terminal is a great idea because it will help people surrounding this area who currently travel far distances to look for health services," he said, noting that regular medical checkup is a good thing but unfortunately it is observed by western countries only so we too need to do something so that our people build this culture."

"Many of our people go to the hospital only when they are sick but this is due to challenges like lack of health services and facilities close to the community and sometimes some of them may fail to do so due to lack of money," he said.

"I congratulate you for this achievement and I urge you to continue with such a spirit so that we build a culture of body checkup to our people and others should learn this spirit from you," he said.

He said people should change their lifestyle and eat healthy food and do regular exercises to avoid non communicable diseases.

"We can reduce cases of diseases like blood pressure if we change our lifestyle and we must listen to medical practitioners' advice so that we stay healthy," he said, requesting KHEN to continue helping the community to access health services, make them affordable and educate them on how they can protect themselves from diseases.

"I would urge other institutions to emulate this spirit of giving because it is everyone's responsibility to provide good and affordable health services to all Tanzanians," he said.

In another move between March and April this year there will be launching of KHEN center that will be dealing with In Vitro-Fertilization, IVF at Bunju A Mianzini, and medicine manufacturing in Kibaha Zegereni industrial area.

Kairuki hospital is the first private hospital owned by Tanzanian to be introduced during difficult times because the private sector was not welcomed but he managed to convince the government about the importance to do so and eventually he made it possible.

KHEN consist of Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) which was introduced in 1997, Kairuki School of Nursing (KSN), and Kairuki Hospital introduced in 1987 and all are doing better and better.



Prof Joyce Ndalichako (2nd-R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), presses a computer key in Dodoma city on Thursday to launch Dodoma Youth Development Organisation (Doyodo). Second left is Doyodo director Rajabu Suleiman. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2022

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Engaging local population in biodiversity conservation can really perform miracles

THE Amani Nature Reserve is a protected area located within the Muheza and Korogwe districts in the Tanga region, in tropical East Africa. The nature reserve was established in 1997 in order to preserve the unique flora and fauna of the East Usambara Mountains. The East and West Usambara Mountains are a biodiversity hotspot. The Amani Nature Reserve includes tropical cloud forest habitats.

The Amani Nature Reserve was established in 1997 in a forested area in the East Usambara Mountains. Traditionally, people living in villages adjacent to the reserve have used the forest as a source of timber, firewood and medicinal plants, a place to gather plants, bush meat, honey and fruit for consumption and a source of live birds, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates for international trade.

The forests in the reserve have been described as intermediate evergreen forests or submontane evergreen forest, a type of vegetative cover that tends to grow on the seaward side of both the West and East Usambaras.

The government has been urged to improve the 35-km road from Muheza town to the Amani Nature Forest Reserve to attract more tourists in the area, which offers a wide-range of thrilling tourist attractions. The reserve is the largest forested block within the East Usambara Mountains and occupies the southern extremity of these mountains.

Reserve's Acting Conservator, Bob Matunda made the appeal recently while briefing journalists on how they work together with the Nature Tanzania organisation and Tanzania Forest Conservation (TFCG) to conserve the endangered Long-billed birds and other threatened flora and species found at Amani Nature Forest Reserve. The road getting to the Reserve is in a devastating state the government should address the challenge to improve tourism.

Engaging people to conserve biodiversity of Amani Nature Reserve, we

believe will see the increase in endangered Long-billed birds and other species so as to attract more tourists."

Construction of this road will help more than 40 villages located at the East Usambara Mountains to transport their produce more easily, attract more tourists to visit at Amani.

He expressed the Reserve's gratitude to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for granting funds to Nature Tanzania organisation that it can work together with TFCG to improve the conservation status of natural resources and sustainable development through enhancing conservation of birds, forest and supporting sustainable use of biodiversity in Tanzania." He noted

Matunda said that despite challenges, the number of tourists has been slightly increasing yearly whereby in the year 2015/2019, a total of 1,079 tourists from different countries visited the Nature Forest Reserve.

In the same vein, Nature Tanzania and TFCG have introduced a new project at Shebomeza village to restore the long-billed tailor bird's habitat as well as educate people on the benefits of biodiversity to human and the effect of the invasive trees (*Maesopsis eminii*) that harm biodiversity and habitat of the tailorbird at Amani Nature Reserve.

Currently majority of communities at Shebomeza villages have begun to plant indigenous trees in their farms to remove *Maesopsis eminii* tree species.

Through this project, children were trained on how to understand the bird's behavior, its natural habitat, how to protect and conserve the habitat of the Long-billed Tailorbird species and other species found in the area and other issues relating to bird.

Although the project is scheduled to be completed in September this year, local farmers will continue to learn through the demonstration farms that have been established by Nature Tanzania and TFCG to conserve the biodiversity.

## Investing in the agricultural sector vital in eradicating poverty, hunger

IN politics, humanitarian aid, and social science, hunger is a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. So in the field of hunger relief, the term hunger is used in a sense that goes beyond the common desire for food that all humans experience.

Throughout history, portions of the world's population have often suffered sustained periods of hunger. In many cases, hunger resulted from food supply disruptions caused by war, plagues, or adverse weather. In the decades following World War II, technological progress and enhanced political cooperation suggested it might be possible to substantially reduce the number of people suffering from hunger. While progress was uneven, by 2015 the threat of extreme hunger subsided for many of the world's population. According to figures published by the FAO in 2019 however, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger has been increasing over the last four years. This is both as a percentage of the world's population, and in absolute terms, with about 821 million afflicted with hunger in 2018.

While most of the world's hungry people continue to live in Asia, much of the increase in hunger since 2015 occurred in Africa and South America. The FAO's 2018 report focused on extreme weather as a primary driver of the increase in hunger.

While the FAO's 2019 report found there was also a strong correlation between increases in hunger and countries that had suffered an economic slowdown. Many thousands of organisations are engaged in the field of hunger relief; operating at local, national, regional or international levels. Some of these organisations are dedicated to hunger relief, while others may work in a number of different fields. At the

global level, much of the world's hunger relief efforts are coordinated by the UN, and geared towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal for "Zero hunger"

There are a number of significant changes that are happening in Africa, the most important being that it is a continent with some of the fastest growing economies. Five of the world's fastest growing economies are in Africa.

This has resulted in increased wealth in a segment of the population, with its attendant shift in food consumption patterns. Africa's population is also growing fast. For instance, between 2015 and 2050, the populations of 28 African countries are estimated to have more than doubled.

Combining the effects of consumption pattern changes and the high population means that the agriculture sector must respond by not only producing more food, but also food that appeals to a wealthier society.

African countries will likely continue to experience lower agricultural yields due to the impact of climate change, encroachment of agricultural lands - particularly crop and rangelands and, biodiversity loss.

In order to ensure sustainability of the agriculture sector, increased and quality investments need to be channeled into the sector.

A majority of Africa's poor population lives in rural areas. Increasing investments into the agriculture sector can therefore play a critical role in poverty alleviation, especially rural poverty, since the majority of rural poor depend on agricultural activities for their livelihoods. Further, agriculture is a key not only to on-farm activities - it largely supports off-farm activities that contribute directly and indirectly to increased household incomes, hence reduction of poverty and inequality.

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## Artisanal miners must co-operate to develop

By Special Correspondent

Falling seasonal gold deliveries from the small-scale and artisanal miners as rains flood sandbanks and trenches and pour into gold workings have led to calls for more regulation and Government help in this sector.

No one disagrees. The problem comes in implementing any systems that make the informal mining sector run a lot more smoothly and safely.

The formal miners, even including the owners of very small gold mines, is regulated and inspected.

Gold claims are registered, administrators and the courts can sort out conflicts, miners have to follow standard safety regulations, full compensation and usually a bit more has to be paid to farmers if a mine owner believes that the land is more valuable for mining, and generally the whole corpus of mining law, statute and the result of court decisions, is available and followed.

These miners can approach banks and other lenders if they need additional capital, staking their mining claims and equipment as security, and companies can be formed.

The problem comes with the informal sector, where almost nothing is on an official record neither the claim nor the operation, and where trying to enforce rights and safety is a nightmare.

People start panning sandbanks in rivers, without telling anyone, or start digging, even next to house walls, or climb down mineshafts owned by others.

Disputes can be settled with machetes and even when there is some order in an area this is often enforced by something similar to a Mafia don rather than the authorities.

When we contrast this with farming, where the Government has been making huge inroads into empowering even the poorest farmers, we can see the difference and see the sort of conditions that are necessary for a similar scheme of supporting informal miners.

All farmers have access to land, otherwise they could not farm. Sometimes this land is communal land, but their name and location is recorded in the headman's book and everyone knows who has the right to use the land.

Sometimes the land allocation is recorded with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development when it comes to the resettlement areas. In a few cases there are title deeds.

Agritex is now building up its own records for



all farms, regardless of the allocating authority, since they need to know who is farming where.

The point is every farmer has a high level of security of tenure, even in the communal and resettlement systems where reallocations of unused land are possible, but only by the authorities and only after everyone agrees that the land is not being used.

Secondly, land rights are rarely disputed and where they are it is easy to sort out who has the headman's allocation or the offer letter or the title deed.

Disputes are settled in a traditional court or a land court without much trouble, and lawyers are the preferred weapon, not machetes.

No one can just walk into someone else's fields and start planting, acting as if the land was theirs. And while enforcement of good environmental practice is difficult in the abstract, in practice these days farmers wanting free inputs or credit need to practice good quality agriculture to minimise the risks from climate.

Informal miners have never heard

of conservation practices or how to minimise degradation or clean up their own mess.

We are starting to see from the formal mining sector, which does include some very small mines, and the farming sector with farms ranging upwards from very small patches, what basic conditions have to be met before some seriously useful and helpful Government schemes could be launched.

Much of these initial conditions need the active co-operation of informal miners and a willingness to play by the rules and accept that registers, licences and the like can benefit those mining as well as the State organisations that have to regulate mining.

The Zimbabwe Diamond and Allied Workers' Union that claims to be the representative of these small miners thus needs to help generate the required degree of a willingness to help formulate and enforce rules.

If there are some aspects of licensing or the like that make business very difficult then there needs to be discussion on what is reasonable

and what works better than the present theory.

The present Government is pro-business and is always willing to listen to good ideas and grabs those that it thinks are good.

But what is not up for discussion is the need to have a licensed and regulated mining environment.

The way it works can be adjusted; its abolition cannot be on the table.

Once all this is accepted by the miners, and any obviously wrong regulations are dumped or replaced, then we can start the process of licensing all miners and then granting licensed miners, or groups of miners, access to required machinery, something resembling security of tenure and enforcement of basic safety conditions.

Informal miners can almost certainly do a lot better if they are willing to co-operate and like the subsistence farmers convert themselves into small businesses rather than try to go it alone. This requires everyone to come together, and that includes the artisanal miners.

## Climate change pressure fuelling conflict in the Horn of Africa

By Francis Mureithi

COMMUNITIES in the Horn of Africa have been urged to address challenges occasioned by climate change, which threatens to exacerbate both the frequency and severity of extreme weather events and undercut significant development gains achieved over the last decade.

Climate change pressures are already interacting with conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa. For example, the already-tense Nile water sharing negotiations between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt are being made more difficult by climate impacts that are likely to make the water supply more erratic, exacerbate water shortages, and possibly affect the Nile

flow downstream.

Another example can be found in the Arabian Peninsula and Somalia, where unseasonably warm weather coupled with the civil war damage to Yemen's locust response system have worsened a locust outbreak that will threaten the food security of 25 million people in the region.

Climate security risks During the second USAID/Kenya and East Africa Horn of Africa virtual forum participants suggested various approaches to climate security risks in the Horn of Africa through a wide range of interventions and projects that are underway across the region.

The forum brought together 217 participants from various countries, including

Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, United States, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Rwanda.

It was noted that millions of people across communities in the Horn of Africa have suffered from the devastating impacts of drought, conflict, and other pressures.

This affects the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

The forum promoted cross-country learnings through experience sharing on best practices, lessons learned, and

practical implementation approaches on policy formulation and implementation, strengthening institutional capacities and investments across the conflict-affected zones in the Horn of Africa.

Jennifer Karsner, USAID Ethiopia's Resilience Coordinator, urged participants to support national dialogues to build peace in the face of conflict that threatens the integrities of the local communities.

"There is a need for stakeholders to provide alternatives to violence with dialogues, job creation, and a sense of connection and hope for the youth through policymakers, trusted elders, and peacemakers to de-escalate conflicts," said Ms Karsner.



## THE LAW &amp; YOU

## Why the principle of natural justice operates practically as mandatory

By Telesphor Magobe

**W**E often hear people talk about natural justice (procedural fairness), but do we really know what it means and what it implies for us, let alone for the administration of justice? I suppose some people know what it is, while others may know very little or may not know it at all. Then, what does this imply for them and for their rights?

In order to know how important natural justice is, ask yourself the following questions: What type of justice would have been if people's case landed in the hands of a judge who has an interest in the issue being disputed? What type of justice would have been if people were just arrested, taken to court and being judged without hearing their side of the story? What type of justice would have been if people were just being sent to prison without being told the reasons for their being sent there? It would have been a big injustice. Wouldn't it?

But even if a person was not arrested and arraigned, provided the decision made affects him or her, that person is entitled to know the reasons or the grounds that have caused the decision to be reached in the manner it has affected him or her.

Natural justice is central to the concept of fairness and in ordinary life it is tantamount to civility. As Aristotle said in his metaphysics "All persons by nature desire to know", to be denied an opportunity to know why a decision has been reached to their detriment would have kept them almost always in a state of invincible ignorance and in a great injustice.

John Alder in his book Constitutional and Administrative Law (Fifth Edition, 2005) says "Natural justice simply means that a person whose rights have been affected by an official decision is entitled to advance notice of the



decision and a fair hearing before an unbiased judge." Natural justice constitutes three principles. The first principle is that no person should be judge in his or her own cause (the rule against bias).

In the case of *R v Sussex Justices ex parte McCarthy* [1924], Lord Hewart held that "Justice must not only be done, but must manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done." Expounding on this Alder says "The rationale is not only that of fairness to the parties, but also of public confidence in the integrity of the decision-making process." Citizens will only have confidence in the administration of justice if they see clearly that decisions are made or reached on the basis of the weight of evidence and persuasion.

The second principle is that a person should not be condemned unheard (a fair hearing). In the case of *Ridge v Baldwin* [1964], Lord Reid held that a government decision that causes serious harm to an individual ought in principle to attract the right

to be heard. In the case of *R v University of Cambridge* [1723], the judge said: "I remember to have heard it observed by a very learned man upon such an occasion, that even God himself did not pass sentence upon Adam, before he was called upon to make his defence. 'Adam, says God, where are you? Have you been eating from the tree I forbade you to eat?' And the same question was put to Eve also."

The third principle is a right to know the reasons for a decision that affects a person. Alder says the primary justification for the giving of reasons is respect for human dignity and equality, so that those who purport to exercise power must be accountable. He adds "The giving of reasons...strengthens public confidence in the decision-making process, strengthens the rationality of the process itself and helps to challenge decisions..." In the case of *Van de Hurk v Netherlands* [1984], the European Court of Human Rights held that courts, as the citizen's last protection, must give reasons for their decisions.

Section 23(1) of the Criminal Procedures Act, 1985 as amended until 2019 states that "A person who arrests another person shall, at the time of the arrest, inform that other

person of the offence for which he [or she] is arrested." This means that when a person is arrested for being suspected of committing or of being implicated in a criminal offence, that person is entitled to be informed of the grounds of arrest.

However, Subsection 1 does not apply in the following circumstances: (a) if, by reason of the circumstances in which he or she is arrested, that person ought to know the substance of the offence for which he or she is arrested and (b) if, by reason of his or her actions, the person arrested makes it impracticable for the person effecting the arrest to inform him or her of the offence for which he or she is arrested.

Article 13(6)(a) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977), as amended until 2005, states that "when the rights and duties of any person are being determined by the court or any other agency, that person shall be entitled to a fair hearing and to the right of appeal or other legal remedy against the decision of the court or of the other agency concerned."

So, natural justice is a constitutional right. Lord Selborne said in the case of *Spackman v Plumstead District Board of Works* [1885] that there would be no decision within the meaning of the statute if there were anything of that sort done contrary to the essence of justice. In light of this, the Privy Council in the case of *Fairmount Investments Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment* [1976] said: "it has long been settled law that a decision which offends against the principles of natural justice is outside the jurisdiction of the decision-making process."

Today's proverb: "Never try to prove what nobody doubts."

**The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at [tmagobe@gmail.com](mailto:tmagobe@gmail.com)**

# China's revised law introduces open licensing system in effort to promote use of idle patents

By Dou Hanyang

**T**HANKS to a new amendment to China's Patent Law that entered into force on June 1, 2021, patents in the country that have lain idle can be put into actual use easier.

Wu Zhenyu, a professor with the School of Mechanical Engineering and Automation, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, is one of the patent owners who have benefited from the new amendment, which introduces an open licensing system to facilitate the utilization of patents.

Wu owns a patent on an invention that can be useful to companies in the mechatronic engineering field. However, the invention patent had been idle since it was approved in 2017.

"I wanted my invention to be applied, but I failed to find suitable companies that can use it," Wu said, adding that the idea of putting the patent into use was later shelved as he was busy with teaching.

Fortunately, the open licensing system introduced by the amended Patent Law has brought new opportunities to idle patents like the one owned by Wu. The new Patent Law also stipulates that during the implementation period of the open license, the annual fee paid by the patentee shall be reduced or exempted accordingly.

Open licensing of patents refers to a type of patent licensing in which the holder of a patent makes an offer through patent management authority to license any entity or individual to exploit the patent, and any potential licensee that accepts the offer can be licensed to implement the patent.

Open licensing system for patents can facilitate the communication between patent holders and potential licensees. The patent gazettes published by patent management authority serve as a bridge for communication between patentee and licensee.

Besides, by enabling the supplier and potential user of a patent to reach an agreement on the authorization to exploit the patent in a simple and convenient way, the open licensing system saves both parties from complex negotiations, thus improving the efficiency in their communication.

Moreover, through its mechanisms for patent licensing-related information disclosure and patent right-related dispute resolution, the system allows potential licensees to get a full understanding of requirements for and relevant information about the granting of patent rights before accepting an offer, and in this way reduces risks in deal on the exploitation of an open-licensed patent.

East China's Zhejiang province took the lead in the country to pilot the open licensing system. In August 2021, the Zhejiang provincial bureau of market regulation published an announcement on soliciting patents available for exploitation under open license. As of the end of last year, the authority received applications from 14 universities, colleges,



A worker inspects air jet looms in a workshop of a textile company in Lanxi city, east China's Zhejiang province. File photo

and scientific research institutes in the province, and all the 379 patents they offered met the requirements for entering the system.

As the endeavor has been vigorously advanced, Wu's patent soon caught the attention of a textile machinery manufacturer based in Huzhou city, Zhejiang province.

In recent years, the company has put great efforts into the development of new equipment, but didn't make any major progress, said Ni Zhiqi, an executive of the company.

"After contacting Professor Wu, we found that the device covered by his patent can effectively solve the problems we

face by directly replacing the warp rack of our existing looms," Ni said.

The company and Wu quickly reached an agreement on the exploitation of the patent, and are currently jointly developing new machine.

"It's estimated that my patent can bring a 30-percent increase in the annual output value of the company," said Wu, who is satisfied with the prospect that his patent will be translated into tangible results.

In 2020, 34.7 percent of China's effective invention patents had been put into industrial application, according to a survey issued by the National Intellectual Property Administration last year.

The survey revealed that 44.9 percent

of the invention patents owned by enterprises had been actually used in industrial application scenarios in 2020, while the percentages of invention patents, in industrial use, owned by scientific research institutes and universities and colleges stood at 11.3 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively.

It's evident that there was a significant gap between universities and colleges and enterprises in terms of the industrial application of effective patents, pointed out Lin Min, an official with Zhejiang provincial bureau of market regulation.

"Many valuable invention patents of universities and colleges lacked the opportunity to play a part, while micro, small and

medium-sized firms which need to use these patents couldn't find an effective way to cooperate with their holders," Lin said.

Such problems have been gradually solved since Zhejiang explored the open licensing system for patents. More and more patents which used to lie idle on the shelves in universities, colleges, and scientific research institutes in the province are now playing important roles in the production of micro, small and medium-sized firms. So far, a total of 118 patent exploitation-related projects have been signed between universities and colleges in Zhejiang and enterprises in the province.

According to a preferential policy rolled out by Zhejiang province, enterprises that apply to be licensed to exploit the first 379 open-licensed patents won't be charged a fee for the licensing during the implementation period of the open license.

The term of a single license ranges between one year and five years, which can make sure that the companies which obtain the license can have sufficient time to conduct research and development and test products based on the open-licensed patent and eventually launch new products.

"In the long run, open licensing of patents for free can help sci-tech achievements of universities and colleges promote the development of industries," said Yang Xiaogang, an official with Zhejiang Sci-Tech University.

It can also make licensing negotiations easier, reduce the cost of the industrial application of patents owned by colleges and universities, and facilitate the innovative development of more micro, small and medium-sized firms, according to Yang.

# Namibia's Fishrot trial will test the nation's scales of justice

BY PETER FABRICIUS

**I**N some ways, Namibia's recent history has been a dress rehearsal of South Africa's. In 1990, South West Africa, as it was called then, became independent of the South African National Party's apartheid government, ushering in a Swapo (South West Africa People's Organisation) government.

That prefigured the South African majority's emancipation from that same government in 1994, which brought Swapo's liberation movement ally, the African National Congress (ANC), to power.

Now Namibia is about to begin its biggest corruption trial – of the 'Fishrot' 10. It will inevitably be examined for possible precedents across the border in South Africa's protracted State Capture saga. In both scandals, the allegations go right to the top.

So, will the big fish finally get their just deserts? Or will they be the ones that get away? And what impact will these major corruption scandals have on the two ruling parties' grip on power?

The 10 former politicians, businessmen, and lawyers stand accused of bribery and corruption for siphoning off millions of dollars from Namibia's fishing industry. Fishcor, Namibia's state-owned fishing company, allegedly transferred fishing quotas from private Namibian companies to other local companies in which the politicians involved had interests.

These latter companies were affiliated to Iceland's largest fishing corporation Samherji, which allegedly paid about \$10-million in bribes to Swapo leaders for preferential access to Namibia's rich fishing waters. Samherji allegedly also used other dodges to avoid paying taxes in Namibia by registering its operations in tax havens like Mauritius and Cyprus, investigative reporters found.

So just about everyone got a cut of the Fishrot pie. Except for ordinary Namibians.

Former fisheries minister Bernardt Esau, former justice minister Sakeus Shanghala, former Fishcor board chairman James Hatuikulipi, ex-Fishcor CEO Mike Nghipunya, and five other senior officials or business executives will stand trial after their current bail hearings. A 10th suspect, lawyer Marén de Klerk, has been charged but fled to South Africa from where Namibia is battling to extradite him. All have denied guilt.

They were netted through a WikiLeaks trove of more than



Walvis Bay on the Atlantic Ocean is the main port in Namibia and home to many fishing companies, fishing is one of the main contributors to the Namibian economy. A small fishing vessel docks at an adjacent quay. (Photo: John Hogg / World Bank)

30,000 documents, including internal emails, provided by former Samherji employee-turned-whistleblower Johannes Stefansson.

Al-Jazeera conducted an investigation in 2019 in which its journalists posed as Chinese investors trying to win fishing quotas. Esau was filmed requesting a donation to Swapo's coffers of \$200,000 from the fake investors.

Esau and Shanghala resigned from the cabinet, and Hatuikulipi resigned as Fishcor chairman soon after the exposures. Samherji CEO Thorsteinn Mar Baldvinsson stepped aside in Iceland pending an independent investigation.

The whole Fishrot scandal surfaced just before Namibia's general elections on 27 November 2019. On that day, the last of the accused was arrested. The timing inevitably led to accusations that the exposé had been manipulated to damage the ruling party – which it did. As

Republikein news editor Ronelle Rademeyer told ISS Today, votes for President Hage Geingob plummeted from 87% in the 2014 elections to just over 56% in 2019, the lowest majority by any president since independence.

Swapo took a smaller cut of 14% down to 65.45%, losing its two-thirds majority in the National Assembly for the first time. Rademeyer notes that Swapo also lost its dominance in the 2020 local authority elections. "I think the Fishrot scandal definitely impacted on the decline in votes for Swapo, but there were also a number of other factors such as non-delivery on promises to uplift people from poverty, creating jobs, building houses, etc."

Meanwhile, in South Africa, the ANC also took big hits in the 2019 general elections and the 2016 and 2021 local government polls after revelations of gross corruption and state cap-

ture during Jacob Zuma's presidency. The country now waits to see if the Zondo Commission findings will lead to prosecutions of top politicians, officials and CEOs.

Back in Namibia, questions are still being asked about how far up the political hierarchy Fishrot extends and whether a bigger head – that of Geingob himself – will roll.

According to investigative paper The Namibian and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) in December 2016, Shanghala, then attorney general, and Hatuikulipi, Fishcor chairperson, cooked up another scheme at Cape Town's Waterfront. This was with Adriaan Louw, a Namibian businessman who owned a company called African Selection Fishing.

The exposé alleges that the men – who have all denied wrongdoing – set up several Swapo-controlled companies that received nearly \$4.5-million skimmed from a \$637-million fishing deal between Fishcor and African Selection Fishing. Some of this money was allegedly used in a campaign to buy votes for Geingob ahead of Swapo's 2017 elective congress.

"Whoever was chosen was virtually guaranteed to win the election," says the OCCRP/The Namibian report. "But with Namibia reeling from a devastating drought and an economic crisis that had sent youth unemployment soaring, Geingob, who had first been elected in 2014, was facing strong opposition within his own party."

This late chapter in the Fishrot saga will also echo in the ears of South Africans. They will recall the vote-buying allegations surrounding the ANC's 2017

elective conference, which will undoubtedly surface again at this year's December conference.

In both countries, the real contest for power has been, and at least for now remains, within the ruling party.

Will these latest revelations topple Geingob? Gwen Lister, founder and former editor of The Namibian, thinks not. "Fishrot has definitely dented Swapo's support base," she told ISS Today. "Geingob is intact, though, till the end of his second term as Namibian president."

And will the fishing industry change? In The Namibia Media Trust's podcast Free Speak, Icelandic investigative journalist Helgi Seljan said Fishrot was a "classic case of state looting." Samherji had paid as little as half of its fishing proceeds to the state and the rest to the crooked "sharks," he said, leaving mere morsels for the masses.

Lister noted that the Namibian fishing industry had been restructured after independence to benefit the country's population, especially the poor, which it did until the Fishrot crooks got hold of it. Seljan noted that in Iceland, the government had shaken up the fishing industry after Fishrot, introducing new measures to secure it from future corruption.

There are no signs of restructuring in Namibia, suggesting that, as The Namibian investigative journalist Shino-vene Immanuel put it, the whole saga will probably be recycled in future. Another precedent for South Africa perhaps, as the ANC continues to deploy its cadres into the state-owned enterprises at the heart of state capture.

DM

## South Africa adopts marine plastic pollution treaty ahead of UN environment meeting

By Onke Ngcuka

**M**ARINE litter and plastic pollution are among South Africa's negotiating mandates as the country heads to the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi, Kenya, at the end of February.

Cabinet adopted a draft resolution on plastic pollution in light of the detrimental effect the fossil fuel byproduct poses to the country and continent's environment. In essence, the draft resolution is a call for a legally binding global agreement on plastics.

It seeks to address the waste management of plastic, the circular approach of the material while recognising its effects on marine life, and the fact that plastic pollution is a transboundary issue.

About 14 million tonnes of plastic finds its way into marine ecosystems every year, flowing into lakes, rivers and seas. Often this plastic is ingested by marine animals. At times, the microplastics eaten by fish and other creatures are in turn eaten by humans, posing a health risk to them as well.

Originally sponsored by Rwanda and Peru, the treaty seeks to address the compounds and additives used in plastic, promote the reduction of plastic waste, raise awareness and behavioural change about plastic pollution, and create the structures to measure progress and reporting.

"A legally binding treaty should also consider the entire lifecycle of plastic. Governments must rein in on these industries with stricter regulations and the removal of all fossil fuels subsidies. Taking action against plastic pollution at its origin will help to address the growing climate crisis, too," said Nhlanhla Sibisi, climate and energy campaigner at Greenpeace Africa.

Almost 80,000 tonnes of plastic leak into the oceans and rivers of South Africa each year, making up 3% of the plastic



waste generated in the country every year. About 2,371 thousand tonnes of plastic waste is generated in South Africa per annum. From that, 70% is collected, but just 14% of it (including imported waste) is recycled.

"The agreement would tackle the plastic pollution across the full lifecycle of plastics, from preventive measures in the upstream part of the lifecycle, to downstream ones addressing waste management, in order

to prevent plastic pollution in the marine and other environments and to support the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," the draft treaty states.

Addressing an online meet-

ing with national stakeholders and the media, the Minister of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Barbara Creecy, said marine and land pollution were not mutually exclusive. "What we understand is that you can't tackle marine litter without looking at how that lands up in rivers, water systems and ultimately washes into our oceans. What we understand is that 80% of the plastic that ends up in our oceans comes from land-based sources."

"It means that if you want to deal effectively with marine plastic pollution, you can't deal with it effectively only by focusing on the pollution in the sea itself," Creecy said.

Last year, a leaked draft document showed that South Africa would not be joining the treaty ahead of the Ministerial Conference in September last year, with the department saying no decision had been taken on the treaty at the time.

Creecy said getting a draft treaty on marine pollution had been investigated from 2014, adding it had taken up to now to get all the relevant international and national stakeholders to agree that the evidence was valid.

"What you would understand is that there are different interest groups [in South Africa], across the globe and in regional environments. It would have

taken the UN time where everybody agrees that this is a serious problem and it needs to be tackled with the seriousness of an internationally binding legal agreement," the minister said.

At UNEA, South Africa will request special needs and circumstances of the African continent on the plastic pollution treaty. In addition, the country will express the need for additional finance for technology transfer necessary to implement the treaty and support developing countries.

Other themes that will be discussed at the assembly include nature-based solutions and biodiversity, chemicals and minerals, green recovery and circular economy and organisational and administrative matters.

"We definitely hope that our progressive position to support this is able to translate into national action that demonstrates how South Africa can reduce the impact of plastic by adopting zero-waste systems aimed at stopping plastic at the production phase."

"If we want to address the issue, then we need to ensure that we focus on prevention rather than cure," said Niven Reddy, campaign research and technical support manager at Ground-Work.

The assembly will take place from 28 February to 2 March. DM

# 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 UMJUAAYO 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

# Are you ready for new insurance standards?

By Vincent Onjala

In May 2017, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) completed its project on insurance contracts with the issuance of IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts. IFRS 17 replaces IFRS 4 and sets out principles for recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosures of insurance contracts within the scope of IFRS 17. In June 2020, IASB issued amendments to IFRS 17. This new standard is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 with earlier application permitted if IFRS 9 is also applied. IFRS 17 is applicable to any entity that issues an insurance contract including life insurers, general insurers, reinsurers, captive insurance entities and some banks and corporate.

Various entities are at different stages of implementation while some are yet to commence the process. Investments are also required to achieve the implementation deadline. Insurance is a sector that interacts with players outside the country due to reinsurance aspects hence the risk of number of local players finding themselves in a difficult position if they will not have properly implemented this new standard by the ef-

fective date. The financial statements for insurance companies for the year ending 31 December 2023 will have to be aligned with the requirements of IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts.

IFRS 17 brings an accounting model that is applied for all insurance contracts which in turn, will help overcome inconsistencies with the current accounting practices that make it difficult for investors and analysts to understand and compare insurers' results. Insurance contracts have always posed an accounting challenge because they are not widely traded, generate cash flows with substantial variability over longer periods, combine features of financial instruments and service contracts and also applying other relevant accounting standards would involve splitting each contract into multiple investment and service components. The new standard ensures that for the first time, insurers will be on a level footing internationally due to consistent framework, global comparability, insurance and investment services, income split and more transparent and useful information.

The general expectation is that every entity affected has commenced the implementation journey because of substantial changes brought about



by the new standard. By now, it is expected that various entities have built or are finalising on the IFRS 17 models, have started drafting IFRS 17 accounting policies and plans to prepare comparatives among others implementation activities.

These imminent changes will affect several areas in the business including systems and processes, key performance indicators management, volatility in financial results and equity, capital management and dividend policy, business decisions, people, presentation and disclosures in the financial statements. Manage-

ment and boards of various insurance players including the regulator needs to be engaged in this process because of the significance of its impact. Involvement of the auditors and actuaries remain critical in the entire process. Systems and processes require a complete overhaul to align with the new standard. We expect that this overhaul will touch on the data sources, calculation engines, accounting logic, accounting systems and controls and financial reporting systems.

Some of the lessons learned to date from implementation projects

include: don't underestimate the extent of change; success requires comprehensive and structured governance and stakeholder education/engagement; chunk the project into manageable phases to counter project fatigue; you need actuaries, focus on date and systems architecture; proprietary solutions are not plug and play; have a roadmap which you need to revisit and cross check progress against it; don't underestimate the time needed - build in time for complex areas and re-working; involve your auditors early and finally for finance operations; practice,

practice, practice - allow for testing, dry runs, parallel runs and leverage on what you have.

This being an accounting change, a common methodology for change separates any change program into four manageable stages: assess the change, design the response, implement the design, and sustain new practices embedding them in business as usual.

For entities yet to commence on this journey, consider starting with a gap analysis and impact assessment, whilst factoring group and regulatory requirements. This should help in developing a road map for full implementation. You need to reach out to your board for budgetary allocation because the implementation has a cost to it. It is important that you set up the project team and related governance structures according to your organisation's policies. You need to work with specialists including actuaries, finance, and your auditors among others in this journey. Stakeholder engagement is key as you go through implementation and it will help to negotiate for post implementation support with your service provider.

**Vincent Onjala (pictured) is a Partner with KPMG in Tanzania (V.onjala@kpmg.co.tz). The views and opinions are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of KPMG.**

# Rainwater harvesting seen taking Zanzibar women back to farming

By Jenifer Gilla

ZANZIBAR is a semi-autonomous territory in political union with Tanzania, which consists of the island of Unjuga, Pemba islands.

In recent years, it has been hit hard by the effects of climate change, which results in poor crop harvests and other economic activities.

A study conducted by the Office of the Second Vice President Zanzibar in 2019 shows that the two main islands—Unjuga and Pemba are low lying and thus vulnerable to the consequence of variability in temperature, rainfalls, and winds, which have imposed huge social-economic burden to the community including failing in agricultural activities.

Drought and saltwater entering the fields, which deteriorated agriculture, have forced farmers in Kiungwe Kidogo village in Bumbwini Ward to desert their farms to avoid any losses that they would incur.

In this area of Zanzibar farming is carried out by women to neglect their farms as men are nowhere to be seen.

But, Amir Juma Kiungwe Kidogo village leader says that the discovery of rainwater harvesting technology that involves digging small water wells near farms made some farmers get water for irrigation.

"The new technology brought more women back to agriculture as they have always been in the frontline in the sector," Amir says.

The village leader pushes all his blames on climate change that brought all these challenges in the area, which wasn't there in the past.

"So, people are trying to adapt impacts brought by climate change," he says, noting that some farmers did not give up, they dug water wells and use these to collect and preserve rainwater and use it for irrigation.

According to him, farmers in the area grow different kinds of vegetables such as tomatoes, spinach, watermelons, and cucumbers.

According to the village chairman, they were not taught about the technology, it was their own idea on the way to find the solution to serve their families from starving.

He however says that one time the village leader called on a meeting to discuss how to fight climate change, which was affecting all sectors.

"I thank some people discovered this technology, which is pivotal in addressing the challenge. There more people in irrigation farming—they grow vegetables," he says.

Abdi Athumani, a farmer from the village says: "We harvest rainwater to use them for irrigation when the rains stop, but they start watering their crops when it rains and when it stops we connect the pump to the well and start irrigation by using a

generator."

A watermelon farmer, Zuena Makame describes the technology as useful, saying: "I once deserted my farm due to the drought, but after awhile, I came back after seeing that well technology is helpful in growing watermelons."

In her half an acre of watermelons that she used the new irrigation technology, the mother of three earned 700,000/- which helps her pay for her son's fees and pay different utility bills.

Another farmer, Azali Juma Ali says it was difficult to get back to vegetable farming due to the loss she got from the last cultivation, due to saltwater intrusion but well water storage technology restored his dream of farming again.

"I thank my husband for persuading me so far I see success even though the challenges are still there," she says.

But, Bahati Juma did not give up farming despite the drought and saltwater challenges. She supported the men's idea of digging water wells to harvest rainwater, which she praised as having change crop growth on her farm.

In her half an acre watermelon she earns 600,000/-,"which is a lot of money for her. Despite the fact the technology is good, "but we need more investment as the technology is still poor and not compatible with the speed of irrigation of large farms."

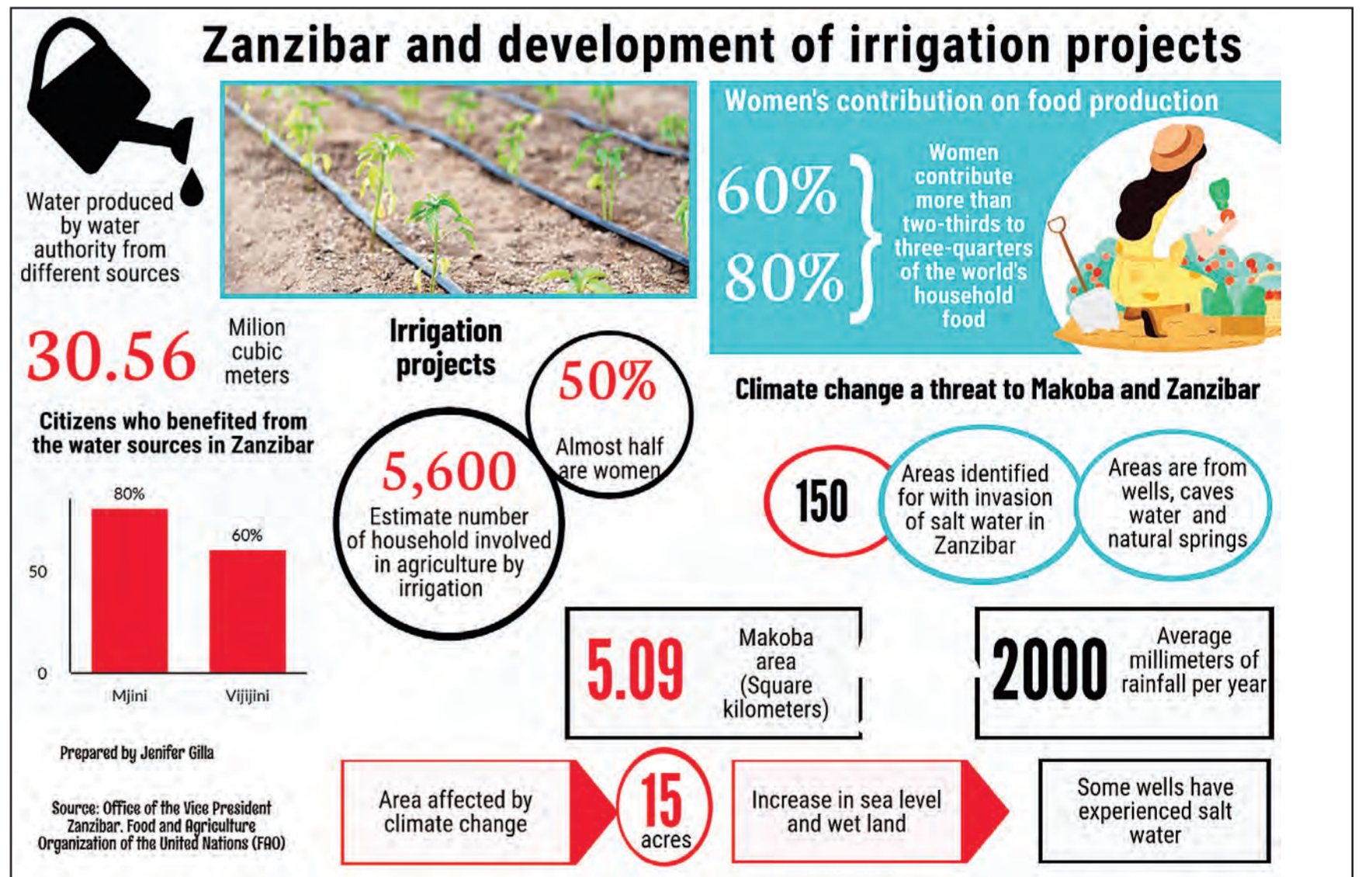
"When it rains we dig small wells for water storage, and that is what we use for irrigation in the fields, now it depends on the amount of water, if the fields are big you water finish when crops still need them, so you end up incurring loss," says Azali

The situation caused Lailatu Abdi (50) to incur a loss of 400,000/- when water started to run out when her cucumbers farm were in one and a half month instead of three.

"This situation happened to me a year ago, it did not rain enough so this well did not harvest enough water, I planted one hectare, when the crop came to the middle I saw that the water would not be enough and I had to water only half of the farm and neglect the other half," she says bitterly.

Director of the Environment Department from the Second Vice President's Office in Zanzibar, Farhat Mbarouk, says Zanzibar has received \$1 million from the United Nations Framework Agency for Climate Change (UNFCCC) to help prevent the effects of climate change, 'Adaptation Fund'.

"We've launched the adaptation fund project on January 13, this year, one of the areas that will be reached with the money to reduce the impact of climate change is Bimbwili and the



implementation will be done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Zanzibar," she says.

Irrigation Engineer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, Mohamed Mohamed explains that part of the money will be used to design rainwater harvesting systems for irrigation in Bimbwili ward located in the village.

"We will build a 500-meter wall in Kiungwe Kidogo while in Mafufuni, we'll build a 400-meter wall to prevent saltwater from entering the fields which will cost \$152,900, we will also build an irrigation system that will cost \$46,000, plus green-

house \$ 29,000, water storage tank of 1,800,000 liters for irrigation that will cost \$ 75, 000," he explains.

He adds that \$ 6200 will be used to provide education and increase awareness to local leaders on the proper use of the infrastructure to be built, thus making the total amount to be \$ 302,000 equivalent to 697.8m/-.

Fredrik Mulinda, Senior Environmental Officer of the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), who is the National Coordinator of the Adaptation Fund, says NEMC is proud of the success of the project as it will revolutionize the

economy in Zanzibar.

"Since we have launched the project, now the implementation is going to start immediately and our job is to closely monitor the progress of the implementation, the goal is to see economic activities hampered by climate change return to the line," says Mulinda.

FAO report on the role of women in Agricultural state that women comprise just over 40 percent of the agricultural labor force in the developing world. 50 percent of the agricultural labor force in sub-Saharan Africa, an increase from about 45 percent in 1980.



Irrigation technology for storing rainwater in wells



## BUSINESS



Russian President Vladimir Putin

## Gold pushes above \$1 900 as Ukraine crisis sees demand increase

MOSCOW

GOLD advanced to an eight-month high above \$1 900/oz as the prolonged standoff over Ukraine stoked demand.

The US ramped up warnings of a possible Russian attack, with President Joe Biden saying a "false-flag" event may be under way.

Moscow said no invasion was planned, but given proposed US security assurances were unsatisfactory, Russia might have to resort to "military-technical measures."

Gold has made a strong start to the year, surging to the highest since June, as the possibility of a conflict in Europe buoyed prices. The commodity is set for a third weekly gain even as the US Federal Reserve is preparing to raise rates, which could damp demand for the non-interest bearing precious metal.

"Expect gold to remain quite

volatile," said John Feeney, business development manager at Sydney-based bullion dealer Guardian Gold Australia. "We could still see gold add a significant amount on official news of an invasion," Feeney said, adding that there could be a drop of \$50 or more if the situation calmed.

Citigroup analysts including Aakash Doshi upgraded their near-term gold forecast to \$1 950 from \$1 825, citing geopolitical tensions. Further out, the bank remains bearish, with a target of \$1 750 over six to 12 months as "higher real yields and stronger equities can weigh on bullion prices again."

Spot gold rose as much as 0.2% to \$1 902.48 an ounce, the highest since June 11, and traded at \$1 901.13 at 8:39 a.m. in Singapore. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index was flat. Silver and palladium were steady, while platinum rose.

## India opts for hydrogen to reduce fossil fuel use

NEW DELHI

INDIA has released its plans for a green hydrogen policy, as it looks to facilitate the transition from fossil fuels and fossil-fuel-based feedstocks to green hydrogen and green ammonia.

Transitioning to green hydrogen or green ammonia could be a major step in reducing emissions in hard-to-abate sectors, India's Power Ministry said.

India has a net-zero target for 2070, later than all countries that have pledged such in recent years, including China, which says it targets net-zero emissions by 2060.

Currently, India is the third-largest crude oil importer in the world, and imports account for more than 80 percent of its petroleum consumption. The country has been trying to increase domestic production for years, as it has

become especially vulnerable to oil price rallies which raise its import bill and lead to fuel price hikes.

Moreover, coal currently accounts for around 70 percent of electricity generation in India.

Under the new green hydrogen policy, India will waive transmission charges for green hydrogen, and proposes to set up manufacturing zones where green hydrogen or green ammonia production sites can be located. The power ministry also plans to provide priority connectivity to electric grids to producers of green hydrogen and ammonia.

The business empires of India's richest people, Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani, are well-positioned to benefit from the new green hydrogen policy as both business moguls have recently announced massive investments in clean energy.

# Appetite for risk-free gov't securities at historic highs

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

INVESTORS' appetite for risk free securities continues to be at historical highs as bids amounting to 531bn/- were placed mid this week according to data from the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

The central bank was in the market on February 16, 2022 offering 139bn/- to investors through re-opening a 20 year Treasury bond, however all eyes were pointed towards the minimum successful price, clocking at 128.3825 leaving only 62 bids successful out of 736 bids placed by investors.

A keen look into the details of the result shows the slight difference between the minimum successful price and the weighted average price of 0.4984.

The marginally small divergence between the two figures is an indication that a large portion of the successful bids were centered around 128.3825-128.8825, hence determining the rest of the auction.

The yield curve continues to flatten on the long end at a very fast rate in a short period of time, with the spread between 15-year and 20-year yields shrunk to 0.97 basis points. So far this year there have been three primary auctions in the long end of the curve: 25 year, 15 year and 20 year.

According to the Zan Securities Chief Executive Officer Raphael Masumbuko, Treasury



Bank of Tanzania headquarters

bond yields in the secondary market are expected to fall in the medium to short end of the yield curve, on account of sustained low yield pressures on the long end of the curve.

"It's unlikely that the trend will recede anytime soon with the current accommodative monetary stance by the central

bank," he said.

He noted that so far in 2022, there has been a return to the equities market as a result of falling treasury yields which has coincided with a rise in the local equities market, which gained 5.6% Year To Date (YTD) with blue-chip stocks such as NMB and CRDB gaining 34% and 25% YTD

respectively as investors seek higher returns.

"The equity market's resurgence has been fueled largely by falling fixed income rates, which have resulted in a liquidity exodus to the equities market. Rates are expected to continue falling, impacting on equities activity.

## Barrick delivering on guidance, opens new exploration frontiers

JOHANNESBURG

DRIVEN by strong performances from its Africa, Middle East and Latin America regions, Barrick's production in 2021 was in line with guidance for the third successive year. The company also more than replaced its gold reserves net of depletion at a better grade.

A dividend of \$0.10 a share was declared for the fourth quarter of 2021 that will be paid to shareholders at the close of business on February 28.

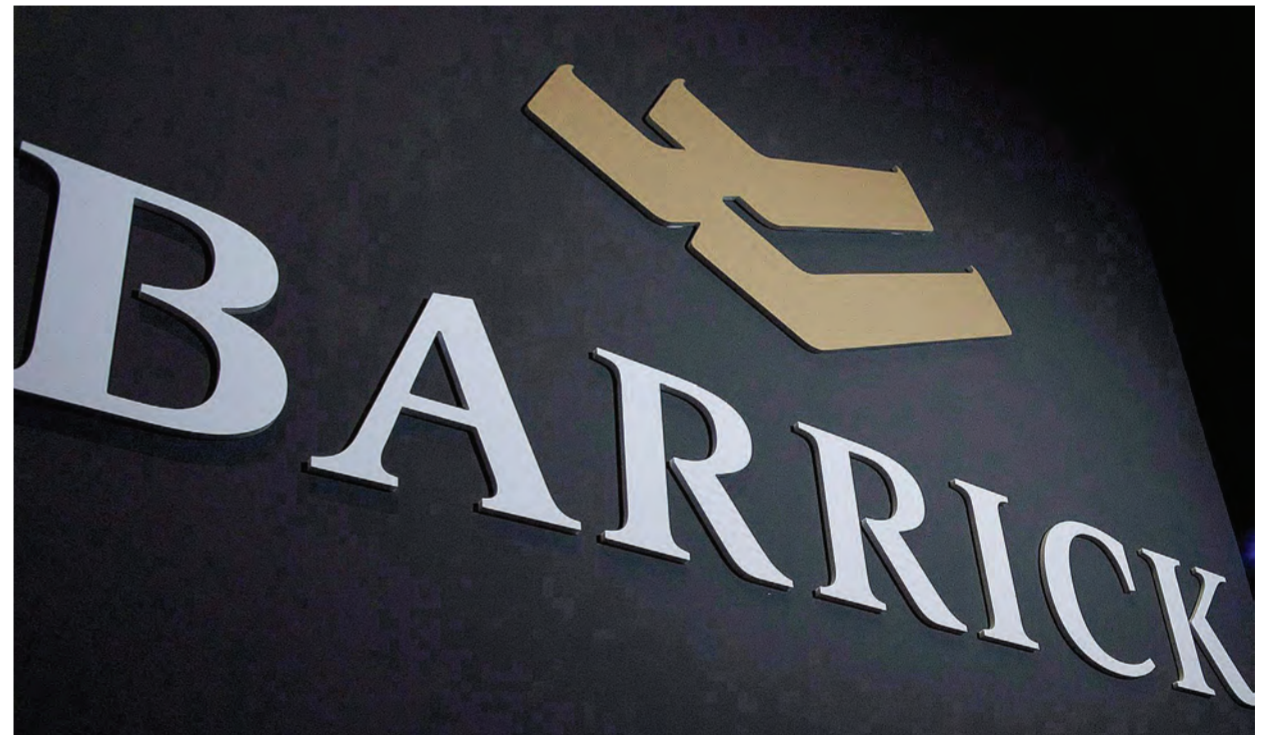
This represents an increase of 11% on the previous base quarterly dividend of \$0.09 a share.

A share buyback of up to \$1-billion of outstanding common shares over the next 12 months has been authorised.

Announcing the annual results, the company said its reserve replenishment was attributable to continued brownfield exploration success and it was extending its drive for fresh discoveries into new prospective territories. Among other initiatives, it has set up a specialist Asia-Pacific team to identify and evaluate opportunities in that region.

Free cash flow from the operations remained robust and at the year's end, net cash stood at \$130-million after the record cash distribution of \$1.4-billion to shareholders. The fourth-quarter dividend was increased by 11% to \$0.10 a share.

Under the company's new dividend policy, a base dividend will in future be coupled to a performance dividend linked to the net cash on the balance sheet.



The board also approved a share buyback programme of up to \$1-billion, given its belief that the shares are trading in a price range that does not reflect the value of the company's mining and financial assets and future business prospects.

In a sector feeling the pinch of dwindling reserves and resources, successful exploration continued to replenish the company's asset base and target pipeline, securing its business plans well into the future, the company stated in a release to Mining Weekly.

In Africa, Bulyanhulu completed

an updated underground feasibility study on the Deep West portion of the orebody, allowing it to increase attributable proven and probable reserves by 0.77-million ounces before depletion through the conversion of inferred mineral resources.

Staying in Tanzania, a fully optimised integrated mine plan at North Mara has increased attributable proven and probable reserves by 1.1-million ounces before depletion.

Barrick's tier-one mines in Africa also delivered strong results, with Kibali able to more than replace depletion of reserves and Loulo-Goun-

koto replenishing 98% of depletion for the year

In North America, gains were driven by the completion of the updated feasibility study of the Goldrush underground project, which increased Goldrush's attributable proven and probable mineral reserves by 3.6-million ounces to 4.8-million ounces at 7.29 g/t.

At the Turquoise Ridge complex, attributable proven and probable reserves increased by 1.4-million ounces before depletion, principally off the back of a revised geological model at Turquoise Ridge underground.

## China stops coal price reporting to crack down on rally

BEIJING

TWO major Chinese coal data providers halted their price indexes after Beijing intensified a campaign to tame down rallies in the mainstay fuel and iron-ore to rein in inflation.

Feiwei Energy information Services stopped publishing its indexes for various thermal coal grades, including the

most widely tracked benchmark for the fuel. The firm will resume reporting when trading returns to normal, it said in a statement. Another independent data provider Yimei also paused price reporting until further notice.

Feiwei stopped providing spot and intra-month trade data from late Tuesday, citing difficulties in tracking spot transactions in China's key Bohai Bay

area. The suspension is meant to "avoid misleading market players," in the absence of reliable trading data, it said.

Physical trades in major northern ports have been constrained after Beijing warned it will punish hoarders and price manipulators. The National Development and Reform Commission, China's top planning agency, asked major coal miners to reduce prices last week,

a day after futures surged to the highest level in more than two months.

China has renewed its campaign to prevent raw materials prices from overheating while it takes steps to stimulate a faltering economy.

Coal and iron-ore in particular are in the cross-hairs as they have rallied in recent weeks, despite the manufacturing slowdown that usually precedes the

Lunar New Year holiday and constraints on industrial production due to the Beijing Winter Olympics.

Last week, Beijing summoned top State-owned miners, including China Shenhua Energy Co. and China Coal Energy Co., and asked them to cap prices at mines below 700 yuan a ton. That has led to a sharp fall in prices.

China's most active thermal coal fu-

tures on the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange have fallen about 12% since closing at a two-month high on February 8 and were last trading around 772 yuan on Tuesday.

The Chinese publishers have previously suspended trade data after Beijing said information from the agencies was moving prices "irrationally"

# KCB gets nod to auction City Hall in Sh4.3bn row



KCB Group CEO Joshua Oigara.

## NAIROBI

**T**HE High Court has cleared KCB Group to seize and auction the assets of Nairobi County over a Sh4.3 billion defaulted loan. Justice Chacha Mwita dismissed the county government's application challenging the amount awarded by an arbitrator in November 2019.

The lender moved to court in 2020 seeking recognition of the award by Phillip Bliss Alier, an arbitrator who was chosen by both parties.

City Hall has, however, continued to default on the loan even after an arbitrator confirmed KCB's claims and directed the Nairobi County government to settle the debt.

"In the circumstance, therefore, having considered the application, the response and submissions as well as the law and the decisions relied on by parties, and upon giving due consideration to all those, the conclusion, I come to is that the application dated 2nd October 2020 has merit," the judge said.

The judge said there was no dispute that parties agreed to go for arbitration, settled on the sole arbitrator and proceeded before him.

He dismissed the county government's application to have the award set aside, saying it did not give a good explanation as to why it took it too long to challenge the award.

The amount published in November 2019 and confirmed in May 2020 includes Sh4.29 billion of the award and costs of Sh6 million.

The loan was initially provided to the defunct Nairobi City Council

by Equity Bank. The debt was inherited by Nairobi County following the creation of the devolved governments in 2013.

KCB bought the loan from Equity in September 2014, offering better terms on the credit facility to the county government.

Justice Mwita said the law demands that an arbitral award be recognised as binding and enforced after court's approval.

The county government further argued that it was not given an opportunity to be heard regarding the statement of account provided to the arbitrator, thus being condemned unheard.

City Hall runs a budget that is dominated by payment of salaries to its bloated workforce, leaving little for payment of debt and key projects like building roads and hospitals.

Its budget woes have been worsened by the transfer of Nairobi's key functions and cash to the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) under Major-General Mohammed Badi.

Evidence presented before the court showed that Equity had lent the defunct Nairobi City Council Sh5 billion in 2011.

The money was supposed to help pay off statutory debts to allow the city council access Local Authority Transfer Funds, which represented resources previously provided by the national government before the creation of counties to boost service delivery at the grassroots.

The remittances were made directly to the National Social Security Fund, the Kenya Revenue Authority, the Local Authorities Pension Trust

and the Local Authorities Provident Fund.

Equity said in 2014 that City Hall owed it Sh4.75 billion, including an overdraft of Sh1.45 billion.

When KCB took over the loan in September 2014, it gave the county more time to repay the debt by increasing the maturity period to eight years at an interest rate of 13 percent.

Equity was charging a varying annual interest rate of between 18 percent and 24 percent on a reducing balance and the county was required to pay back the money in 60 months.

KCB also offered the county a six-month grace period before it could start servicing the debt.

But a dispute arose and the matter was referred to an arbitrator, who made a decision issued on November 12, 2019.

The arbitrator, Mr Bliss, said the county owed KCB a total of Sh4.29 billion. He further directed the county to pay the lender Sh6 million as additional costs incurred while trying to pursue the debt and another Sh3 million for tribunal costs.

"The sums awarded to the applicant are significant. As such, it is necessary for the applicant to recover these amounts," KCB said, adding that the county had been unwilling to settle the amount.

KCB's chief executive Joshua Oigara sought the intervention of the National Treasury in a letter dated November 28, 2019.

The government is the top shareholder in the lender with a combined stake of 27.49 percent held through the National Treasury (19.76 percent) and the NSSF (7.73 percent).

## BTC appeals for compliance with Botswana's laws meant to ensure data protection

### GABORONE

**BOTSWANA** Telecommunications (BTC) has urged businesses to ensure their systems are compliant with the country's new Data Protection Act.

The legislation came into effect in October 2021 and covers the lawfulness and fairness of processing, purpose limitation, retention limitation, data minimisation, relevance and adequacy of personal data, integrity and confidentiality of personal data.

The Act's transition period is 12 months from the date of commencement and will automatically end on 15 October 2022, meaning that companies and data controllers must begin with the process of compliance.

Speaking at the company's Cloud Talks series, held recently under the banner: "The importance of Data protection in the Digital World", BTC Chief Operations Officer Aldrin Sivako said with the increased use of the internet, fuelled by COVID-19, the importance of privacy and data protection has become paramount.

"Data protection is another key subject that is critical in our times as countries and enterprises are in the race to pursue digital transformation initiatives in order to remain relevant and resilient into the future, while respecting the laws of the countries where they operate, especially laws relating to protection of personal data," said Sivako.

He added that the new Data Protection Act and implementation of the country's cyber security strategy will go a long way in ensuring customer data safety, deterring exploitation or abuse of data by third parties through unauthorised access.

Deputy Permanent Secretary for ICT at the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Cecil Masiga has emphasised that data protection is a legislative framework for ensuring the privacy of individuals in relation to how their personal data is maintained, transmitted and stored.

"Data protection laws regulate the protection of personal data by governmental and non-governmental organisations and that every entity that handles customers' personal information must familiarise themselves with this piece of legislation as compliance is mandatory.

# Sasra seeks to bank Sh137m in levies from new Saccos

## NAIROBI

**“**THE Sacco regulator is eyeing more than Sh137 million from the over 180 new societies that have come under its oversight.

Non-withdrawable deposit-taking entities will start paying an annual fee to the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (Sasra) that will see the regulator raise at least Sh137.98 million every year.

The Saccos will be required to pay a levy of not more than 0.165 percent of their surplus annually. Sasra reckons the new levy currently being debated by stakeholders ahead of its gazettement will boost the regulator's financial health at a time the Treasury has cut cash transfers to the authority.

The regulator has for the past few years been relying on an annual levy collected from the deposit-taking Saccos but this has not been enough to cover expenses after Treasury cut its funding.

"It is important to note that the donor support has substantially been scaled down or stopped altogether. As such, the authority must look for alternative sources of funding to execute its expanded mandate effectively," Sasra



**It is important to note that the donor support has substantially been scaled down or stopped altogether. As such, the authority must look for alternative sources of funding to execute its expanded mandate effectively,**

chief executive officer Peter Njuguna said.

The fee is contained in the Sacco Societies (Specified non-deposit taking business) levy order 2022 that is undergoing public participation and is expected to be gazetted by June, setting the stage for the regulator to collect the levy.

Mr Njuguna said the levy on non-withdrawable deposit taking Saccos will be pegged on their surplus and at a maximum of Sh8 million.

Sasra had been regulating 175 deposit-taking Saccos and says it will now have to increase staff size and ramp up infrastructure in order to effectively monitor the additional 185 Saccos.

The regulator says that it received 199 applications from the Saccos with Nairobi accounting for 143 adding that this is a pointer on the need to

raise awareness to the other counties in a bid to bring in more Saccos.

Sasra says the annual levy collected from deposit-taking Saccos has been insufficient to fund its operations, forcing it to operate below optimum levels since its establishment in 2010.

The new levy will be in addition to the Sh50,000 authorisation fee that new Saccos have to pay upon getting their licence. Saccos will be required to pay the levy within 30 days of assessment by the industry regulator.

The fee follows the expansion of Sasra's mandate after enactment of the Sacco Societies (Non-Deposit Taking Business) Regulations 2020, which gave Sasra powers to regulate non-withdrawable deposit-taking Saccos with deposits of at least Sh100,000.



Sasra chief executive Peter Njuguna.



**Data protection is another key subject that is critical in our times as countries and enterprises are in the race to pursue digital transformation initiatives in order to remain relevant and resilient into the future, while respecting the laws of the countries where they operate, especially laws relating to protection of personal data**

# KRA loses Sh5.6bn fight with Coca-Cola bottlers

## NAIROBI

THE Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has lost a historical case involving a Sh5.6 billion tax dispute with local Coca Cola bottlers after the Supreme Court declined a request to reopen the litigation that started over 10 years ago.

KRA wanted the top court to review decision to dismiss the case.

But judges rejected the request and upheld an earlier decision dated September 22, 2021 on grounds that reopening the dispute, which started in 2012, is not only unconscionable but also insensitive and cruel.

"We note that the dispute commenced in the High Court in October 2012, ten

years ago, then moved to the Court of Appeal, over nine years ago in July 2013," said a five-judge bench presided by Chief Justice Martha Koome.

"To start the case all over again, for no fault of the respondents, is not only unconscionable but also insensitive and cruel."

The dispute involved the question of whether the soft drink company should pay taxes on costs incurred during washing and sanitising of returned bottles.

KRA was demanding tax arrears, penalties and interest for the period 2006 to 2009 relating to excise tax on returnable containers.

It had sued Coca-Cola's local franchisees - Mount Kenya Bottlers, Rift Valley Bot-

tlers, Nairobi Bottlers and Kisii Bottlers.

The taxman had moved to the top court after three judges of the Court of Appeal overturned a High Court decision dated October 26, 2012, which allowed KRA to levy tax on returnable containers.

The Supreme Court judges unanimously held that KRA has not only been "injurious (in the dispute) but also brazen" in flouting the directions of the court's Deputy Registrar.

The court also ruled that KRA had not taken the matter with the seriousness deserved. Other judges in the bench include Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu and Justices Mohammed Ibrahim, Njoki Ndung'u, and William





## WORLD

# Malawi detects polio, first wild case in Africa in over five years

JOHANNESBURG

MALAWI'S health authorities have declared a polio outbreak after a case was detected in a young child in the capital Lilongwe, the first case of wild poliovirus in Africa in more than five years, the World Health Organization said.

The WHO said in a statement that laboratory analysis showed the strain de-

tected in Malawi was linked to one that has been circulating in Pakistan, where it is still endemic.

"As an imported case from Pakistan, this detection does not affect the African region's wild poliovirus-free certification status," the WHO said.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative said the case in the southern African country was in a three-year-old girl who



A Yemeni child receives a polio vaccination during an immunization campaign at a health center on the outskirts of the Yemeni capital Sanaa, on Aug 6, 2018. File photo

experienced the onset of paralysis in November last year. Sequencing of the virus conducted in February by South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed it as type 1 wild poliovirus (WPV1).

"Detection of WPV1 outside the world's two remaining endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, is a serious concern and underscores the importance of prioritising polio immunization activities," the Global Polio Eradication Initiative said. The WHO said the African

continent could launch a rapid response because of a high level of polio surveillance.

"The last case of wild poliovirus in Africa was identified in northern Nigeria in 2016 and globally there were only five cases in 2021. Any case of wild poliovirus is a significant event and we will mobilize all resources to support the country's response," said Modjirom Ndoutabe, polio coordinator in the WHO's regional office for Africa.

Polio is a highly infectious disease that invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis within hours. While there is no cure for polio, it can be prevented by administration of a vaccine, the WHO said.

Agencies

## Morocco in new competitive investment charter to steer economy driving sectors

RABAT



MOROCCO is elaborating a new investment charter meant to foster the participation of private funds in a bid to reverse the current trend as private investment represents only about one third of total investment.

In this connection, King Mohammed VI (pictured) chaired, on Wednesday at the Royal Residence of Bouznika, a working session devoted to this new investment charter, said the Royal office in a statement, recalling that during the opening of the fall session of the Parliament, the Sovereign had called in a speech for the adoption, the soonest possible, of a new competitive investment charter.

The project, which is in line with the spirit and ambition of the New Development Model, aims to reverse the current trend where private investment represents only about one third of total investment, with public investment representing two thirds, the statement said, adding that the goal is to increase the share of private investment to two-thirds of total investments by 2035.

The major objectives of the new text are embodied in the creation of employment, the promotion of an equitable development of the territories, and the prioritization of the driving sectors of the economy.

To this end, the draft of the new charter establishes some supporting mechanisms, such as common principles on premiums, in support of investments that fall in line with the royal orientations, the objectives of the New Development Model, and the priorities set by the government.

It also establishes additional territorial bonus to encourage investments that can contribute to the economic development of less favored regions in the country; and additional sectoral bonus to give incentives to growth driving sectors.

The draft text likewise provides for exclusive support measures for strategic projects such as the defense or pharmaceutical industries, a specific support mechanism for very small, small and medium-sized enterprises, in addition to a mechanism for the development of Moroccan investments abroad.

During the working session, King Mohammed VI urged the government to speed work on this path and to prepare the implementation details of the new investment charter.

The Sovereign also emphasized the role that the national private sector should play in this project, inviting the government to actively involve private operators, including the CGEM and the GPBM, in the implementation process of the charter.

The King insisted that the renovation of the legal and incentive schemes remains dependent on their proper implementation and regular monitoring of their execution on the ground, in order to give a new impetus to private investment and to enshrine the Kingdom as a privileged land of investment at the regional and international level, said the Royal Office.

## Afghan industrialists denounce Biden's decision as unjust, call for assets return from US

KABUL

THE Afghanistan Chamber of Industries and Mines has described the recent decision of U.S. President Joe Biden on Afghanistan's frozen assets as unjust, and called for the return of the assets.

"On behalf of 5,000 factories and hundreds of mine extracting companies, I today describe the recent decision of President Biden as unjust and stealing our national assets and we denounce it," acting chairman of the association Al-Hajj Sakhi Ahmad Paiman told reporters.

Paiman said some 400,000 people directly and around 1.5 million others indirectly are working for the factories, mines and businesses run by the Afghanistan Chamber of Industries and Mines.

The United States, following its completion of forces evacuation in August last year, has frozen more than 9 billion U.S. dollars assets of Afghanistan's central bank, which led to economic crisis and poverty in the war-torn country.

Biden reportedly in a decree issued on Friday allocated 3.5 billion of the sum to the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. "America claims itself as a defender of human rights and freedom.

The claim would be undermined at home and abroad if it continues to hold or steal Afghanistan's assets under any pretext," Paiman said.

On Tuesday, thousands of Afghans staged demonstrations, denouncing Biden's decision and demanding the return of the frozen assets to the war-torn country.

Xinhua

## Europe seeks strategic autonomy in de-escalating Ukraine crisis

ROME

LEADERS across Europe have been on a diplomatic blitz to de-escalate tensions between Ukraine and Russia while seeking a strategic autonomy in line with European interests.

On Thursday in Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and visiting Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio voiced a commitment to a diplomatic settlement to the crisis.

"Russia ... has emphasized its readiness to discuss and seek ways out of this crisis. I heard the same statements in Kiev from my colleague Kuleba (Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba)," Di Maio said at a joint briefing with Lavrov.

The meeting epitomizes the shared aspirations of countries in Europe to seek a solution to the current crisis.

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT

On Wednesday, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen joined European leaders in pushing to achieve a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine crisis, calling on Russia to take concrete action towards de-escalation.

The roll call of European leaders who in recent days called for avoiding conflict in Ukraine includes British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.

Earlier this week, Scholz met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kiev before meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

Scholz said that dialogue remains crucial despite differences between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union with Russia.

Europe is faced with one of its most dangerous crises in decades, and there is an urgent need to defuse tensions regarding



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (2nd left) speaks with Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and other attendees as they take part in a European Union leaders extraordinary summit to discuss the crisis between Russia and the West over Ukraine in Brussels on Thursday. AFP

Ukraine and prevent a possible war, the German leader stressed.

Macron, who also met with Putin and Zelensky, said at a joint press conference with Scholz in Berlin that pursuing dialogue with Russia is "the only path that will make peace possible in Ukraine."

Andrei Bystritsky, chairman of the Board of the Foundation for Development and Support of Russian think tank Valdai Discussion Club, said that Macron was the first major European leader who flew to Moscow and Kiev "at a time when everyone was scaring each other with the threat of some attack."

The discussions around the

idea that the Minsk agreements remain the foundation of a Ukrainian settlement have reached a new level, said Bystritsky.

STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

While European nations share the goal of avoiding an armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, in searching for a way out of the current stalemate, they are charting a course that differs from that of the United States.

For years, the EU has emphasized strengthening strategic autonomy.

Bystritsky pointed out the European leaders' visits showed

conflict should be avoided," Tafuro told Xinhua.

The standard view held by most national leaders lobbying Putin to avoid war is self-determination for Ukraine, said Sarah Whitmore, a senior lecturer in politics at Oxford Brookes University and honorary fellow with the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham.

"I think countries see a moral responsibility to do what they can do to avoid conflict," Whitmore told Xinhua, pointing out that domestic concerns are also helping drive national positions.

Dmitry Suslov, deputy director of the Center for Comprehensive European and International Studies at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow, stressed that EU member states have divided opinions on sanctions against Russia.

Although some member states openly support the introduction of preemptive sanctions against Russia, the sanctions are unlikely to materialize due to other EU countries taking a more constructive approach, such as Spain, Greece, France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Hungary, Suslov said.

Agencies

## Sudan stresses need for binding solution to Ethiopia's Nile dam issue

KHARTOUM

SUDAN on Thursday stressed the need to reach a legal and binding solution to the issue of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), a long dispute between the two neighboring countries.

Sudan's acting Foreign Minister Ali Al-Sadiq and acting Irrigation and Water Resources Minister Daw Al-Bait Abdul-Rahman met and reviewed developments of the GERD issue, and reassured Sudan's supportive stance to negotiation as an option for the so-

lution, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The meeting stressed the need to reach a legal and binding solution under the patronage of the African Union (AU) in a manner that preserves Sudan's interests and its water rights, the statement noted. The acting for-

ign minister renewed support for Sudan's negotiating team and its active participation in the GERD issue.

Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia have been negotiating under the African Union over technical and legal issues related to the filling

and operation of the GERD. Sudan proposed a mediation quartet of the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and the African Union regarding the GERD issue, while Ethiopia rejected the proposal. Ethiopia, which started building the GERD

in 2011, expects to produce more than 6,000 megawatts of electricity from the project, while Egypt and Sudan, downstream Nile Basin countries that rely on the river for its fresh water, are concerned that the dam might affect their water resources.

Xinhua

## Mudslides and floods kill at least 117 in Brazil's Petropolis

PETROPOLIS

THE death toll from mudslides and floods in Brazil's colonial-era city of Petropolis rose to 117 on Thursday and was expected to increase further as the region reels from the heaviest rains in almost a century.

Heavy downpours in the afternoon, when the city recorded some 6 cm of rain, caused even more soil instability and disrupted efforts to find survivors and clean up the debris. Up to 4 cm of rain is expected overnight in the region, according to meteorologists.

"There are at least six children

here and there may be more from the neighbors," said Fabio Alves, a resident, who noted rescuers were not searching that area. "We are estimating more than 10 people buried here and we need help," he said.

More than 700 people had to leave their homes and take shelter in local schools and other makeshift accommodation. Rio de Janeiro Governor Claudio Castro on Wednesday compared the damage to a war zone.

"I am here hoping to find my wife, I'm sure she's here. The downstairs neighbor said she was on the balcony when the mudslide hit," said Marcelo

Barbosa, another resident.

There is conflicting information regarding the number of victims of the tragedy. The police said more than 100 people are missing while the prosecutor's office said at least 35 people are missing.

During the day, the local morgue was forced to use a refrigerated truck as a back-up as more victims were being brought in while other bodies still awaited to be identified by their families.

Rio de Janeiro's civil defense head Leandro Monteiro worked overnight, with poor lighting on soggy ground to

find survivors. He is among the more than 500 rescue workers, along with neighbors and relatives of the victims who are still searching for loved ones.

"I've been living here for 44 years and never saw anything like that... All my friends are gone, they are all dead, all buried," resident Maria Jose Dante de Araujo said.

The downpours, which on Tuesday alone exceeded the average for the entire month of February, caused mudslides that flooded streets, destroyed houses, washed away cars and buses, and left gashes hundreds of meters (yards) wide on the region's moun-

tain sides. It was the heaviest rainfall registered since 1932 in Petropolis, a tourist destination in the hills of Rio de Janeiro state, popularly known as the "Imperial City" as it was the summer getaway of Brazilian royalty in the 19th century.

"I don't even have words. I'm devastated. We are all devastated for what we have lost, for our neighbors, for our friends, our homes. And we are still alive, what about those who are gone?" said resident Luci Vieira dos Santos.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who has promised to visit the region

upon his return from an official trip to Russia and Hungary, has pledged federal assistance to help the population and start rebuilding the area.

In light of the disaster, Brazil's Economy Ministry responded by approving tax breaks for both Rio de Janeiro and Espirito Santo, where the downpours also caused damage.

Since December, heavy rains have triggered deadly floods and landslides across much of Brazil, threatening to delay harvests and briefly forcing the suspension of mining operations in the state of Minas Gerais, just north of Rio.

Agencies



## WHO calls for strengthened role

JAKARTA

EFFORTS to strengthen global health security will only succeed if the role of the World Health Organization is enhanced, the agency's head said on Thursday, as its biggest donor, Washington, proposed a new global pandemic prevention fund.

Speaking via video link at a G20 meeting of finance leaders, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was responding to the idea of a separate global health fund tasked with delivering emergency funds, vaccines and other medical needs.

"It's clear that at the center of this architecture, the world needs a strong and sustainably financed WHO ... with its unique mandate, unique technical expertise and unique global legitimacy," Tedros told a panel in the Indonesian capital.

"Any efforts to enhance the governance, systems, and financing of global health security can only succeed if they also enhance WHO's role," he said.

During the discussion, Italian Health Minister Roberto Speranza said, "The WHO must remain at the centre of the global health architecture."

"We need to work even more to create a stronger architecture on health policies," he added.

At a separate discussion, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urged G20 members to back the proposed fund for pandemic prevention and preparedness.

Seeking to dispel reservations raised by some among the world's 20 biggest economies, Yellen said it would not siphon off money needed to strengthen the WHO, or create a new multilateral body.

"We don't see this as a pool of money that sits idly waiting to respond to the next pandemic," she said. The new fund would spur investment in disease detection and surveillance systems against future crises, she added.

World Bank Group President David Malpass told the same panel the agency was "working rapidly on a new financial intermediary fund ... to increase financing for pandemic preparedness and response."

Indonesia is the host of the G20 this year.

Last week, its health minister questioned if the WHO was best placed to raise capital for a global health fund required to deliver emergency aid, including money, vaccines and diagnostics, in a future pandemic.

Under the current system, said the minister, Budi Gunadi Sadikin, countries were "basically on their own" in securing vaccines and vital medical supplies.

Top WHO donor, the US is also pushing for the creation of a separate fund, directly controlled by donors, that would finance prevention and control of health emergencies.

Strengthening the global health architecture is one of President Joko Widodo's priorities during Indonesia's leadership of the G20.

Agencies



Director General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

## Western media tried hard to trigger war in Ukraine – Russian Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW

THE Western mass media went to great lengths trying to trigger real war in Ukraine, but all their content has nothing to do with the reality, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a news briefing on Wednesday.

"To the regret of many Western mass media, once again the war failed to begin. They had gone to great lengths trying to make it a reality. Possibly, their pages were scenes of ferocious battles, but all this has nothing to do with the reality," Zakharova said.

"In the previous days no war happened, but they don't get upset and keep waiting for it with a tenacity worthy of a better occasion," Zakharova added.

"For the first time ever in the history of humanity not only a suspect aggressor country, whose role was assigned to Russia by the collective West, but also a potential victim country in the American media show both denied all plans, stubbornly dictated by the Anglo-Saxon mass media."

Zakharova said that Russia and Ukraine, while adhering to fundamentally different views on many issues, symmetrically stated there were no facts indicating preparations for an invasion.

Lately, the Western countries and Kiev have been speculating a great deal about the risks of Russia invading Ukraine. Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed such allegations as groundless fanning of tensions.

He stressed that Russia posed no threat to anyone. Also, he did not rule out the risk of provocations and warned that attempts at handling the crisis in south-eastern Ukraine from the position of strength would entail dire effects.

Agencies

# G20 countries seek sustainable financing scheme for future pandemic response

JAKARTA

THE finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's 20 top economies (G20) are seeking sustainable international financing scheme to build global resilience in facing potential future pandemics and reduce gaps in health systems among countries.

The financial leaders addressed the issues on Thursday, either in person or virtually, during a two-day G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting held in Jakarta, with Indonesia serving as the host country.

Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati told the G20 participants in a panel discussion that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed that the global health system is not ready enough to face the pandemic and the global financing system is still inadequate.

"Therefore, the G20 member countries should collaborate to build a more resilient global health system which will, indeed, require greater investment and financial resource mobilization," she said.

World Bank Group President David Malpass suggested that the G20 countries build multilateral platforms that could help developing and low-income countries move forwards out of the crisis.

Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman pointed out that low and middle-income countries do not have enough resources to deal with the pan-



Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati gives a speech during the opening ceremony of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Thursday. Xinhua

dem and need global support. Thus, she encouraged the G20 member countries to ensure "expeditious and equitable distributions of vaccines" as one of the simple ways to bridge the gaps in global pandemic preparedness.

Norwegian International Development Minister Anne Beathe Tvinningeim said that besides vaccines, the countries must also coordinate in building stronger healthcare infrastructures by increasing international investment in health security.

"We must avoid fragmentation and push for inclusiveness. We need the voices from low-income countries as well. They should be considered legitimate," Tvinningeim said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen proposed a new separate global health fund,

directly controlled by donors, as a global investment for pandemic prevention and preparedness.

Under her proposal, the fund will be used for delivering emergency funds, vaccines, and other medical needs.

Yellen said the fund would also help the developing and low-income countries improve the surveillance systems to prepare for future crises and help strengthen the countries' healthcare workforces.

Responding to the proposal, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus emphasized that "any efforts to enhance the governance, systems and financing of global health security can only succeed if they also enhance the WHO's role."

He said that the WHO, with its unique mandate, technical expertise and global legitimacy, should be made stronger and sustainably financed because the organization played a central role in strengthening the global health architecture. Indrawati said that it would not be an easy and simple process to build trust among countries.

"That is why we are here to provide a platform to build trust together. We cannot do it alone. We should be open-minded to what challenges we are facing and what responsibility we can take," Indrawati said.

Indrawati noted that the G20 meeting should be the momentum for parties concerned to start mobilizing health financing for the importance of public goods. Xinhua

## Applications of sci-tech achievements at Winter Olympics reflect China's strength to build bright future with world

THE high-profile Beijing Winter Olympics has become a window into China's scientific and technological innovations.

In Olympic Villages for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, smart facilities have created a comfortable and convenient living environment for Olympic athletes and personnel; at the opening ceremony of the Games, a super large 8K ultra-high-definition ground display system presented breathtaking visual effects; the National Speed Skating Oval, a venue for the Games that has been hailed as the "fastest ice", has enabled athletes to indulge their passion for speed; and the accurate weather forecast system featuring a 10-minute follow-up cycle and a 100-meter resolution has guaranteed the smooth running of competitions in the mountains of the Yanqing competition zone.

The Beijing Winter Olympics has deeply impressed the international community with various sci-tech innovations and futuristic scenarios.

Technology has amazing potential, which has been truly tapped by the Beijing Winter Olympics for the first time in the Olympic history, said Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The applications of sci-tech innovations at the Winter Olympics mirror China's remarkable achievements in innovation and development.

China attaches great importance to sci-tech innovation and has considered innovation the primary driving force for development.

Since 2012, China has made historic achievements and transformations in science and technology. The country has seen major innovations emerge in large numbers and is now leading or co-leading the world in some frontier areas. Its technological strength is undergoing a transition from quantity accumulation to quality leap, and from breakthroughs in certain fields to improvement of systematic capabilities.

China's vision of presenting to the world a fantastic, extraordinary and excellent Olympic Winter Games couldn't have been achieved without strong technological strength.

Back in 2019, when inspecting the preparations for the Beijing Winter Olympics, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that venue construction must meet Olympic standards and highlight



Vehicles for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics refuel at a hydrogen filling station in Yanqing district, Beijing, Jan. 31, 2022. File photo

the characteristics of technology, wisdom, environment and frugality, with technology in the first place.

The sci-tech innovations ingeniously integrate into the Winter Olympics also demonstrate a contemporary spirit in China based on reform and innovation.

The splendid opening ceremony, a visual feast to a global audience, couldn't have been so magnificent without the super large 8K ultra-high-definition ground display system and modern technologies in such fields as artificial intelligence-based real-time motion capture and naked-eye 3D display.

The high-quality ice surfaces in the National Speed Skating Oval are attributed to a carbon dioxide transcritical direct-cooling ice machine system independently developed by China.

The liquid carbon dioxide flowing in stainless steel tubes that stretch over 120 kilometers under the ice surfaces of the venue ensure that the variation in the temperature of the ice surfaces does not exceed 0.5 degrees Celsius.

For the first time in the Olympic history, the Beijing Winter Olympics has achieved 100 percent green electricity supply for all venues, thanks to the renewable energy flexible direct current (DC) power grid demonstration project in Zhangbei county, north China's Hebei province, which has created 12 "world firsts".

The technologies that have

added glamour to Beijing 2022 will also inject impetus into the sustainable development of China and the rest of the world as efforts are made to further promote their application.

The technology-empowered Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics is the epitome of how innovations propel human progress. The suits for Chinese speed skaters have went through over 500 hours of wind tunnel tests and can effectively reduce wind resistance; and the spiked shoes of Chinese skeleton racers feature bionic fluid mechanic design and curved carbon plate on the sole made of high-tech materials, which can help athletes better get off the mark and slide in competitions.

Such examples have all proven that technological advances have raised the possibilities of "faster, higher and stronger" for athletes.

As global economic recovery is faced with severe challenges due to profound and fast-evolving changes unseen in a century and the far-reaching impact made by the COVID-19 pandemic on the world, it's more imperative than ever that countries around the world intensify open cooperation in science and technology and work together to explore ways and means of jointly solving important global issues through sci-tech innovation, tackle the challenges of the times and advance humanity's lofty cause of peace and development.

People's Daily

## UNEP says green future at stake amid wildfires, noise pollutions

NAIROBI

THE eruption of wildfires that has escalated against a backdrop of climate change, urban noise pollution and alteration of lifecycle presents existential threat to realization of a green future, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said in a new report launched on Thursday.

According to the fourth edition of UNEP's Frontiers report titled "Noise, Blazes and Mismatches: Emerging Issues of Environmental Concern," the health of the planet and its inhabitants is at stake amid wildfires, noise pollution in urban centers and disruption in the natural systems.

Launched ahead of the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) to be held in a hybrid format in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi from Feb. 28 to March 2, the report calls for robust action on weather and human induced wildfires, noise pollution in cities alongside restoration of the natural lifecycle of species.

Inger Andersen, UNEP executive director, said the three ecological threats highlighted in the Frontiers report merit urgent action from governments and local communities in order to realize a green and sustainable future.

"Urban noise pollution, wildfires and phenological shifts - the three topics of this Frontiers report - are issues that highlight the urgent need to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss," said Andersen.

The report reveals that annually, an estimated 423 million hectares or 4.23 square kilometers of the Earth's land surface comprising mixed forest and savannah ecosystems were razed between 2002 to 2016.

According to the report, about 67 percent of the annual global area that was burnt by all types of fires occurred in Africa amid prolonged dry spells, poor land use practices and weak mitigation plans.

Globally, wildfires are expected to become more frequent and severe in the near future, with devastating effects on the human and ecosystems' health, according to the Frontiers report.

It warns that changes in fire regimes is expected to lead to massive biodiversity loss, endangering over 4,400 terrestrial and freshwater species besides escalating melting of glaciers and air pollution.

Some of the targeted interventions that could be rolled out to enhance response to wildfires include investments in lightning detection, early warning and blending of indigenous, modern firefighting techniques, says the report.

As noise pollution intensifies in global metropolises, physical, mental and emotional health of all age groups has plummeted, leading to premature deaths or disabilities, says the report.

It says that urban noise pollution can be managed through enhanced protection of green spaces, greater uptake of non-motorized transport like cycling and walking.

The report admitted that climate change has altered the life cycle of species including flowering of plants, breeding of birds, insects, water and land-based animals, thereby threatening food security.

It calls for restoration of habitats, establishing corridors to enhance ecological connectivity and genetic diversity in order to minimize climate-related disruptions on the lifecycle of species.

Xinhua



Globally, wildfires are expected to become more frequent and severe in the near future, with devastating effects on the human and ecosystems' health, according to the Frontiers report

The Guardian

## SPORT



Simba's forward John Bocco (2nd L) heads home against Ruvu Shooting during this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup duel in Dar es Salaam recently.

## Former Simba SC keeper confident of Bocco's turnaround

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER Simba SC skipper, John Bocco, ended goal drought in the domestic tiers this season, the club's former keeper, Mohamed Mwameja, states Bocco should continue to receive psychological support.

The attacker scored a brace during his outfit's Azam Sports Federation Cup round of 16's meeting with Ruvu Shooting.

With more than 213 days without a goal, Bocco scored twice in Simba's 7-0 victory over Ruvu Shooting at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, with Clatous Chama scoring three goals in the duel.

Bocco's last goal came on July 18 last year in a top-flight fixture against Namungo FC.

He re-emerged after scoring his team's two goals in the ASFC duel, out of the five they scored against Ruvu Shooting in the first half.

Mwameja stated: "I undoubtedly see Bocco as the number one local striker."

"What he is going through despite opening a goal-scoring account against Ruvu Shooting is a phase and it happens to any player," he said in an interview.

"He is a top striker who has main-

tained consistency for many years, and he can still be a mainstay in Simba SC's squad."

"He ought to get a psychologist to see to it he shrugs off the off-field criticism, especially the frustrating ones, he should not keep such criticism in his mind."

Although Bocco recently did not want to talk about his failure to net goals, Mwameja said he should take it as a transition, calm down and start scoring.

"Tanzanian football has many coaches. There are professionals but it also has people with little knowledge on soccer, so if you listen to them all they will harass you," he said.

Commenting on this season's top-flight title race, Mwameja said apart from Yanga and Simba SC, there are also contenders in Azam FC and Mbeya City FC.

"The quality of Yanga's squad this season and its position in the standings is putting pressure on Simba SC to defend the title, but let's not just look at the two teams, Azam FC and Mbeya City FC are to coming in handy."

Mwameja disclosed: "Since Azam FC has changed coaches there have been changes, whatever happens, there are chances there will be changes at the end of the season."

## Rejuvenated Simba SC now pleasing followers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN a 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage match pitting Tanzania's Simba SC against ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on February 13, there was video footage showcasing some Simba SC supporters harassing some of Yanga fans who turned up at the venue.

Four years ago, former Simba SC spokesperson, Haji Manara, was claiming that the outfit's supporters are acting gentlemanly.

Many soccer supporters argued against his comment. At that time some of Yanga followers were deemed to be rude.

What prompted them to act that way? Stress and frustration looked to have compelled them to do what they did. When the rivals excelled, the followers were involved in rows.

It is not surprising that the Yanga fanatics were angry. Why did Simba SC fans do what they did?

The followers did that given they are this season under stress. Although Simba SC has overall not fared dismally it has hardly showcased the solid displays it did in the past few seasons.

The outfit does not guarantee its followers victory. It does not have either many goals or well-worked goals on the pitch. Eventually, the hearts of its supporters returned to reality.

The supporters have left the courtesy and assumed Yanga supporters' behaviour.

If a soccer supporter's memory is the same as mine, Yanga followers look calm this season. They do not irritate Simba SC fans. Everything seems to be going well for the former.

And Simba SC has embarked on another journey to get its fans out of stress. For example, the side had achieved three feats in 90



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder Jonas Mkude (C) seeks to beat Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas footballers when the clubs locked horns in 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup's Group Stage's clash in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

minutes of the encounter with ASEC Mimosas.

The outfit scored a good goal, it netted a penalty and also scored from a great build-up.

The match's spectacular goal was netted by midfielder Ousmane Sakho.

It was a good goal netted in a crucial continental showpiece's Group Stage match against ASEC Mimosas.

Shomari Kapombe's cross was completed with a bicycle kick executed by Sakho which gave ASEC Mimosas' keeper no chance.

It surprised me because of Sakho's brevity. Such goals are often scored by the experienced striker, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, former forward Peter Crouch, and others.

If a football follower had seen the way Sakho made a great timing in turning himself up in the air.

This goal silenced the noise of Simba SC hometown rival Yanga fans, whose club's ace forward Fiston Mayele scored the

same way when the side came up against Biashara United in a Premier League tie.

It is a goal that has largely been the talk of the town and will undoubtedly ease the anger of Simba SC fans.

Then another penalty kick was scored by the host. Forward Yusuph Mhili was the footballer that had the side winning the penalty.

The player will comfort his outfit's fans because they were expecting a lot from him, however, the situation has not changed.

He may have started showing his edge because when he took the pitch, the footballer significantly changed the flow of the duel.

The ability to convert the spot-kick is another aspect that will comfort the Simba SC followers.

This season Simba SC has failed to convert about five penalties, which were taken by footballers that have for some time been much trusted in the task. The players are John Bocco,

Chris Mugalu, Erasto Nyoni and Bernard Morrison.

Before the penalty was taken, Simba SC players were seemingly terrified. It was left to Kapombe who decided to take responsibility and score a good penalty. No goalkeeper in the world could have saved the spot-kick.

It was a comfort to Simba SC fans, who were in the stadium, and those who remained at home watching the match via Television. No one was sure of the conversion of the penalty.

Kapombe may have proved to be a reliable spot-kick taker from now on.

There are two issues about Kapombe. First of all his performance within 90 minutes improved, unlike his game in recent months.

He was also the one who whipped in the cross that was met by Sakho. Then came the third goal which also provided comfort to Simba SC supporters.

The third goal scorer and the footballer that execut-

ed the assist have both been unreliable at the club in recent months.

John Bocco that netted the goal had doubled his chance to score via solo effort.

He dribbled past one of ASEC Mimosas' defenders and executed a cross that was neatly finished by midfielder Peter Banda.

Bocco is the footballer who was one of Taifa Stars' members in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations.

Before the match against ASEC Mimosas, many Tanzanians are surprised to see Banda is trusted by the Malawi national team but struggles for the opportunity to take part in duels at Simba SC.

Until the midfielder went to Cameroon in the Africa Cup of Nations finals, I do not think any of the fanatics felt Simba missed him until he returned.

And many did not expect to see him play in Sunday's match but luck was on his side. He played well and finally ended his evening with a goal.

It could be a goal that will boost Banda's confidence. He looks like a little boy and seems to be getting into local football slowly.

Some foreign players have come to Tanzania's top flight and adopted easily. Meddie Kagere and Fiston Mayele are some of the footballers.

Banda though seems to be slowly getting used to the league. Former Simba winger Jose Luis Mquisone experienced the same.

At the end of the day, every goal that Simba SC scored in the 3-1 win over ASEC Mimosas meant a lot to the former.

Such a feat has turned out to be difficult for the side this season.



Morogoro's Kingaru Secondary School's students perform a play on dishonest social welfare and police officers who fail to take action on child abuse cases' suspects. The play took place shortly after Morogoro District Commissioner Albert Msando inaugurated a one-stop center in the district recently. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

## Morogoro District Commissioner hails schools' artists for fighting child abuse

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO District Commissioner Albert Msando has expressed appreciation for the region's secondary schools' cultural groups that have improved communities' awareness of child abuse cases.

Msando associated the increase in efforts to fight child abuse cases to stage performances showcased by the schools' cultural groups that include a group made up of Kingaru Secondary School's students.

He offered his appreciation when he presided over the inauguration of

a one-stop center worth 137m/- funded by J.Hope through ChildFund Korea that was implemented by a non-government organization namely Safina Women Association (SAWA).

The institution has targeted to fight for the provision of quality education, health, and security to all Tanzanian children before 2030.

Msando said failure by some of the communities to report child abuse cases is caused by bureaucracy brought about by either police or social welfare officials that lead to the loss of witnesses of the cases.

The official revealed: "These per-

formances reflect what police officials who take time in investigating cases related to child abuse discourage a victim who then gives up."

"That's not fair, social welfare officials are required to abide by the law, they should not favour some people."

"It doesn't make sense, police officers are assigned victim's relatives to look for the suspect while it is part of the law enforcers' daily duties."

"They are very serious in dealing with marijuana trafficking cases which affect our health," he disclosed.

## Clippers race to early lead, cruise past Rockets 142-111

LOS ANGELES

MARCUS Morris Sr. scored 27 points and Luke Kennard added 25 as the Los Angeles Clippers sped to a 17-point lead in the first half and beat the Houston Rockets 142-111 Thursday night in the final game before the NBA's All-Star break.

Terance Mann scored 20 points as the Clippers won for the third time in four games. Los Angeles shot 51.4% (18 of 35) from 3-point range, and had a 50-35 rebounding advantage. Kennard went 8 of 9 from 3-point range in his last game before Saturday's 3-point contest.

"I think the last few games I played, there were some shots that I turned down and I think tonight I shot some tougher shots and had tougher looks," Kennard said. "That's what the coaches wanted me to do. Any kind of space, they want me to get it off, and I thought I had the mindset tonight of just doing it (in) the last game before the break."

Jalen Green had 21 points and Jae'Sean Tate added 19 for the Rockets, who lost their seventh straight game and for the 11th time in 12 games. Christian Wood and Josh Christopher scored 13 points apiece for Houston, which appeared to run out of energy one night after nearly pulling off a road upset over the Phoenix Suns.

"There were definitely times I looked out there and I was like, 'Man,

these guys are beat,'" Rockets head coach Stephen Silas said. "After a heck of a game last night, where they tried their hearts out and were all so into the game, tonight was a rough one for us."

The Clippers had their first double-digit lead of the game at 24-14, with 5:46 remaining in the first quarter. They led by 17 at 54-37 with 6:54 remaining in the first half and were up 71-59 at the break.

Los Angeles shot 58% (29 of 50) from the field in the first half and 63.2% (12 of 19) from 3-point range in the opening 24 minutes. The Clippers finished at 54.9% from the field.

The blowout widened in the third quarter as the Clippers reached the 100-point mark on a Kennard 3-pointer with 1:01 remaining in the period, and took a 107-79 lead into the fourth quarter.

Reggie Jackson had 12 points and a season-high 14 assists for the Clippers. Ivica Zubac had 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Amir Coffey and Isaiah Hartenstein each scored 13 points. Hartenstein and Mann added eight rebounds.

"We need to continue to build on what we have going right now," said Clippers head coach Tyrone Lue, who brought an overnight bag to his postgame press conference and said he was heading immediately to Las Vegas for the break. "Coming into this last stretch, starting with a game

against the Lakers, we talked about one game at a time. We knew it was going to be a tough stretch. To go (4-4) against the opponents we had, it's a tribute to the guys in the locker room."

Dennis Schroder had nine points and nine assists in his third game (second start) with Houston after arriving in a trade last week with the Boston Celtics.

"You want guys who want to be here and want to come in and help the other guys, especially in the situation we're in," Silas said about Schroder. "We need guys who are willing to pull guys aside and communicate, and he adds to our depth and guard rotation."

In Milwaukee, with the regular season already two-thirds of the way over, the Philadelphia 76ers wanted to avoid entering the All-Star break on a losing streak.

Joel Embiid made sure it didn't happen. Embiid had 42 points, 14 rebounds and five assists and the 76ers regrouped after squandering a 15-point lead to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 123-120 on Thursday night.

"The one thing the later All-Star break does, when you come out, it's a sprint," 76ers coach Doc Rivers said. "It's no longer the midway point, where you can ease back from the break. It's a full sprint when you come back." AP

## Spurs face acid test at Man City as Man Utd brace for Leeds cauldron

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur face a daunting trip to Manchester City this weekend, desperate to arrest a losing streak that threatens to derail their season as Manchester United brace themselves for a hostile reception at Leeds.

Newcastle can pull further clear of relegation trouble and West Ham's top-four ambitions as they seek their fourth straight league win while Norwich, Watford and Burnley are all in desperate need of points.

AFP Sport takes a look at some of the talking points ahead of the weekend action.

Misfiring Spurs face ultimate test

Antonio Conte has made no secret of his dissatisfaction over Tottenham's dealings in the transfer market in January, saying his team has been "weakened".

The former Chelsea and Inter Milan boss started his reign in north London brightly, going unbeaten in the Premier League from November until January, but three straight league defeats have set alarm bells ringing.

Spurs sent Tanguy Ndombele, Giovanni Lo Celso, Bryan Gil and Jack Clarke out on loan last month, while Dele Alli signed for Everton on a permanent deal.

They brought in Rodrigo Bentancur and Dejan Kulusevski from Juventus but Conte was underwhelmed by the club's business, telling Sky Sport Italia he needed more experienced players to push for the top four.

Tottenham are not yet out of contention for a place in next season's Champions League -- they are seven points behind fourth-placed Manchester United with three games in hand -- but they face an uphill task.

Spurs will seek to draw confidence from their home victory against Pep Guardiola's men in August, when Nuno Espirito Santo was still at the helm, but few would tip them to interrupt City's march towards a fourth title in five years.

Man Utd brace for Leeds test

Manchester United huffed and puffed in midweek before finding a way to beat 10-man Brighton but they face a daunting test of their character at Elland Road on Sunday.

AFP

## LaLiga president: Mbappe will join Real Madrid

MADRID

LaLIGA president Javier Tebas has said he is certain that Kylian Mbappe will join Real Madrid this summer.

A long-term target of Real Madrid, Mbappe has yet to sign a new contract with Paris Saint-Germain and becomes a free agent this summer.

Tebas also said that Mbappe will not be the only top signing by Madrid in the coming transfer window.

"Madrid will get Mbappe and [Erling] Haaland as the others [Barcelona and Juventus] are half [financially] ruined," he said.

"That Mbappe comes is great news for LaLiga. It would be a joy for LaLiga. It's the best thing that could happen to LaLiga."

Tebas later clarified his comments regarding Mbappe and said that while he does not have any facts, there is strong indication that the France international will leave PSG at the end of the season.

"I have no information regarding Mbappe," Tebas said.

"But I've seen few cases of players who have six months left on their contracts that have not renewed their contracts and then went on to continue at the club."

PSG turned down a €200 million bid from Real Madrid for Mbappe last summer.

Mbappe's family has been in talks with the Ligue 1 leaders over a short-term extension but no deal has been reached.

Mbappe, 23, said after scoring a wonder goal in Tuesday's 1-0 win against Madrid in the Champions League round of 16 opener, that he has not decided his future.

"I know I play in one of the best teams in the world," Mbappe said.

"I'm going to give everything in what is left of the season. I haven't decided my future. I'm happy to be a PSG player."

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti described Mbappe as "unstoppable" and "currently the best player in Europe" after his team's midweek defeat in Paris.

Mbappe's arrival at the Bernabeu stadium would be a huge boost for LaLiga, which lost multiple Ballon d'Or winners Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo in the last four years.

Messi left Barcelona as a free agent for PSG in September while Ronaldo moved to Juventus in 2018 in a €100m transfer from Real Madrid.

(Agencies)

# Rangers stun Dortmund as Barca and Napoli draw in Europa League

LONDON

RANGERS stunned Borussia Dortmund 4-2 in the Europa League on Thursday while Barcelona had to come from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Napoli in their play-off first leg tie.

In Dortmund, James Tavernier gave Rangers the lead with a 38th-minute penalty after a handball by Dan-Axel Zagadou from a corner.

Three minutes later, Dortmund again failed to cope with a Rangers corner.

Joe Aribo nodded the ball to the far post where Alfredo Morelos was unmarked and scored from close range.

Four minutes after the break, Ryan Kent, who tormented Dortmund all night, dribbled down the left and found John Lundstram who scored with a powerful strike for the third Rangers goal in 11 minutes.

Two minutes later, Jude Bellingham replied for the home team with a rasping left-foot shot.

But two minutes after that, Rangers scored again as Zagadou, attempting to deprive Morelos of another tap in, deflected the ball into his own goal.

Pedro Guerreiro cut the deficit with eight minutes left



Dortmund's goalkeeper Gregor Kobel receives the 3rd goal by Rangers' John Lundstram during the Europa League Play-off, 1st leg soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Rangers in Dortmund, Germany, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022. (AP Photo)

with a ferocious long-range left-footer but Rangers survived without further scares.

Napoli gained a 1-1 draw in Barcelona.

The visitors, challenging for the Serie A title, opened the scoring in the Nou Camp against a home team that is scrambling just to finish in the top four in La Liga.

Polish midfielder Piotr Zielinski ran onto his own rebound to slam the ball home after 29 minutes.

Barcelona increasingly dominated possession but needed one of three penalties awarded for handball by VAR in Thursday's early Europa League games to level.

Adama Traore's cross hit Juan Jesus on the arm after 59 minutes.

- Only friendlies -

Ferran Torres converted the penalty with confidence for his first goal at Camp Nou for Barcelona but his cool deserted him as he hit two good chances

over the bar as Barcelona dominated the closing stages.

In Saint Petersburg, all the goals came in the first 38 minutes as Real Betis, hoping to reach the final in their home city, won 3-2 against Zenit.

Zenit, who have played only friendlies since their last Russian League game on December 12, looked rusty at the start.

Guido Rodriguez outleapt and outmuscled the home defence to head

in a free kick after eight minutes.

Ten minutes after that, the Zenit defence backed off as Willian Jose advanced from the half way line before drilling in a shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Artem Dzyuba and Malcolm brought Zenit level with goals three minutes apart, but the home team then presented Betis with the winner in the 41st minute.

Goalkeeper Mikhail

Gorchakov's weak pass to Yaroslav Rakitsky put the defender under pressure and Aitor Ruibal pounced to steal the ball and slide a pass to Andres Guardado who curled the ball into the goal.

In Tiraspol, Braga dominated possession and had more goal attempts, but Sheriff won 2-0.

In the 43rd minute, the home team had a goal ruled out for offside by VAR which also showed a handball by Andre Castro.

Luxembourg midfielder Sebastien Thill converted. With Braga pressing, Sheriff sealed victory on the counter-attack in the 83rd minute with a goal by their Adama Traore.

In the Conference League, Rapid Vienna scored twice in the first 16 minutes and despite playing the last 25 minutes with 10 men, beat Vitesse Arnhem 2-1.

Danes Midtjylland won 1-0 at home to Greek side PAOK, PSV Eindhoven won at home by the same score against Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Another Traore, Ibrahim, scored the first goal for Slavia Prague as they won 3-2 in Istanbul against Fenerbahce.

AFP

## Salzburg show Conte insistence on experience is outdated

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

AS FC Salzburg, Austrian champions with an average age of 23 (22, if you exclude their venerable left-back, Andreas Ulmer, who is 36), were coming within seconds of beating mighty Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday night, Tottenham Hotspur manager Antonio Conte's musings on the importance of experience were done the rounds in London.

The Tottenham boss' words, when taken in context, weren't particularly critical of the club (certainly not to the degree the early snippets appeared to be), but they did underscore his belief in the value of experience.

"It's inevitable that if you want to grow quickly and you want to be competitive straight away, you need players with plenty of experience, because they will then transmit this to the rest of the team," he said. "But Tottenham want players who are young, who can grow and develop, not ready-made players. That's the philosophy and that will continue to be the philosophy, so we'll need a lot of patience and that's what I continue to explain to people."

Leave the parsing and microanalysis of Conte's quotes to one side for a minute. (And, yeah, there's plenty to analyse and, perhaps, question. Like when he said that in January Spurs added two players -- Rodrigo Bentancur and Dejan Kulusevski -- while losing four "important" players: Bryan Gil, Tanguy Ndombele, Dele Alli and Giovanni Lo Celso. Well, those "important" players made just three starts between them under Conte.)

Focus instead on experience, and how Salzburg could come so close to upending Bayern with such a young team. Check the

highlights and the expected goals: This was not a fluke. Salzburg's energy levels were through the roof, they pressed Bayern in every area of the pitch and they countered with pace and precision. Sure, they conceded a ton of possession to the opposition and Bayern created chances, too -- which is what you expect when Kingsley Coman, Leroy Sane, Serge Gnabry, Thomas Muller and Robert Lewandowski are out there -- but Salzburg easily had as many quality opportunities as Bayern.

All this from a team that, in terms of experience, is rather thin on the ground.

It starts with the manager. Matthias Jaissle, at 33, is actually one of the few coaches Julian Nagelsmann will face who is younger than he is. And this is not just his first season at Salzburg, it's his first full season in senior management. Never mind the fact that the entire starting XI was playing its first game in the Champions League knockout rounds, the majority of them are in their first season as starters, period. These guys aren't just short on experience at this level, they're short on experience in professional football.

They defy another myth, too, the one whereby it's a lot easier for clubs from competitive leagues like the Premier League to play at European level because they are used to facing high-quality opposition. Well, Salzburg dominate the Austrian league: they are 14 points clear at the top; last year they won it by 18. The best sides they've faced this season, by far, are those they've faced in Europe: Bayern, Lille, Sevilla and, erm, VfL Wolfsburg. This applies on an individual level, too, by the way. Omar Solet and Maximilian Wober are the only Salzburg players to have ever played in a Big Five European league and, between them,



Antonio Conte

they managed just nine league appearances.

Obviously Salzburg's success isn't a fairy tale. There's a massive company behind them, they have years of institutional knowledge in terms of scouting and analytics, they benefit from a professional farm team in the second division (Liefering) and a friendly (but unofficially affiliated) big brother in the Bundesliga in RB Leipzig, and they're brave and progressive in so many aspects of what they do.

And while their budget is dwarfed by the other Champions League clubs, when they see the right

player, they're not afraid to throw money at him. Noah Okafor (€11.2 million), Wober (€10.5m), Brenden Aaronson (€5.4m) and not to mention Erling Haaland (€8m) and Sadio Mane (€4m) were all signed for substantial transfer fees when they were still young, unproven players.

The point, though, is that when there's a baseline of talent, if you have energy, work rate, a strong identity and good coaching, then perhaps experience is not that important. Certainly not as important as some managers and clubs -- who regularly overpay for it,

because older players inevitably make substantially more money -- think it is.

Which brings us back to Conte. Tottenham's young players may not be on a par with Salzburg's young guns, but we're still talking about a pricey Premier League academy that can draw upon the London talent pool, one of the deepest in Europe. As for "experienced players," Eric Dier, Harry Kane, Son Heung-Min, Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, Lucas Moura and Hugo Lloris are all 26 or older and all have plenty of experience for major national sides.

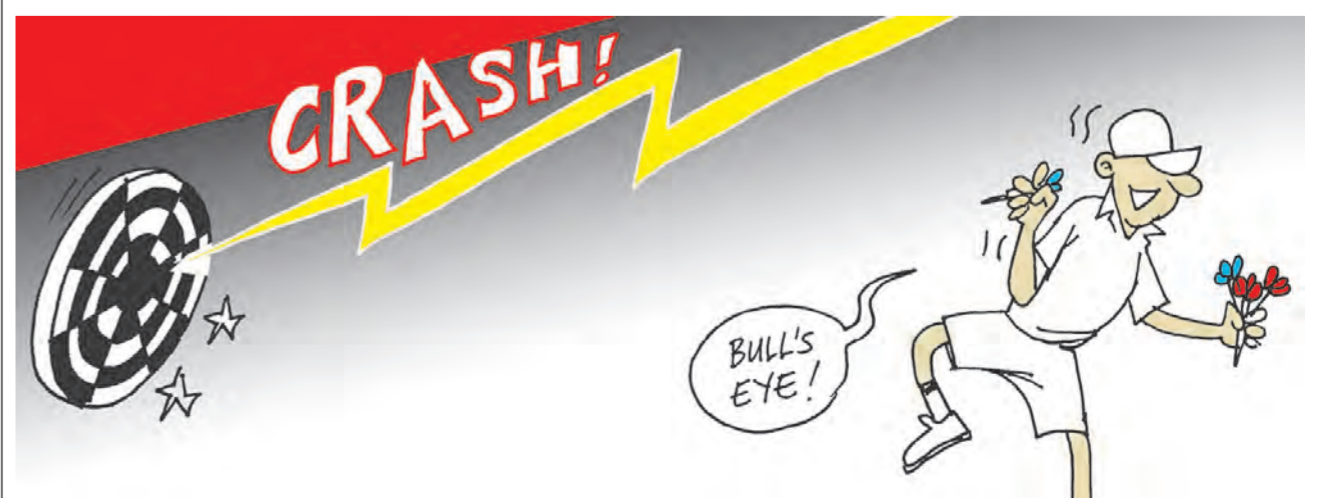
His emphasis on having

what he considers to be "top players" with "winning mentalities" who "know how to win" is well chronicled. It was a theme at Inter, at Chelsea and at Juventus, and it ultimately led to his departure from each of those clubs, because, well, those types of players cost money, possibly more than what they're worth. More importantly, decision makers at many clubs aren't as easily swayed by pedigree as they were in the past, thanks in part to clubs like Salzburg, who are exploding many of those long-held myths, year after year.

Cynics will conclude it will end the same way at Spurs and that his words are just the first sign that there's a sequel to what we've seen from him before. I may be naive, but I don't buy that.

I have to believe that Conte knew what he was getting into at Spurs: That if you throw a tantrum, Daniel Levy won't buy you new toys; that the club's plan is to work on a budget, seek value and grow organically. I believe that he has accepted all this, and is merely reminding us how big the mountain that he and Spurs have to climb is.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Rangers stun Dortmund as Barca and Napoli draw in Europa League

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## Phil Mickelson motives about changing tour 'dictatorship'

LOS ANGELES

PHIL Mickelson has told a journalist writing a biography on him that he recruited three other "top players" for the Saudi-backed golf league and they paid attorneys to write the operating agreement for the proposed league.

In another inflammatory moment for the six-time major champion, Mickelson said his end game is more about a chance to reshape the PGA Tour than for the Saudi league to succeed.

His comments came from an interview with Alan Shipnuck, whose book on Mickelson is due in May. Shipnuck posted a story based on the phone interview on "The Firepit Collective" website.

"They're scary mother (expletive) to get involved with," Mickelson says. "We know they killed (Washington Post reporter Jamal) Khashoggi and have a horrible record on human rights. They execute people over there for being gay. Knowing all of this, why would I even consider it? Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates."

Mickelson said the PGA Tour has been used "manipulative, coercive, strong-arm tactics" because players had no recourse.

He said Commissioner Jay Monahan might seem to be a nice person, but without leverage, "he won't do what's right."

Justin Thomas, one of several highly ranked players who have said they are not interested in a Saudi-funded league, described Mickelson's remarks as an "egotistical statement."

"He's done a lot of great things for the PGA Tour. It's a big reason it is where it is," Thomas said Friday from the Genesis Invitational.

"But him and others that are very adamant about that, if they're that passionate, go ahead. I don't think anybody's stopping them."

Mickelson's published remarks come two weeks after an interview with Golf Digest at the Saudi International in which Mickelson accused the PGA Tour of "obnoxious greed."

Greg Norman is behind the new league with his LIV Investments, which has pumped \$300 million into the Asian Tour that is separate from a proposed league that purportedly offers players guaranteed money that only elite players have earned in their PGA Tour career.

One report had Bryson DeChambeau, another Saudi supporter, being offered \$130 million, which is more than Tiger Woods has made in his career.

"The tour likes to pretend it's a democracy, but it's really a dictatorship," Mickelson said in the report.

"They divide and conquer. The concerns of the top players are very different from the guys who make their own situation better, but the top guys don't have a say."

Mickelson did not say who the other top players were, or the attorneys they paid. But he said he has 20 players ready to leave for the Saudi league.

"If the tour doesn't do the right thing, there is a high likelihood it's going to happen," he said.

No one has signed up, or been announced, but most of the speculation has centered around players in the twilight of their careers.

"That's not what they're going to want, is it? Rory McIlroy said Wednesday at Riviera.

"They don't want some sort of league that's like a pre-Champions Tour. I guess I understand the financial part of it for guys that are later on in their career."

"You look at the people that have already said no," McIlroy said, mentioning himself, Jon Rahm and Collin Morikawa for starters. "You've got the top players in the world are saying no, so that has to tell you something."

AP

# Franco: Tactical discipline key to Simba SC's success



Simba SC head coach Pablo Franco Martin.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**S**IMBA SC head coach Pablo Franco says technical and tactical discipline will be key when his outfit confronts Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale (USGN) in this season's CAF Confederation Cup's Group D duel slated for tomorrow.

The country's representative in the continental competition departed for Niger yesterday.

The coach said playing away is always difficult, but they will bank on technical and tactical discipline to record good results.

"It will be a difficult match, I am saying so because we will be playing away and our opponents are coming from a defeat in their fixture, but I am confident

we will do well," he said.

He also disclosed that he will miss the services of some of his key players but said he has good players who can deliver.

Simba SC beat Ivory Coast's AEC Mimosas 3-1 in the CAF Confederation Cup's Group D opening fixture in Dar es Salaam last week.

The host's goals were scored

by Senegalese midfielder Pape Ousmane Sakho, fullback Shomari Kapombe, and winger Peter Banda. Kapombe scored from the spot in the 79th minute.

Simba SC's squad which has traveled to Niger to face Union Sportive Gendarmerie in the duel is made up of 24 players including Zambian midfielder

Clatous Chama.

The midfielder nevertheless is not eligible to play in the showdown given the footballer had turned out for Morocco's Renaissance Sportive de Berkane in the assignment.

The Simba SC convoy is expected to leave fr Niger today ready for the second

round of Group D against US Gendarmerie to be played on Sunday at Général Seyni Kountché Stadium.

Chama will join the squad, for a special technical task, following the CAF registration rules depriving him of the opportunity to play the game.

The Zambian footballer featured for RS Berkane in the tournament's preliminary stage games.

Simba SC Information and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally said plans for the trip to Niger have been finalized.

Ahmed revealed they will fight to continue the winning streak, despite realizing their opponents will need to win at home after losing 5-3 to RS Berkane.

The official noted: "We will jet off on February 18 for Niger, everything is in order, we believe that while we are there we will fight to promote ourselves through displaying nice football to the world."

"We believe the game will be tough, our opponents have lost their first game, so they will need to fight hard at home and get three points."

"Simba SC will grow up in a similar situation, which continues to add to the opposition's momentum in the game."

## Geita Gold FC Stadium set for completion in November

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**T**HIS season's NBC Premier League side, Geita Gold FC, has disclosed that its 12,000 sitting capacity stadium will be ready in November this year.

The outfit's Information and Communication Manager, Hemed Kivuyo, said the facility is being built at Magogo in Bombambili Ward in Geita.

The official pointed out the facility will have a full clubhouse and other necessary amenities.

He said the cost for constructing the stadium is more than 2.4bn/- and is bankrolled by Geita Gold Mine Limited (GGML).

Kivuyo pointed out: "Construction of our stadium in Geita has reached 21 percent and we are hopeful it will be ready in November."

"The stadium will have a business and car park, there will be field track which will be used by athletes, referees' rooms and doctors' rooms, the structures will help save as well as generate money for the club," he said.

He thanked GGML for the stadium and said the company is behind the development and growth of football in Geita.

"Geita Municipal's Director, Zahra Michuzi, and



Geita Town Council's Director, Zahra Michuzi, showcases the site where the Municipal, through funding from Geita Gold Mine Limited (GGML), is building a stadium for Geita Gold FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEITA GOLD FC

club's Chairman Constantine Morandi are doing all they can to see sports enjoy progress in Geita."

"We must also thank Geita Gold Mine Limited (GGML) for supporting sports in the country, Geita Football Club is one of the best teams in the country thanks to GGML," he said.

Meanwhile, Kivuyo disclosed that the club is in the process of establishing a women's football team.

The club's interest in women's football has come after the Confederation of African Football (CAF) recently made it mandatory for clubs interested in competing

in the continental club tournaments to have women's outfits.

This is also a requirement for a top-flight league team under the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF). Kivuyo said the women's football team will be run by women.

"We are welcoming a new prod-

uct on board and we believe Geita Gold FC will build a solid women's team that will strongly compete at the national level and participate in regional and continental competitions."

"Geita's women club will be coached by a woman, the spokesperson will also be a lady," he said.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

