



**National Pg 2**  
Youth urged to engage in peaceful polls




**National Pg 4**  
'SMEs' access to packaging materials'



**National Pg 5**  
Call to adopt alternative energies



**Feature Pg 10**  
Special tribute to Mkapa (3)




## SIDO enables 8,000 factories, 0.5m jobs

By Guardian Reporter

OPERATIONS at the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) have facilitated the setting up of 8,477 factory units countrywide that created over 500,000 occupational openings in the past five years, contributing immensely to economic growth and poverty alleviation.

SIDO Director General Sylvester Mpanduji (pictured) said in an interview in Dar es Salaam yesterday that out of the total, 201 are big industries, 460 medium, 3,406 small factories and 4,410 micro-industrial units.

"With the support of the government led by President John Magufuli we have achieved our target by 98 percent. Establishment of these industries has increased the national income and contributed significantly to making Tanzania a middle-income nation," Prof Mpanduji declared.

Elaborating, Prof Mpanduji said a middle-income economy is linked to the number and nature of industrial units existing in a country, while only an internal market was a sustainable and dependable market for industrial growth.

A strong internal market helps in getting external markets, whereas an internal market requires quality products to make them popular to local consumers, and diminish the urge for purchasing imported goods mainly.

"Consumers care about their money. We appeal to industries to produce quality products that will be popular to consumers as this is the only way we can protect local industries," he emphasized.

Commenting on the importance of small

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Ensure polls are free of bribes, PM urges PCCB

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to ensure that this year's General Election is not influenced by bribes.

"On October 28, registered voters will cast ballots to elect the president, members of Parliament and local councilors. It is your responsibility to control corruption and make sure Tanzanians are not influenced. You should ensure that ethics are observed throughout the election process," the premier directed.

About 29 million Tanzanians are registered to vote in this year's polls, according to the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

Majaliwa issued the directive yesterday at a function to launch the PCCB Intelligence Unit, urging the officers to properly use the new organ by gathering needed information on political parties' candidates and citizens involved in handing out bribes ahead of the polls.

The PM cautioned voters on electing leaders who will not bring any development changes in the country.

"You did a nice job during party primaries," he told PCCB. "Some aspirants were arrested attempting to bribe their party delegates to be endorsed to vie for specific positions. This should continue as we prepare for the general election in October."

He recalled the words of the late Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Nyerere that corrupt aspirants may use acquired leadership positions to recover the monies spent to bribe voters during the campaigns.

He praised workers at the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) and PCCB for proper management of the war against corruption within and outside

TURN TO PAGE 2



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a quick word in Dodoma city yesterday with Capt (rtd) George Mkuchika (2nd-R), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), shortly after inaugurating Intelligence Building - the new Headquarters of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau. Left is Mkuchika's deputy, Dr Mary Mwanjelwa. Photo: PMO

## Cattle thefts back as rustlers find other ways of escaping

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

CASES of livestock theft which went silent in recent years have shot up again, with authorities saying thieves have devised new ways of sneaking stolen animals into a neighbouring country through informal routes.

Yusuph Sarungi, head of the Stock Theft Prevention Unit (STPU), a special police regiment to combat rustling, said in a meeting with livestock keepers and animal traders here yesterday that after crossing the border, the animals are sold in open-air markets.

He summoned the pastoralist community heads in Monduli district, Arusha region to find ways of

reigning in "the network of criminals working with their mean colleagues based across the border."

"I hereby announce that we have formally launched an operation to end cattle rustling which hurts our economy. My message to those involved is that they will not be safe," the police unit chief warned.

Edith Makweli, head of operations at STPU, said that strategies were being put up to disband the thieving cartel that leaves families poor by fleeing with their animals.

Robert Mpumilwa, the unit's officer in charge of community participation, said the meeting was convened to bring together stakeholders so that the victims and other interested parties can take part by giving out information that can lead to the operation being a success.

"Our success will depend on cooperation with affected groups and members of the community who are highly likely to come into contact with the culprits," he said.

In 2012, STPU reported that animal thefts were in decline even with 11,845 livestock stolen

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Presidency elicits 16 parties in polls drive

By Guardian Reporter

SIXTEEN political parties out the 19 registered ones have picked up presidential nomination forms from the National Electoral Commission (NEC) headquarters in Dodoma.

Opposition candidates are readying to battle it out with CCM whose candidate, President John Magufuli, is seeking reelection for his second and final term.

The Director of Elections, Dr Wilson Mahera, said yesterday that collecting forms at the Dodoma office is now over but other parties will be able to pick the forms at the commission's Dar es Salaam office.

He named parties that have already picked up the forms as CCM with Dr Magufuli, Chadema fielding advocate Tundu Lissu, ACT Wazalendo with Bernard Membe, and the Civic United Front



**Since the exercise commenced last week, most registered parties have come out to take the presidential nomination guarantor forms**

(CUF) fielding Prof Ibrahim Lipumba.

Others are Philippo Fumbo who picked forms for the Democratic Party (DP), Leopold Mahona for the National Reconstruction Alliance (NRA), Muttamwega Mgaywa (Sauti ya Umma-SAU), Queen Sendiga with Alliance for Democratic Change-ADC and Twalib Kadege (UPDP).

Still others are Seif Maalim Seif hailing from Farmers Party (AAFP), Cecilia Mmanga (Demokrasia Makini), Hashim Spunda (CHAUMMA), Khalfani Mazrui (UMD), David Mwaiolele (CCK), Yeremia Maganja (NCCR Mageuzi) and John Shibuda (ADA-TADEA).

Since the exercise commenced last week, most registered parties have come out to take the presidential nomination guarantor forms.

"Currently, the candidates are searching for guarantors via party members and supporters

TURN TO PAGE 2



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Water minister Prof Makame Mbarawa assists Kibibi Elias of Uzogole in Shinyanga Region yesterday in carrying a bucket of water when he was inspecting an 88m/- water project in the village. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Ensure polls are free of bribes, PM urges PCCB

FROM PAGE 1

the government.

This has contributed to controls being instituted in public expenditure, enhanced state revenues and massive reduction of tax evasion, he stated.

He also demanded that PCCB officials investigate misuse of public funds and take appropriate measures against culprits. Implementation of government projects should be conducted by abiding with the country's laws and thus be able to provide value for money public services.

"Priorities of the fifth phase government include the fight against corruption. You have support from President John Magufuli whose determination in fighting corruption is clear."

The president has successfully restored discipline in the civil service and enhanced the fight against corruption and embezzlement of public funds. "He has properly managed supervision of the country's abundant natural resources," he declared.

Successes in the war against corruption were due to a number of interventions including capacity

building for PCCB officials as well as improvement of the working environment, including establishment of the bureau's Intelligence Unit.

He commended PCCB for recovering funds belonging to farmers but misappropriated by leaders of cooperative unions. In some parts of the country, farmers were given loans with high interest rates which they cannot repay within the agreed period, he pointed out.

"PCCB did a good job in recovering monies belonging to cashew nut and sesame farmers in Lindi Region. The exercise was later expanded to cover Mtwara, Simiyu and Coast regions," he said.

The launch of the PCCB Intelligence Unit was attended by the PO Public Service Management and Good Governance minister George Mkuchika and the PCCB Director General Brigadier General John Mbungu.

Others were Deputy Minister Dr Mary Mwanjelwa, Controller and Auditor General (CAG) Charles Kicheere, President's Office Permanent Secretary Dr Moses Kusiluka, Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr Binlith Mahenge and various other government officials.

## Presidency elicits 16 parties in polls drive

FROM PAGE 1

who are also registered voters, appearing in the Permanent Voter Register. The exercise is expected to be completed on August 25 where the names of eligible candidates will be announced," he said.

Two women are among the candidates who picked presidential nomination guarantor forms, with five others featuring as running mates,

he said, noting that no independent candidates will be issued with forms.

"As per the country's constitution and laws, a presidential candidate ought to be a Tanzanian who has been elected from a registered political party and not otherwise," Dr Mahera said.

The campaign whistle is set to be blown on August 26 and close on 27 October, ready for the polls on Wednesday, October 28.

## SIDO enables 8,000 factories, 0.5m jobs

FROM PAGE 1

and micro-industries, he said most new jobs were created by such industries, as the industries sector contributed 8.5 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019.

Existence of functioning local

industries contributed immensely to the fight against the corona pandemic by rapidly producing items necessary to protect people, eliminating panic or unfounded fear of the disease among Tanzanians.

Tanzania, he explained, was not

dependent on foreign industries in getting necessary items it needed to fight the virus and protective gear it needed for medical workers.

He similarly asserted that SIDO, NSSF, VETA, NEEC and Azania Bank were working together to train

entrepreneurs so that they become creditworthy.

"In this joint project we want an eligible entrepreneur to be able to borrow from identified banks from 5m/- to 500m/- at an interest rate of 13 percent," he added.

## Cattle thefts back as rustlers find other ways of escaping

FROM PAGE 1

countrywide in 2010, including 4,718 head of cattle.

Out of the 11,845 raided animals, the police managed to recover 3,817

head, failing to find the other 8,028 lost animals. About 2,211 cattle raiding suspects were arrested countrywide in the year and around 4,430 criminal cases filed against them.

## Venture into modern farming, Kusaya calls on Tanzanian youth

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

PERMANENT secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Gerald Kusaya has called upon youth to venture in modern farming which has proved to be effective in scaling up production as well as addressing unemployment.

He made the call over the weekend when speaking in Dar es Salaam at the agricultural stakeholders' meeting which involved more than 200 participants and investors in the agriculture sector from a company called "Jenga Afya Tokomeza Umaskini (JATU)-local agro-firm focusing on assisting farmers to move from rain-fed agriculture to irrigation.

The event brought on board officials from the government and financial institutions to discuss how better they can support the development of the sector.

Kusaya described agriculture as one of the lucrative sectors that needs more youth to invest in for their prosperity.

He however said investing in modern farming like what JATU company is doing is an exemplary investment that the government wishes to see as it focuses on stimulating the development of industrial strategy.

The PS who was represented by the coordinator for national strategy for youth involvement in agriculture

Revelian Ngaiza added: "It is clearly understood that youth makes 54 percent of the country population, and this is a right and potential capital that the private sector should allocate its investment."

He called upon the agro-firm to increase effort in outsourcing more capitals by establishing various schemes, which will help to attract investment in developing the sector.

JATU director general, Peter Isare said: "We're determined to create a conducive environment for all groups specific to youth to engage more in farming as the fruitful employment."

He said that in the coming 2020-2021 season, the company has planned to improve and employ application of modern farming machines to make sure that more production is guaranteed to farmers.

Isare asked the government to help them improve the infrastructure in the rural areas to make it easy for farmers to transport crops to the market.

"We have been facing lots of difficulties in executing our daily activities including when transferring the crops from farm to other areas, or when loading farming equipment," he said.

JATU is set to review its budget for 2020-2021 in order to expand more opportunities of farming to other groups like women.



Inhemeter and Polymeric Insulator factory strategic consultant Dr Adelhelm Meru (C) shares a light moment with Kinondoni district commissioner Daniel Chongolo (L) shortly after launching the Dar es Salaam-based factory. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Karume institute expects to receive 300m/- from TEA to supplement education projects

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

KARUME Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) expects to receive 300m/- from Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) as supplement to Zanzibar's education projects.

Speaking here yesterday at the event to inaugurate KIST administrative building, TEA Director, Bahati Geuzye said the decision aims to continue

cooperation and augment Zanzibar's education projects.

She said towards these goals TEA Board has already endorsed the sum of money in the Fiscal year 2020/21 to the institute for revamping its infrastructures and improve the environment for teaching studying.

Geuzye further said the Authority has also participated in projects for the expansion to the infrastructures,

purchase of equipment in various programmes for the provision of better and equal education for all.

She noted that in the period 2012-2016 TEA has sponsored a programme that facilitated over 594 girl students from Zanzibar to receive enrolment in higher education institutions in science subjects. She said out of that figure, 345 students studied at KIST and the rest joined other science colleges in

the She further said TEA will continue working together with KIST and other education institutions in the Isles by sponsoring various education projects that aim at equal education for all.

The Permanent Secretary in the Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Dr Idris Muslim Hija said KIST must have special plans for the refurbishment of the infrastructures and other buildings.





Vodacom Tanzania Foundation grants and communication manager Sandra Oswald (C) makes remarks in Dar es Salaam earlier this week on the Vodacom Instant Schools project under which students living in remote rural areas are linked to the internet and thus enabled to follow studies on-line. Others are Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) engineer Ritha Kimolo (L) and Internet Society (ISOC) Tanzania project assistant Peter Mmbando. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Tanzania youth urged to engage in peaceful polls

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has appealed to youth in the country to peacefully participate in the October 2020 general elections in fulfilling this year's International Youth Day (IYD) marked yesterday with the theme, "Youth Engagement for Global Action".

The theme, according to the United Nations (UN) seeks to highlight the ways in which the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels is enriching national and multilateral institutions and processes, as well as draw lessons on how their representation and engagement in formal institutional politics can be significantly enhanced.

Issuing the government statement on the IYD-2020, the deputy minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliament Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Anthony Mavunde said all stakeholders should bear in mind that youths are very important stakeholders in the election process.

He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to empower youth in the country and enable them participate in economic production and national development, saying young people is the main force behind growth.

The deputy minister said that the 'State of World Population 2020' shows that youth population is 1.8 billion, being 24 percent of world population of 7.5 people. He added that according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), youth population will reach 34.5 million by 2035, equivalent to 19.9 million people, estimated to reach 576 million.

He also pointed at the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s projection that global workforce in 2020, 41.2 percent while in Tanzania 56 percent of national workforce is youth.

"We have to acknowledge the importance of youth participation in the election and empower them fully to exercise their constitutional right" he said, calling on the young people given the mandate to participate to do so peacefully.

According to the deputy minister youth participation in this year's general election is an indication that they are no longer left behind in seeking elective positions.

Mavunde said among those who sought nomination in different political parties to vie

for various positions in the 2020 election, at least 90 percent of them are youth.

According to the youthful minister, many young people in the country have been attracted by President John Magufuli's leadership which has seen many youth appointed to leadership positions.

"The massive turnout to seek political positions by the youth is a clear indication that the fifth government way of dealing with young people have attracted them so much and they have hope in the president" he added.

The deputy minister also stated that the government has been doing a lot to empower youth in the country, saying some of the strategies to achieve this include the disbursement of Sh 1bn/- annually to the National Youth Empowerment Fund under the Prime Minister's office where youth get interest free loans.

He said to date, a Sh 3.2 bn/- has been disbursed to some 586 groups with a total of 4,222 members in 155 district councils throughout the country.

Another way of empowering the young people is through allocation of the four percent of own source revenue by district councils.

He also noted that all district councils in the country have been directed to set aside youth economic zones and put in place the needful infrastructure to enable the youth operate from there. He cited other government effort to empower youth to include tuition free education for primary and secondary school students, increased budget for higher students' loan from Sh 367.35 bn/- in 2015 to Sh 450 bn/- in 2020.

Others include the apprenticeship programme whereby some 28,941 have benefited, being 56 percent of all the beneficiaries. Through the same programme, according to the deputy minister, some 20,432 youth have been recognized under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) system.

It is on the same line that some 5,975 graduates from higher learning institutions in the country managed to get internship in different private and public institutions. On the other hand a total of 8,980 from 12 regions with 84 district council got trained in green house technology in the first phase. The second will see other 18,700 get trained on the same.

# Zungu unveils panel for probe on GMOs

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE National Biotechnology Advisory Committee (NBAC) has been instructed to investigate and verify genetically modified organisms (GMOs) that are claimed to have strategies to increase hunger in Africa.

Mussa Azan Zungu, minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) issued the directive yesterday when unveiling the committee.

The committee has the responsibility to advise the government on various issues including applications for the use of organisms and modern biotechnological products as well as on matters of policies, laws, researches

and the involvement of the public and private sectors in general.

Zungu said: "There are reports circulating, though still unverified, that new products imported into the country or in the African continent have long term strategies for the continuation of hunger in the continent."

He said the committee has the duty to investigate and verify if the GMOs are truly safe for the country, adding that the major world war will come with food and policies, as the lack of the two means the end of the nation.

He said normally researches have been conducted for a very long time but are not put into practice, they remain in drawers while the

nation slowly suffers.

Zungu said the government has prepared various organs for the management of the technology including the National Environmental Management Act of 2004, and the 2007 National Plan for Utilization of Safe Modern Biotechnology.

He further said up to now its management has enabled research to be conducted in laboratories on cassava aimed at tackling cassava diseases.

"Despite these steps, there are still many challenges afflicting the area including little understanding among the community on the modern biotechnology and lack of adequate experts in the field," Zungu said.

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbeya

# Chadema is well prepared for victory in Mbeya, official says

THE Chairman of Chadema Youth Organisation (BAVCHA) for Mbeya Constituency, Steven Jonas, who is also the party's deputy chairman for the constituency says the party is well prepared to ensure Mbeya constituency remains under Chadema after the elections in October.

Speaking here yesterday in the party's offices in Sinda Ward, he said they were also well prepared to continue governing the Mbeya City Council by winning all its 36 wards in the election.

He said this nerve is a result of continual great support of the people to the party due to huge efforts by the party in bringing development to them.

"As the City's ruling party we will continue to govern it if the election will be free and fair in accordance with the laid down laws,

we shall not agree to any hooliganism from election supervisors, but if the CCM candidate wins fairly we will wholeheartedly support him/her," he said.

Meanwhile Jonas assured all party members who contested for nomination

ion various leadership posts to remain calm as the Central Committee continues to process the nominations.

He said already the party has issued a list of names of aspirants for Council seats in the 26 wards of

Mbeya City and has made changes in regard to various aspirants who had led in the primaries, whose aim was to find the right person to contest in the election.

Earlier, CHADEMA's Chairman for Mbeya Region who is also the

parliamentary contestant for Mbeya Rural Constituency Joseph Mwasote assured party members in Mbeya Region that they will have a landslide victory in the coming elections due to the good work the party had been doing for the people in the region.

He said CHADEMA is big opposition party whose policies and procedures are people inclusive.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA AT SUMBAWANGA  
DC CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 39 OF 2019  
(From Sumbawanga District Court Criminal Case No. 58 of 2018)  
THE DIRECTOR PUBLIC PROSECUTION..... APPELLANT  
VERSUS  
HAMIS JUMA NASSORO..... RESPONDENT  
TO HAMIS JUMA NASSORO  
TAKE NOTICE that the above case have been fixed for mention on 11th day of August 2020 at 9:00forenoon before Hon. C.P.MKHA, Judge.  
You must appear in person or by advocate on that day in the default thereof the case may proceed ex-parte against you.  
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that petition and other court documents are available at Sumbawanga High Court Registry, you may collect them if you wish.  
Given under my hand and Seal of the 30th day July, 2020 at Sumbawanga High Court.

United Republic of Tanzania  
Ministry of Water  
Enabel  
Belgian Development Agency

## CALL FOR BIDS SUPERVISION OF WATER SUPPLY WORKS

The Kingdom of Belgium through Enabel and the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Water, are implementing a water and sanitation project in Kigoma region. This is a 5-year project which runs through November 2022 and aims to promote provision of sustainable water supply services in the region. This intervention has three key result areas namely: 1) sustainable water supply operations and maintenance, 2) water supply scheme rehabilitation and extension and 3) promotion of safe hygiene practices in domestic water management. Under the second result area, the Water and Sanitation Kigoma Region Project (WASKIRP) is now inviting bids from qualified consulting firms to supervise these works.

**Service contracts**  
Lot 1: Supervision of Mwayaya water supply project  
Lot 2: Supervision of Kazuramimba water supply project  
Duration: Both of these projects are for 8 months.  
Location: Buhigwe and Uvinza Districts in Kigoma region.

Interested companies are encouraged to get more information and the bid documents of these projects at: <https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/>

The works contract notice is also published on the Enabel website, [www.enabel.be](http://www.enabel.be), in the Belgian Public Tender bulletin (BDA) and on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) website.

**EMBAJADA DE ESPAÑA  
EN DAR ES SALAAM**

**CONCURSO PARA CUBRIR UNA VACANTE  
DE AUXILIAR ADMINISTRATIVO**

Las bases del concurso y los formularios de solicitud pueden consultarse en la Cancillería, 99B Kinondoni Road, Dar es Salaam o en nuestra página web:  
<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/DARESSALAAM/es/Embajada/Paginas/Ofertaempleo.aspx>  
Las solicitudes, junto con C.V., deben presentarse antes del 31 de agosto de 2020.  
(Vacancy of one post of Administrative Assistant for the Embassy of Spain, 99B Kinondoni Road, Dar es Salaam. Applicants may consult the conditions of the post and collect application forms at 99B Kinondoni Road or in our web page.  
**Dead-line for applications is on the 31st August, 2020**

**ADD INTERNATIONAL**

**PROJECT OFFICER**  
**JOIN THE TEAM**

**Project** : The Disability Inclusive COVID-19 Response and Recovery Coordination (DICC)  
**Location** : Dar es Salaam  
**Reporting to** : Head of Programmes  
**Contract** : Fixed Term One Year Contract  
**Application Deadline** : 4:30pm on 20th August 2020

**Disabled candidates are particularly encouraged to apply and as a 'disability confident employer' ADD guarantees to interview all disabled candidates who meet**

**ABOUT ADD INTERNATIONAL**  
For over 32 years ADD International has been supporting some of the world's most remarkable disability activists working on the frontline of discrimination. We give them and their organisations the tools and resources to build powerful movements for change; and we make sure their voices are heard by global leaders and people with the power to make real change. Based in the UK, we have 5 offices in East Africa and Asia with a staff team of approximately 100 people and a turnover of over £3m. ADD International in Tanzania works in partnership with the Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organizations (SHIVYAWATA), national disabled people's organisations (DPOs).

**THE DISABILITY INCLUSIVE COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY CO-ORDINATION (DICC) PROJECT.**  
The DICC brings together Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), disability-focused NGOs, and other mainstream NGOs working on disability inclusion in Tanzania. The project overall goal is to contribute to COVID-19 response in Tanzania that leaves no one behind by ensuring that PWD are reached and included equitably in efforts to raise awareness, prevent infection, access support and mitigate the social and economic impact of the pandemic. This will be achieved through enhanced coordination among organizations from different sectors and government, effective planning and implementation of inclusive COVID-19 response by Government at all levels, improved knowledge, capacity of PWD and their households to prevent infection and access medical, social and livelihood support, DPO effective support to PWD during COVID-19 Pandemic/recovery period and demonstrated evidence and learning that inform decision-making at all levels on the impact of COVID-19 on PWD, barriers to accessing support, and effective strategies for including PWD.

The project will be implemented in collaboration with SHIVYAWATA covering 10 National DPOs and 9 SHIVYAWATA region offices across Tanzania.

**SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Minimum Qualifications**

- Minimum of a university degree in communication, social science, community development, behavioural change communication, strategic communication, journalism, public relations, or related field, or equivalent level of work experience
- Experience in Advocacy work with marginalised and vulnerable groups.
- Programme coordination and monitoring and evaluation experience
- Excellent oral/written communication skills in English and Swahili
- At least 4 years' experience in lobbying and advocacy or related field of work
- Experience in designing, planning, implementing and monitoring lobbying and advocacy strategies
- Experience of training/capacity building in areas such as advocacy or MEL

**HOW TO APPLY.**  
Interested applicants should visit the following link <https://www.add.org.uk/project-officer-tanzania> for more information, including a full job description, and details of how to apply.



## Tobacco growers clinch first position in Western Zone Nanenane exhibition

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE Western Zone Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union Ltd (WETCU) has been awarded special certificate after clinching first position in the just ended Agricultural, Livestock and Fisheries Exhibition (Nanenane) for the Western Zone for its efforts in mobilizing for better tobacco farming and finding markets for farmers' crop.

Speaking here early this week to this paper in his office WETCU General manager Samuel Jokeya said as main supervisors of tobacco farmers in their zone they had a great responsibility to ensure the crop benefits farmers.

He said during this year's Exhibition they were well prepared to provide adequate education to farmers telling them the steps they were to take to ensure tobacco farming is gainful to them including procurement of inputs.

He noted that their pavilion at the Exhibition satisfied all the farmers'

needs by practically displaying all activities being engaged by them.

Jokeya called on them to abide by all rules, procedures and guidelines given by experts and work on them to improve production of their crop for economic benefits.

WETCU Board Chairman Mrisho Rashid Simba explained that WETCU's main concern is to improve farmers' activities, ensure the availability of inputs in time and strengthen primary cooperatives (AMCOS).

He mentioned other responsibilities as including tackling markets inflation, fighting tobacco smuggling and looking for new buyers, to which he said their efforts has resulted in getting Grant Tobacco Ltd (GTL), Pach-tech Ltd (PCL) and Magefa as new buyers.

Explaining the reason behind WETCU's clinching the first position in the Exhibition for two years running in the non-government sectors category, the Union's Acting Operation Manager Lazaro Abel said the win was spurred by their good intentions towards the farmers.



Residents of King'azi B street at Kwembe in Dar es Salaam's Ubungo municipality pictured yesterday congratulating one of their own, local government official Halima Twalib, in style on her efforts which have culminated in making the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority supply the area with tap water. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## MAMCU leaders, TADB agree on cashewnut godown construction

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

LEADERS of Nanyumbu, Masasi and Mtwara Cooperative Union (MAMCU) and the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) have agreed on building a cashew nut warehouse to improve storage of the crop and reduce costs borne by cashew nut growers.

Speaking at the end of the joint talks here in the presence of Nanyumbu District Commissioner, Moses Machali, the TADB Managing Director, Japhet Justine, said storage of cashew nut in the district had been a serious challenge that needed an urgent solution. Lack of a godown, he explained, increased production costs and post-harvest losses.

TADB plans aim to encourage big reforms in the agriculture sector in conformity with the aims of the government led by President John Magufulu and in implementing the national agenda of building an industrial economy. Raw materials

are an important aspect and crops are important raw materials for our industries. We shall do whatever possible to promote the agriculture sector and increase the national gross product (GDP), he said.

He explained that the bank was financing the project through the smallholder credit guarantee scheme (SCGS) and in cooperation with the MAMCU. The government has declared cashew nut as strategic cash crop with two goals: to increase disposable income of growers and earn foreign currency. Production of the crop has steadily increased in recent years. Cashew nut production has risen from 155,416 tonnes during the 2015/16 growing season to 350,000 tonnes during the 2018/2019.

Machali thanked the TADB for supporting the project, explaining that lack of a godown had hiked productions in cashew nut business. He said the district was producing on the average 19,000 tonnes annually.

## Manyanya calls on SIDO to assist importers of packaging materials

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DEPUTY Minister for Industry and Trade Stella Manyanya has urged the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) to support traders who import packaging materials into the country in effort to reduce the existing shortage of the materials.

She made the call here during a tour at the Dodoma SIDO regional pavilion at the just ended Nane Nane Agricultural exhibition.

Manyanya said availability of packaging materials in the country has been one of the problems facing local small and medium enterprises (SMEs),

noting that through collaboration with importers, SIDO has helped reduce the problem.

"In the recent past some small traders used to sell essential food stuff like honey in recycled liquor bottles but now if you visit SIDO you get linked with those selling the right packaging materials," she said.

At the same time the deputy minister called on farmers and those processing and packing foodstuff to use the right Kiswahili wordings to introduce their products.

She said by so doing local buyers will be able to understand the products at the same time allow foreigners

also understand that it is a Tanzanian product.

Donald Betwela, one of the sellers of packaging materials in the city noted that they import the materials for different types of goods depending on the needs of customers.

"As at now I have enough packaging kits at the shop along the eighth street and the Rehema Nchimbi market in Dodoma" he said, adding that many traders in the city have started using the right packaging.

Speaking at the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) pavilion, Manyanya said: "We need to have a culture of introducing goods

into the market in our language, Kiswahili, which many people in the country understand and refrain from doing it in foreign language, English" she noted.

She also appealed farmers and livestock keepers to understand that the Nane Nane exhibitions are meant to equip them with new knowledge and modern ways of doing their activities.

According to Manyanya, the government has been always encouraging farmers and food processors to use simple Swahili language on their products but they have not fully implemented it.



Tanzania Breweries Limited Mbeya plant manager Emmanuel Sawe (L, in cap) pictured at the facility yesterday briefing Mussa Sima (C, in suit), Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), on the company's operations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Education Network (TENMET) in collaboration with other stakeholders is working to construct a special dormitory at Kwamtoro Secondary School in Nchemba District, Dodoma Region so as to accommodate girls from pastoral and hunting societies in the area.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TENMET National Coordinator Ochola Wayoga said that the construction of the 145m/- dormitory will give opportunity to hundreds of girls to have more access to quality education and thus fulfill their dreams.

He was briefing journalists on the forthcoming Education Week which will be held from August 17 to 21, this year in Nchemba District.

## Agency, other education stakeholders partner to build dormitory to house school girls in Nchemba pastoral, hunting communities

"This dormitory will also help to improve education status among children from pastoral and hunting societies whom many of them have been failing to fulfill their educational dreams due lack of schools and harmonisation."

Wayoga said that apart from constructing the hostel, stakeholders will also support the improvement of education infrastructures which include building classrooms and other related learning and teaching materials.

"We understand that the government alone cannot achieve the goal to ensure quality provision of education in the

country, this is why we are chipping in to support the efforts and make sure that our children learn in a conducive environment to achieve their dreams," Wayoga said.

Wayoga called on stakeholders and well-wishers to contribute any amount of money through the association's number 0743001393 so as to facilitate the improvement of education infrastructures in Nchemba District.

He added: "The dormitory will also fuel education and development spirit in societies such as the Hadzabe as many of the girls walk miles away from home to school, something that leaves

other children desperate at home as they couldn't afford travelling everyday to schools."

He further called on young girls in the area to value their life and focus more on studies so as to successfully reach their big dreams in life.

Wayoga further urged the government and stakeholders to invest heavily in quality and inclusive education for the country to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said that TENMET also joins others in the commemoration of the "Global Action Week" which is one of the major focal points for the education

## Seed Agency busy working on improved germs for key crops

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has said it is working round the clock to produce at least 5,000 tonnes of improved seeds needed this season to ensure that farmers get certified varieties for key food and cash crops.

The agency's Chief Executive Officer Dr Sophia Kashenge told The Guardian in an interview yesterday that the state-owned body was working round the clock to ensure increased production of seed varieties.

"The goal is to make sure the country's agriculture sector is equipped with enough and reliable certified seeds, the development which will automatically help the farmers to buy the varieties in time and at affordable prices," she expressed.

She added, with at least nine major seed plantations, scattered in different regions within the country, the agency was working out to increase more seeds production, especially for the country's key crops, among others, maize, sunflower, sesame and palm oil.

Edward Angolie, ASA's marketing officer said the agency is also producing fruit seeds of between 14 and 15 varieties, in its Morogoro-based parent stock.

In more details, he named some of the available seedlings for mangoes as Tommy, Alfonso, Red Indian, Kent, Keit, Palmer, Ngowe, Apple, Van Dyke and Ngowe.

"In the side of oranges, the varieties we're producing include Binti Juma, Matombo Sweet and Valencia, and there are plenty of banana varieties also," he expressed.

Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) was established under the Executive Agencies Act No 30 of 1997.

The Agency was launched in June 2006 as a semi-autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives to take over the responsibilities that were performed by the Seed Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives.

The aim of establishing ASA is to ensure high quality agricultural seeds are available to farmers at affordable prices.

Among top functions of the agency includes expanding seed production and distribution networks so as to facilitate seed accessibility by farmers, to promote increased private sector participation in the seed industry development through establishment of public-private partnerships or joint ventures in seed production and distribution.

transformative education," he noted.

Nicodemus Eatlawe, TENMET programmes manager said that this year's education week commemoration will also involve visiting various schools and education facilities in Nchemba District as well as speaking to parents and educating them on the importance of valuing education.

"During the five days of the Education Week, stakeholders will also have an opportunity to showcase their education related activities and projects, learn from each other and exchange ideas aimed to improve education in the country," he said.

TEN/MET is a national education network of over 200 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working to support provision of quality education in the country.





Expansion of the Morogoro Road stretch from Dar es Salaam's Kimara Mwisho suburb to Kibaha in Coast Region under way at Mbezi Mwisho in Dar es Salaam, as witnessed yesterday by Correspondent Emmanuel Mwamkinga of Turdaco.

# PCCB: We are well prepared to defend our forest resources

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has said it is adequately prepared to ensure forest's resources are protected at any price and that whoever is involved in their degradation will be regarded as a poacher and stern actions will be taken against him.

This caution was given by a PCCB official from the institution's headquarters Ally Katonya when speaking at a training seminar with journalists from the Journalists Environment Association of Tanzania (JET) conducted via video conference under sponsorship from United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Katonya said forests and their natural resources including wildlife are among important resources for the nation as they have contributed in the provision of energy, water and environmental preservation, while the wildlife have been earning the country foreign exchange used in various development projects.

Katonya said by working together

with other institutions including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) have put up joint efforts in ensuring that whoever will be found causing destruction in the reserve forests will be regarded as a poacher and will be charged in court as an economic saboteur.

Victoria Michael from Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TSPF) said the war against poachers in the country should not be waged by the government only, but also by the private sector, and in recognition of that fact, they have started giving training to the stakeholders.

She said TSPF has already embarked on educating its stakeholders by involving them in various forest resources preservation projects.

The TPSG official said already they have formed a committee to work on challenges facing the environmental and wildlife preservation sector to assist the government in the war.

JET's director John Chikomo said the training seminar to journalists aims at sensitising them on the wildlife issues and preservation thereof.

## Appeal: Use alternative energies to ease climate change impact

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

cook red beans, said to be the toughest to cook among other foods.

Nikitas said so far there have been no complaints from their

customers over the use of the charcoal adding that the only challenge being experienced is how to get it lighted up.

He added that the white

charcoal is made from special kind of grass which they harvest and dry before manufacturing.

He said they decided to manufacture this charcoal

after seeing tobacco farmers using wood energy for drying the tobacco, the practice that was greatly contributing to the depletion of forests.

TANZANIANS have been called on to adopt alternative energies as a measure against the country's environmental destruction due to rampant use of charcoal that contributes to climate change.

The call was given here last weekend by Aristotle Nikitas, Marketing Manager of Premium Active Tanzania Ltd, manufacturers of alternative energy - white charcoal fuel when speaking to reporters.

Nikitas said black charcoal, the fuel widely used in the country has been the main cause of environmental destruction, and added that it is now time for Tanzanians to change and begin using alternative fuels that are harmless to both their health and the environment.

"This white charcoal which we are today publicizing here in Dodoma is environment friendly as it is made from special grass which we grow ourselves," Nikitas said.

He said the black charcoal now being used has destroyed the natural growth of forests and greatly contributing to climate change.

He said following the commencement of white charcoal project last year, they have the capacity to produce 500 to 1,200 tonnes of the charcoal per year and their goal is to produce between 3,000 to 4,000 tonnes per year.

He said: "The white charcoal fuel market situation is not bad as for now we are working together with the government to educate Tanzanians in various areas on the use of this alternative energy."

"Our product is in three kinds of packaging:- three-kilo bags of 30 pieces of 100 grammes each that sells for 3,000/- solely for domestic use; five-kilo bags selling at 5,000/- each specifically for the street food vendors and 20-kilo bags selling at 18,000/- for use in colleges and other institutions."

He said five pieces of the white charcoal can



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## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)/ REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI):

### PROVISION FOR UNDERGROUND MECHANISED CONTRACT MINING SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The purpose of the EOI/ RFI is to explore the market for underground mining contractors (Mechanised underground mining) with the requisite technical skills, operational knowledge and financial capacity/capability to undertake the provision of underground mechanised contract mining services, necessary for the development and production of ore from underground to Geita Gold Mine in accordance with the EOI/RFI documents.

The responses to this EOI/RFI will be used to shortlist capable Service Providers that will be invited to respond to the Main Tender for the Provision of underground mechanised contract mining services for Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML). The details and dates for the issue of the Main Tender will be communicated to shortlisted Companies only. It is necessary to respond to this EOI/ RFI in order to be pre-qualified to be considered for the Main Tender.

#### Scope of work:

Provision of Service as detailed below:-

S/N	Reference Number	Projects Description
1	GGME0955	Provision of Underground Mechanised Contract Mining Services for Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML)

#### Scope

The EOI for the provision of underground mechanised contract mining services is for two UG mines in the GGM complex, Nyankanga UG and Geita Hill UG. The Nyankanga and Geita Hill orebodies will be mined using mechanised mining methods. Development will utilise standard jumbo drilling and bolting for ground support, while any production activity will be based around a variation of long hole open stoping. The current and proposed mining method is a well proven mining technique that does not introduce unknown risks to people, equipment and the environment. The mining method is well proven and adopted in other organisations underground mines operating in Tanzania. The main mining activities will include horizontal development, vertical development, production drilling and blasting, bogging and hauling, and all associated works required as part of the mining cycle.

#### II. SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE PROVISION OF THE RELEVANT SERVICE

The below information forms the minimum requirements in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out:

- SHE (Safety, Health and Environmental) performance
- Supplier due diligence evaluation for responsible sourcing and compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended.
- Technical Capability, performance and previous experience
- Software and innovation employed in the management of similar scopes
- Supplier training and recruitment process
- Supplier financial performance

#### III. GENERAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

The below information is required in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out below:

1. Detailed service provider's information with organization structure, list of manpower with CVs of key personnel, parent company (if applicable), support agencies and other facilities and resources.
2. Details of the service provider's SHE (Safety, Health and Environmental) performance including:
  - Safety Records (FIFR, AIFR, regulatory infractions etc.) for a 3 (three) year period, training and certificates
  - Safety Management Systems (SMS)
3. Details of the service provider's responsible sourcing procedures as well as compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended.
  - **Governance:**
    - i. Operations profile
    - ii. Ownership and Management profile
    - iii. Business integrity
    - iv. Anti-bribery and corruption
  - **Safety, Health and Environmental**
    - i. Operations profile
    - ii. Management systems and training
    - iii. Waste management
    - iv. Compliance and certifications
    - v. Water management
    - vi. Air emissions
    - vii. Business integrity
    - viii. Hazardous substances
  - **Social**
    - i. Code of conduct
    - ii. Forced labour
    - iii. Child labour and young workers
    - iv. Localisation
    - v. Discrimination
    - vi. Freedom of association and collective bargaining
    - vii. Security
    - viii. Harassment and abuse
    - ix. Grievance and remediation
    - x. Supplier management

#### • Provide details on local content regulations, including:

- xi. Local procurement of goods and services
- xii. Local employment and training practices
- xiii. Details of percentage of managerial and non-managerial positions held by Tanzanian citizens.
- xiv. A copy of the latest Local Content Plan and Local Content Performance Report as submitted to the Mining Commission or equivalent information if no prior reports and plans have been submitted.
- xv. For privately owned companies, a list of all the owners, their nationality and respective percentage ownership of your organisation.
- xvi. For publicly traded companies, a list of all shareholders holding more than 5% with details of their nationality and percentage ownership.

4. Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last 3 (three) years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution covering:
  - Previous experience specifically related to underground mechanised mining (With related development rates) including references
  - Experience in Tanzania, East African and developing countries
  - Projects of a similar scale/nature undertaken in the last 5 (five) years with the value of work in United States Dollars (USD)
  - List of all mining fleet assets, complete with SMU hours, condition, life expectancy and ownership status. Indicating capacity to provide underground contract mining services required by the Mine in addition to other current projects
  - Maintenance regime and HME engineering capability (Detail to be provided on equipment utilisation, availability, productivity, MTBF, etc.)
  - Typical mining Method Statement

5. Details of the service provider's Software and innovation employed in the management of similar scopes:
  - Software utilised to manage business
  - Innovation initiatives identified as continuous improvement strategies
  - Short term planning proficiency

6. Details of the service provider's Supplier training and recruitment process:
  - Workforce training and skills development
  - Selective and targeted recruitment pre-employment processes

7. Service provider's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years.
8. List of policies, procedures and quality assurance practices currently in place for the execution of similar work.
9. Lists of HSE management system, HSE policy and implementation procedures in line with internationally accepted practices.
10. Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable

#### IV. PREQUALIFICATION EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

In evaluating the interested bidders, GGML will consider the following:

1. **Health, Safety and Environment** – Prospective Bidders to give details of their Health, Safety and Environmental performance and management systems.
2. **Local Content** – Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their responsible sourcing procedures as well as compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended.
3. **Capability** – Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their technical skills and operational knowledge for the applicable scope of works along with the approach they will follow to ensure successful completion of the works, based on their previous experience.
4. **Systems and Innovation** – Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their proficiency to manage business processes successfully with applicable systems/software and to prove a culture of innovation and continuous improvement
5. **Sustainability** – Prospective Bidders to give details of their local labour sourcing and training plans as well as details of any commitments to the social development of the area where Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is located.
6. **Financial Capability** – Prospective Bidders to provide details of their financial capability supporting their ability to render the service.
7. **Permits and Certifications** – Prospective Bidders to provide details and evidence of permits and registrations issued by the relevant Government authorities, including OSHAS and any other statutory bodies regulating the related services.

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide supply and delivery of various Goods and Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) not later than **0830 A.M 28 August 2020** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

215856001

## NFRA records increased food storage capacity in five years

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) has outlined a number of successes recorded within the first five years of the fifth government which includes increased food storage capacity from 251,000 to 501,000 tonnes.

NFRA chief executive officer Milton Lupa made the revelation yesterday when briefing journalists on the agency's performances in five years. He attributed the increase in food storage capacity with construction of 56 food storage facilities and 9 modern food warehouses with the capacity to store 250,000.

"Implementation of the project for construction of food storage facilities has now reached 75 percent, it will be completed in the 2020/21 financial year," he said.

According to him, the normal facilities can store food for three years without losing quality, insisting the newly constructed food storage warehouses can store food for more than five years without losing quality.

Lupa noted that the agency has been working around the clock to ensure the country's food security through purchasing enough food from farmers as well as selling food to some parts of the country facing food shortage challenges.

"We have sold food to different municipalities and districts which experienced food shortage, the monies collected were used to purchase more food from farmers," he informed.

He said NFRA has been able to earn foreign currencies by selling food to neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe and the World Food Programme (WFP). He said food sold to WFP was distributed to various African countries.

Lupa said that Tanzania through the agency donated food to Malawi and South Sudan which faced food shortage challenges caused by natural disasters including floods.

He added that the agency has been contributing into the country's economic growth through the purchase of crops from farmers and farmer's groups at better prices, thus improving farmer's welfare. He said the agency has also been contributing to municipal revenues by paying various levies when purchasing crops from farmers.

He said when buying crops from farmers, the agency provided jobs to a number of young Tanzanians whereas a total of 7,000 youth were employed in the previous season.

NFRA collaborates with farmers' cooperative unions to train farmers on how to properly store harvested food, he said. According to Lupa, they have been supporting the private sector whereas most of food preservation facilities are bought from local manufacturers. He said that the private sector is also involved in transportation of the purchased crops. He said plans are to continue expanding the agency's food storage capacity as well as looking for more internal and international markets.

NFRA operates under the Ministry of Agriculture for purposes of guaranteeing national food security during food shortage. It came into effect in July, 2008 taking over responsibilities of the former Strategic Grain Reserve.

## Embrace irrigation farming technology, farmers advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

FARMERS in the Southern Highlands regions have been urged to adopt irrigation technology that use electricity for perennial crops production.

The call was given by the supervisor of the Mbeya office of Kilimo Trust, Robert Mwaluseke when speaking to this paper, claiming that modern farming requires irrigation technology so as to be certain of harvests at all times decided by the farmer.

Mwaluseke said three percent of farmers use irrigation farming despite the fact that the country is bestowed with many water and energy sources that can be used for irrigation. "Our institution is mobilising farmers to abandon farming that depends on rains that are at times unreliable, and instead adopt farming technology that uses electricity through special equipment for gainful crops production," Mwaluseke said.

He added that their institution also assists farmers find markets for their crops, educate them on various farming skills that ensure high production of crops and sensitize them on how to confront the effects of climate change.

He said for the agricultural sector to continue growing and become the saviour of the people government officials should review their implementation of various policies in the sector by giving professional advice thereof.

## Govt to use extension officers to talk to farmers on merits of commercial farming practices

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE government has started providing education to farmers through agricultural extension officers and other experts in farming on how to adopt gainful farming practices for increased yields.

Speaking yesterday during his official visit in Igunga and Iramba districts, in Tabora and Singida regions respectively where he inspected and became satisfied with cotton buying for the 2020/21 season, the Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga said the government has resolved to see farmers abandon traditional subsistence farming and adopt commercial farming.

Whilst in Igunga District, Hasunga assured farmers that the government will professionally manage the agricultural sector which is the main pillar for the development of the people as it has a big contribution to the country's economy.

He said in order to improve agriculture and farmers' lives, the government will discuss with various banks including Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) and the Agricultural Inputs Trust Fund (AGITF) for the reduction of interest and conditions on loans to farmers.

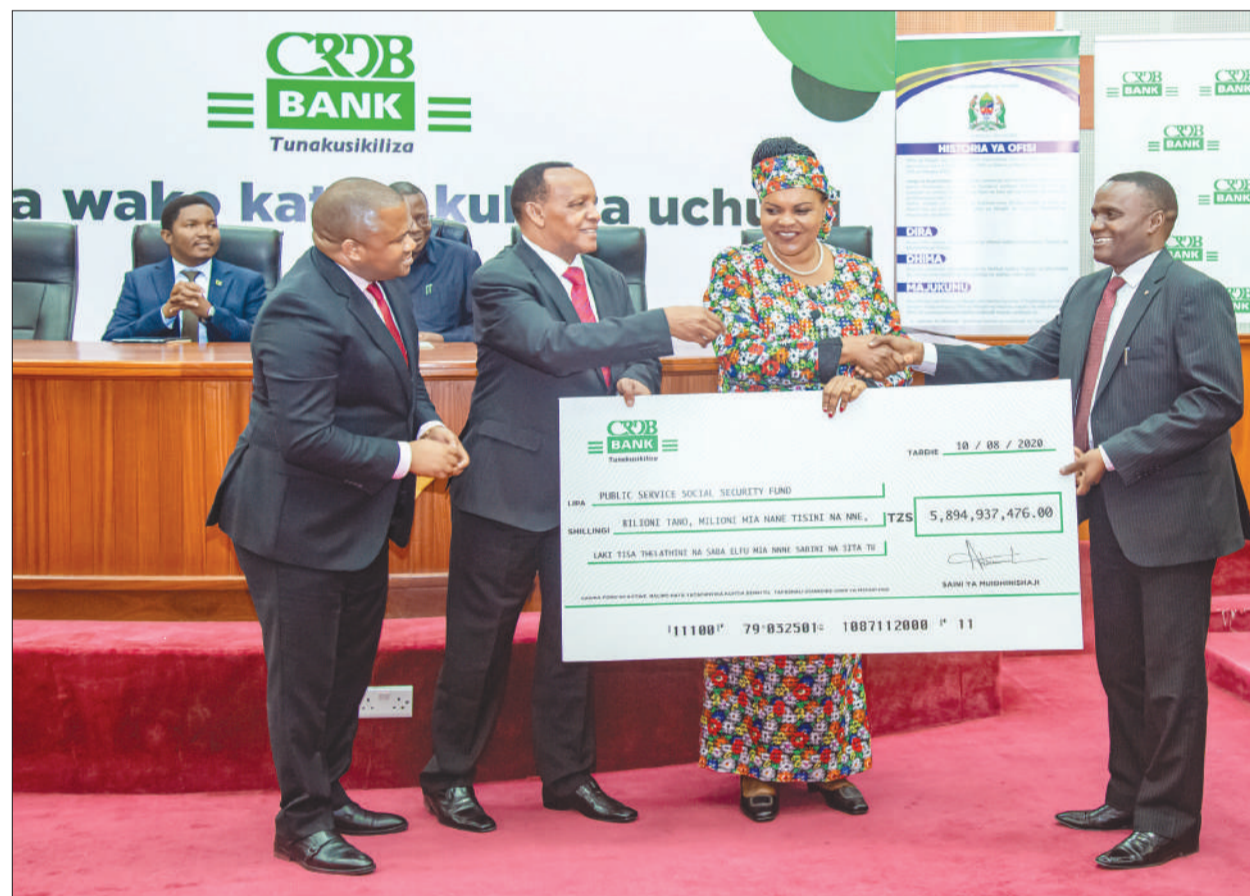
Whilst in Iramba District in Singida Region Hasunga hailed Biosustain Company, the cotton buying firm for ensuring it has paid up all farmers' debts for the cotton it purchased during the 2018/2019 season in Singida Region, despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.



## Govt touts CRDB Bank's role in Tanzania's development efforts



Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango (4th-R) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday receiving a dummy cheque for 9.3bn/- presented by CRDB Bank Plc Board Chairman Dr Ally Laay (3rd-L) following investments by government in the bank through the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) Investment Fund in collaboration with the Danish government. The minister received a total of 17bn/- in dividend to the Tanzanian government and its various institutions. Others (from-L): CRDB Bank Vice Chairperson, Prof Neema Mori, Managing Director and Group CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela, Minister of State in President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), Jenista Mhagama (3rd-R), and Ambassador of Denmark to Tanzania, Mette Dissing-Spandet (2nd-R), and Treasury Registrar Athumani Mbututuka.



Dodoma: The government is happy with the contribution of CRDB Bank Plc to Tanzania's development efforts. Apart from being one of the largest taxpayers, CRDB Bank Plc has also been setting aside one per cent of its net profit towards community-based projects through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

The bank, which is owned predominantly by Tanzanians, has also been injecting back billions of shillings into the economy through dividend payment to its shareholders. The latest incident happened on Monday when CRDB Bank Plc issued a total of Sh17 billion to the government in the form of dividend. The money is part of the Sh120.1 billion in net profit that the lender and its subsidiaries registered in 2019.

CRDB Bank Plc's board chairman, Dr Ally Laay, presented a dummy cheque to Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango during an event also attended by other cabinet ministers and senior officials for the bank.

The government - through the DANIDA Investment Fund - owns a 21 per cent stake in CRDB Bank Plc, while pension funds and other public organisations control a 17.1 per cent stake.

"During our June 2020 virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM), shareholders approved a dividend of Sh17/share, representing a total dividend of Sh44.4 billion. That was an increase of 112.5 per cent compared to what was shared to shareholders last year," said Dr Laay. Present at the handing over of a dummy



cheque to the government here on Monday were Denmark's Ambassador to Tanzania, Mette Dissing-Spandet, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration, Local Government Authorities), Selemani Jafo, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities), Jenista Mhagama.

Treasury Registrar Athumani Mbututuka as well as heads of various public organisations and pension funds that own shares in the bank were also in attendance.

Speaking during the event, Dr Mpango said CRDB Bank was playing a pivotal role in the execution of the government's Second

Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP 2), which runs from financial year 2016/2017 to 2020/2021.

"The Plan seeks to stimulate industrial production so as to revolutionise the economy...Implementation of the FYDP requires massive funds and the dividend we are receiving here today is one of the ways we generate revenues for that purpose," he said.

The minister commended CRDB Bank for being one of the companies that issue huge dividends to the government. "Allow me to say that from the government point of view, we regard CRDB Bank Plc as a major partner in development...The Bank also contributes massively to the implementation of the government's mega projects," he said.

He applauded CRDB Bank Plc for reporting a growth in profits during the first half of the current year. The bank reported two weeks ago that its profit rose by 15 per cent to Sh70.4 billion during the first half of the current year - from Sh61.1 billion during a similar period last year.

He said the government would ensure that it creates an enabling environment for the private sector to thrive, noting that a recent decision by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), meant to cushion the financial sector from negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic was a step in the right direction.

In May this year, BoT announced several key monetary policy measures, including lowering the statutory minimum reserve requirement from seven to six per cent to provide the banks with additional liquidity in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Among other measures, BoT also reduced the discount rate - the level of interest at which commercial banks borrow from the central bank - from seven to five per cent to enable them to access to cheaper loans, hence signalling lower lending interest rates.

In his remarks, CRDB Bank Plc board chairman Dr Ally Laay said 80 per cent of the bank's shares were in the hands of Tanzanians. Out of the percentage, the government and public institutions own 38 per cent. He added that the bank's profit before tax rose by 76 per cent to settle at Sh174.7 billion last year.

Dr Laay said it was due to an improving profitability trend that the bank's dividend to its shareholders has also been on the rise. Last year, it issued Sh20.9 billion in total dividend, up from ShSh13.1 billion in 2017. That was due to an improvement in the lender's net profit to Sh64.1 billion in 2018 from Sh36.2 billion in 2017 before rising further to Sh120.1 billion last year.

A breakdown of the dividend issuance shows that the central government - through the Danida investment Fund (DIF) shares - went home with Sh9.317 billion while social security funds went home with a total of Sh5.85 billion.

Various local government authorities that had invested in CRDB Bank Plc pocketed a total of Sh299.8 million, while the National Health Insurance Fund went home with Sh517.4 million. The Umoja Unit Trust Scheme and Umoja Fund Unit Trust Scheme pocketed a total of Sh239 million, while a tobacco growers' union was also one of the dividend beneficiaries at Monday's event.



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THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Let us protect African lions from global trade

182 countries at the Johannesburg summit few years ago did reach a compromise banning only the trade in bones, teeth and claws from wild lions. An attempt to ban all international trade in African lions, from trophy heads to bones, had failed at a global wildlife summit.

African lions have shrunk to just 8 per cent of their historic range, with only 20,000 left in the wild. About 1,500 lions are yearly hunted for trophies, a practice that attracted global attention last year after an American dentist killed Cecil the lion with a crossbow in Zimbabwe.

A rising trade in lion bones to Asia, where such bones are replacing scarce tiger bones in supposed tonics, has raised fears of further declines. South Africa alone legally exported 1,200 skeletons - 11 tonnes of bones - between 2008 and 2011, the latest figures available.

But 182 countries at the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), meeting in Johannesburg, were unable to agree on a proposal from nine African countries to ban all international trade in lion parts.

Instead, a compromise agreement banned only the trade in bones, teeth and claws from wild lions. Those coming from captive-bred lions will still be legally sold, although South Africa will now have to report on how many it sells each year. The export of trophies from lion hunting remains legal.

It would be a very, very sad day when we are not able to show our children's children what a lion looks like because they have been hunted into extinction or because we traded their body parts into extinction, and that we have taken no responsibility in managing the situation.

Truly living with lions poses serious

hardships for communities, as cattle and sometimes people can be killed by them.

WWF is very concerned at this trend and the recommendation to ban all trade in wild lion bone is a positive first step, but it does not go far enough.

Experts say any legal big cat bone trade gives the opportunity for traffickers to pass off illegal wild bones as legitimate. Lions were going extinct in numerous African countries.

The lion is most recognisable for its muscular, deep-chested body, short, rounded head, round ears, and a hairy tuft at the end of its tail. A lion pride consists of a few adult males, related females and cubs. Groups of female lions usually hunt together, preying mostly on large ungulates. The lion is an apex and keystone predator; although some lions scavenge when opportunities occur and have been known to hunt humans.

Typically, the lion inhabits grasslands and savannas, but is absent in dense forests. For decades the lion has been seen and depicted as the symbol of power, courage, pride and nobility in many regions. In other places, the lion is viewed as a majestic, regal, protector, warrior, king and a leader who can be looked upon.

The lion is the most recognisable creature that has muscular, deep-chested body, short, rounded head, round ears, and a hairy tuft at the end of its tail. But the wild animal has also been used as metaphors by society around us to depict how spirited the lion has been. In Kenya, the lion has been used to represent patriotism on its Coat of Arms.

But one thing that is yet to be understood and taken care of is the fact that this wild cat is nearing extinction and animal lovers have moved to save it.

## East Africa can enhance farm productivity and boost growth

THE food industry is a complex, global collective of diverse businesses that supplies most of the food consumed by the world's population. Only subsistence farmers, those who survive on what they grow, and hunter-gatherers can be considered outside the scope of the modern food industry.

Most food produced for the food industry comes from commodity crops using conventional agricultural practices. Agriculture is the process of producing food, feeding products, fiber and other desired products by the cultivation of certain plants and the raising of domesticated animals (livestock). On average, 83 per cent of the food consumed by humans is produced using terrestrial agriculture. Other food sources include aquaculture and fishing.

The practice of agriculture is also known as "farming". Scientists, inventors, and others devoted to improving farming methods and implements are also said to be engaged in agriculture. 1 in 3 people worldwide are employed in agriculture.

Against this background, food production in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda has to increase significantly to feed the population that is growing at an average of three per cent in Tanzania and Uganda and 2.5 per cent in Kenya, experts believe.

Adoption of climate smart production, harvesting and processing methodologies is key to improving productivity and efficiencies of the existing food crop production and supply systems. Achieving an increase in food production however requires concerted efforts and joint investments by supply chain actors, service providers and public sector partners, working in the different targeted value chains to support effective adaptation and mitigation strategies.

A five-year multi-country project for Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda is investing two million euros in grants to 14 agri-businesses in the three countries. The investment from the Climate

Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) project is specifically targeting companies and farmers working in the sunflower, soybean, sesame, common beans, potato and sorghum value chains in the three countries.

Menno Keizer, the CRAFT Project Manager for Tanzania, said in an interview that co-investment with the private sector is one of the key strategies identified by the project to achieve sustainable results and increase availability and accessibility of climate-resilient food.

Through its Climate Innovation and Investment Facility (CIIF), the project will support performance-based investments so as to build the resilience of private sector agribusinesses and service providers in the targeted value chains.

So far four Tanzanian companies (Nondo Investors Co.Ltd, Rogimwa Agro Co. Ltd, Jack Ma Enterprises Ltd and Mwenge Sunflower Oil Mills) have signed partnership agreements worth 567,135 euro.

CRAFT invests in companies that have demonstrated from their own internally generated funds as well as from third party providers (i.e. financiers and beneficiaries) that their businesses are viable.

The project will thus work with and through the private sector to promote climate smart agriculture related innovations at farm and value chain level and support public sector partners in creating the institutional environment for wide-scale adoption of CSA practices.

The CIIF contribution is not an end in itself but rather a means for attracting commercial funding for follow-on investments and scaling. The agri-businesses invest their own funds and then leverage off the CRAFT grant to attract additional investment from commercial financial institutions. This not only boosts their credit worthiness and relationship with the financial institutions but ensures businesses continuity beyond the life of the project.

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## Gender doesn't matter in teaching

By Nuraan Davids

MERELY increasing the number of male teachers is not going to address the label (or stigma) of teaching as 'women's work'. Undoing this stigma calls for a disruption of the patriarchal discourses and norms, which perpetuate marginalisation and minimisation of women, in order to centre a male worldview.

Why are there far more women teachers than men? Research confirms that although men and women are often motivated by similar altruistic reasons, they enter the teaching profession for different reasons. Female teachers may be more motivated by the perceived intrinsic aspects of teaching, or value the ability to combine teaching with parenthood, and hence opt for the profession as their first choice.

By contrast, men may be deterred by a low salary, and the associations of teaching, especially at primary level, with mothering, and hence might opt for the profession later in their lives.

Although female teachers outnumber males across primary and high schools in the country, they are under-represented at leadership (principal) levels. In researching this Women's Day (9 August 2020) article, I looked at enrolment figures for the Faculty of Education at Stellenbosch University and found that in 2020, we enrolled 809 female and 142 male students into our BEd programme (Foundation and Intermediate phase), and 204 female and 76 male teachers into our PGCE (Senior and FET phase) programmes.

In both the BEd and PGCE student intakes, the difference between the number of females and males is significant, with a substantial difference between male students opting for teaching at the primary level and those opting for high school teaching.

The dominant presence of females in teaching particularly at primary school level has raised concerns about the "feminisation" of teaching. These concerns centre on teaching increasingly being seen as "women's work"; that the absence of male teachers has particular implications for male learners in terms of discipline, motivation and social interaction. In other words, the suggestion is that the poor academic performance of male learners can be ascribed to a predominance of female teachers; and



effective teaching requires masculine hegemony.

As a result, there are calls for the masculinising of teaching. Improving the number and presence of male teachers is often unquestioningly constructed as a positive for male learners. The assumption is that in order for male learners to achieve academically, or excel at sporting codes, to be "disciplined", or become "men", they need to have male role models. But is this the correct call?

The argument for masculinising is premised on contested assumptions, underpinned by sex role socialisation theories whereby masculinity and femininity are located solely within male and female bodies respectively. There are a number of major concerns with strategies geared at increasing the number of male teachers, merely for the sake of having male representation.

Firstly, that the idea of a "feminised" teaching profession is seen only as being negative in relation to male learners and not female learners. Secondly, rather than seeking to challenge the ways in which the feminised attributes associated with teaching have been devalued and addressing the consequences of this for women in the teaching profession, the focus has been on making the profession attractive for men, thereby inadvertently feeding into male privilege. In this regard, gender-specific socialisation might constrain both men and women.

On the one hand, women might believe and buy into traditional conceptions of themselves as primary

carers, and hence as teachers, and not aspire to occupy positions of leadership or administrators, such as curriculum designers, institutional managers or directors. On the other hand, men might be deterred from pursuing a teaching profession not because of a lack of interest or low pay, but because of stereotypes, which frame teaching as "women's work", and instead, assume implicit leadership skills and aptitudes for which they might neither be capacitated, nor desire.

Moreover, if we accept that low salary indeed plays a demotivating role for men in pursuing careers as teachers, then the more pertinent question to ask is why work traditionally associated with women is so consistently poorly paid. Indeed, we would have to ask the same question in relation to all professions which foreground care, compassion and empathy.

Representation in terms of gender, therefore, cannot be conceived in terms of binary constructions between males and females. The low numbers of males in the teaching profession is a matter of concern for all learners and not only males but not because there is a shortage of males. Rather, the concern pertains to how we understand difference and diversity. To homogenise the shortage of males is to lose sight of these differences and to undermine what representation infers.

There are many reasons some more complex than others for the low number of male teachers in schools in most liberal democracies. Merely increasing the number of males is not

going to address the label (or stigma) of teaching as "women's work".

That teaching is associated with caring, and hence framed as a "woman's role", is a commentary on the hegemonies of power which divide the world into only two genders - masculine and feminine. Undoing this stigma calls for a disruption of the patriarchal discourses and norms, which perpetuate marginalisation and minimisation of women, in order to centre a male worldview.

Secondly, increasing the number of male teachers will not lead to an increase in salary, and hence a recognition of the unequivocal value of teachers and teaching. Thirdly, increasing the number of male teachers will not make "men out of boys", or strengthen their academic potential, or make them more "disciplined". Learners regardless of whether they prescribe to a particular gender construction or not are in need of teachers who are committed to teaching and who are committed to those they teach.

The focus on gender, therefore, is not to make an argument for more male teachers in schools. The focus on gender is to highlight the role of patriarchal hegemonies in relation to the ideological construction and perception of teaching as "women's work". The challenge, therefore, is to ensure that teaching transcends framings of "feminisation" and "masculinisation", and that it is accorded the necessary standing and regard it so clearly deserves in any society.



# The significance of Time

It was sometime back when i heckled time on how selfish it was, but of recent times, i could applaud time for its exquisite performance since times of creation. To start with, even God himself forged his way through the tremendous work of creation using the variable of time. He used seven days to create the land and waters, mountains and valleys, man and animals within the stipulated period. From such deductions, it is right to give time the respect it deserves, as even God obeyed the notion of time and succeeded. Coming to think of it, this could be a pillar in the realization of true success, true achievement, and everything else pure. In my post relating time to be selfish, it could be probable that at the time, time was pushing a hot metal rod through my back. Nonetheless, time could prove costly as it is evident in persons who have failed to achieve true success.

God having guided us through time management and proving we could achieve wonders, us as the



human race could earn a few tips from our creator. Since birth, time becomes essential in our well being. From our first visit to the doctor, or even to school, could tell a lot about our destinies and future endeavors. I for instance dreaded the hos-

pital primarily because of the smell, dimly lit waiting halls, and obviously the injections. With the injection clause, one could understand my disinterest in tattoos, despite i being a literary artist. It is through such experiences that one decipher-

their purpose on this earth with the aim of seeing our creator. In the creation story, we could learn strategies we could use in implementing our own ideas. Through day 1 to day 7, we could harness a formula that we could use to win battles or even

overcome challenges we face. More so, from creating day and night to creating a woman from a man's ribs, we as the human race could learn a thing or two.

In this 21st century, the age of technology and internet have become an essential tool in the development and maintenance of infrastructure across the globe. It has been a catapult that is thought to be a ship for advancement in the livelihoods of humans across the world. With man setting foot in the moon in 1969 to Tesla creating automobiles that tag the advantage of being futuristic. Nonetheless, i believe that we as humans are treading on the wrong track. It being a year of Covid-19, countries in the West are striving to land on the moon this coming August. Could it be that we are steeping on places we should not? Are we trespassing? Or could the tale of the tower of Babylon repeating itself. With ailments such as Cancer and HIV-AIDS having long killed a significant number of us, this Corona Virus should be something we should critically



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think about. In this time, we have innovators going to extreme lengths to have their ideas implemented and come to life, but the question really begs, Are all these innovations necessary? God's creation days should play a key role in this synthesis, making us realize that there is a start and an end in the development process.

On the other side of failure, the creation story should be a full-proof lesson that success comes after a strategic and organized period. With strategy coming in handy with the creation of the woman and organization revealing itself in the seven days God created earth. With the extremes technology, internet, and the recent Artificial Intelligence have positioned the human race, finding cures to malignant diseases like AIDS and Cancer should have become a thing of the past. So, i would reveal that pure success is a process that is wholesome. With the society having la-

belled the ones who fail to conform with their success standards, they sort of go against the Seven Day Time Rule given to us by our creator. It could be right that the failed persons failed to do this and that, and for this, they are branded failures. Nonetheless, they could use the Seven Day Time Rule to manifest their God-given talents. In this 21st century, creative people are the knights that strive to counter the extremeness those dubbing themselves successful have forged. Maybe, i as a literary creative person, i could find a bearing in investing the Seven Day Time Rule.

Time is in fact timeless, as from the ages of God creating us and earth, to man landing on the moon, and to the rise of creative thinkers who were previously dubbed as de-generates, i comfortably withdraw the selfish clause from time and brandish it with gold and a flair of diamonds. Time is precious to say the least.

## South Africa's Border Management Authority dream could be a nightmare

BY OTILIA ANNA MAUNGANIDZE AND AIMÉE-NOËL MBIYOZO

Until recently, managing South Africa's borders was the task of at least seven different government departments working at land, air and sea ports of entry. This proved taxing, particularly as movement in and out of South Africa continues to rise.

The new Border Management Authority (BMA) Act is meant to improve efficiencies by providing a single authority to oversee all aspects of the border environment. The law also requires coordination with other government bodies and border communities.

In principle, the idea of more streamlined border management that reduces corruption, prevents illicit trafficking and facilitates movement of people and goods is welcome. However the BMA alone won't resolve these problems. It will be costly to the country, and places more responsibility on an already strained Department of Home Affairs.

Before the BMA was established, coordination between the various government departments wasn't always smooth sailing. In 2010, an Inter-Agency Clearing Forum was created for the Soccer World Cup. It comprised Home Affairs, the South African Police Service (SAPS), the South African Revenue Service (SARS), and the departments responsible for agriculture, health, public works and state security. The team improved coordination among the departments and ensured effective border management and law enforcement.

The culture of abuse and corruption in Home Affairs will probably extend to the new authority

The BMA is an attempt to replicate this forum and make it a permanent fixture. The lengthy process of enacting the BMA law



With its deep management problems, centralising border functions under Home Affairs is an expensive and curious decision. File photo

wasn't without controversy. One critic called the BMA Bill 'one of the worst pieces of legislation to ever hit the House.' Cabinet proposed the new authority in 2013 and the bill was introduced to Parliament in May 2016.

Concerns raised by SARS, SAPS and the SA National Defence Force led to several revisions. In its 2018 submission on the bill, the Institute for Security Studies raised concerns about the securitisation of borders, the threat of corruption and abuses, and Home Affairs' capacity to lead the initiative. The bill was revised in October 2019, then adopted and signed into law in July 2020.

Now most border management functions will be centralised under Home Affairs. The law creates 'border management areas' in a radius of 10 km from land and sea borders, under the BMA's control. It includes the establishment of an armed border guard with law enforcement

capabilities. The authority has until 21 January 2021 to conclude implementation protocols with the army, police and revenue service, who together with postal services will retain their core functions in border areas. The state anticipates that establishing a functioning authority could take up to 15 years. It estimates the initial phase to cost R3.8 billion a year and R10.3 billion annually when fully implemented - probably a vast underestimate.

Given Home Affairs' abysmal management record, how will it oversee an increased staff complement?

With borders still closed for most travel due to COVID-19, Home Affairs and its counterparts in the BMA inter-ministerial committee can get to work on protocol agreement. The committee comprises the following departments: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Defence and Military Veterans; Environmental Affairs; Finance;

Health; Police; State Security; Trade and Industry; and Transport.

On paper all seems in order, but major implementation challenges lie ahead. Home Affairs is a large department with a mostly administrative mandate. Its deep management and legal problems have led judges to describe the running of the department as 'incompetent' and 'deplorable.'

There are numerous accounts of abuse and corruption by department officials and this culture will probably extend to the new authority. Armed border guards with expanded powers could lead to increased arrests and detention of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

Meanwhile, Home Affairs' current annual employment budget is R3.5 billion. The BMA is expected to ask Treasury for R3 billion more, doubling the department's budget to bring 21 000 border employees under its charge. Given Home

Affairs' already abysmal management track record, how will it effectively oversee this increased staff complement?

The Border Management Authority is estimated to cost R10.3 billion annually when fully implemented

Less than a month before Parliament passed the BMA Act, the Auditor-General shared a report that found a notable regression in the department's management of illegal migrants since the last audit in 2007. The report said it would take 68 years to finalise the current asylum case backlog even with no new cases.

The new law is also criticised as xenophobic and seeking, above all, to restrict access to migrants and violate their rights. The act requires BMA officers to respect fundamental rights, including of vulnerable groups such as trafficking victims, refugees and asylum seekers. But with Home Affairs' poor track record on managing xenophobia,

concerns about its added powers are valid.

While the act purports to address other national security concerns, its anti-migrant overtones are clear. Throughout BMA debates, members of Parliament and the Home Affairs minister disproportionately focused on irregular migration. Highly inaccurate cause-effect statements blamed rampant xenophobia in South Africa on a lack of border management.

This follows a pattern of blaming foreigners for South Africa's problems. The BMA is the latest in a series of regressive measures that negatively affect African migrants. In January, amendments to the Refugee Act increased the probability of asylum seekers and refugees being unlawfully detained and deported. In May, the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs heard presentations on establishing one-stop border posts and processing centres for refugees near the

borders that will inevitably prejudice asylum seekers.

Meanwhile progressive proposals made in Home Affairs' 2017 White Paper to roll out Southern African Development Community visas for economic migrants and offer visa regularisation schemes for people already in the country remain stalled.

As the African Union (AU) works towards progressive border agendas, free trade and free movement, South Africa's move to militarise its borders will serve as a barrier. As current AU chair, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa should consider the message the BMA Act sends to the continent. The country should be championing safe and legal avenues for low-skilled migrants, workers and traders. These robust migration management tools are the ones most likely to reduce irregular movement.



## SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR RUHINDA

## 'Mkapa sought to build Ujamaa in new circumstances'

By Correspondents Salva Rweyemamu, Saidi Nguba and Tido Mhando

**This is the third and final piece in a series of articles based on a recent exclusive interview with Ambassador Ferdinand Kamuntu Ruhinda. The articles constitute his public tribute to his friend of more than half a century, former president Benjamin William Mkapa, who passed away on July 23 and was buried on July 29 at his home village of Lupaso in Masasi District, Mtwara Region. Mzee Ruhinda is widely known as a journalist, an editor and a retired public servant. In his public life, he served as Tanzania's High Commissioner to Canada, Ambassador to China and Deputy Ambassador to Sweden. A highly regarded political strategist and advisor, he managed the successful presidential campaigns of both Mkapa and Jakaya Kikwete.**

**B**ENJAMIN William Mkapa had a set of concrete principles on which he based his conduct of his administration and its governance. He also had a plan of - a methodical and philosophical approach to - what he wanted to achieve during his ten-year administration, as president. In fact, his mind was thoroughly made up on these matters many years before he was elected to the nation's top leadership position. He knew what he wanted, and he had a plan of how to achieve it.

First, he was a keen student and an ardent follower of Mwalimu Nyerere and his policies. Secondly, he believed religiously in his philosophy of openness and truth, and was honest about it. Thirdly, he believed in building a modern economy, as the fastest and surest way to alleviate poverty. Fourthly, he seriously detested exploitation. Fifthly, he truly believed in the tenets of collective leadership, and sincerely loathed the personalisation of governance and development - especially the building of personality cult. Finally, he was firm in his belief that governance could only be meaningful and beneficial to people if guided by reality and not utopia.

This is how Ambassador Ferdinand Ruhinda, President Mkapa's closest friend of more than half a century, sums up the instrumental philosophies which steered his friend's leadership:

"Benjamin Mkapa was a student and a truly ardent follower of Mwalimu Nyerere - just as were all Tanzanians. However, Mwalimu Nyerere was not Mkapa's school teacher, contrary to the popular perception in our country. He never taught him at Pugu School. Mkapa was registered at Pugu after Mwalimu Nyerere had resigned, or was resigning, from his teaching position to concentrate fully on politics for the fight of Tanganyika's independence. What is true, though, is that Mwalimu Nyerere was Mkapa's teacher on matters related to politics, character and leadership.

"Ben Mkapa met Mwalimu early on in his life, after the completion of his education, and was lucky to have worked under him for many years. During those long years, Ben became Mwalimu Nyerere's protégé, believing fully in the Ujamaa policies and in the path on which Mwalimu was leading our country.

"And, as we all know, Mwalimu sought to build Ujamaa policy - commonly known as African Socialism. In reality, however, Ujamaa was significantly different from Scientific Socialism, whose principles were based on class struggle. Now, you guys know that I have personally lived in several countries in the world - while finding time to visit others - which were attempting to build Socialism. It is countries such as China, North Korea, Cuba and Sweden. I lived in Canada, too. My experience is that there is no evidence at all of one universal standard of building Socialism."

Ambassador Ruhinda elaborates: "In North Korea, I am not even sure what they are attempting to build. Cuba was, and still is, busy fighting its endless battles with the United States. Sweden is one of the Scandinavia countries - which are following a welfare state model, with some socialist elements. For its part, China is building Socialism with Chinese characteristics. Now, you can see for yourself that, globally, there is no single standard way or model of building Socialism."

He explains further: "Ben Mkapa, as I have just mentioned, was an ardent student and follower of Mwalimu Nyerere. Just like Mwalimu, he strongly detested situations of person-by-person exploitation. Even if he accepted that there will always be differences between people, he believed that such differences should not be a result of exploitation. He wished and attempted to build an equal, just and fair society.

"In other words, Ben Mkapa burdened himself with a responsibility of building Ujamaa in Tanzania but under the new and totally different conditions our country was going through in the 1990s. Just like other above-mentioned countries, he attempted to build Ujamaa based on the realities then existing in Tanzania. His policies and political

- He had no choice but to privatise loss-making parastatals
- Accordingly, he had to work with multilateral institutions
- He loathed personification of governance, development, personality cult



philosophies sought to reduce exploitation, to build a modern economy, to alleviate poverty and to build a just society. This explains his decision to set up institutions such as TASAF (Tanzania Social Action Fund) and develop Vision 2025."

Mzee Ruhinda explains that the major objective of Ujamaa as a poverty alleviation policy was amply shared and fully implemented by Ben Mkapa's administration through policy decisions aimed at the building of a modern economy.

He says: "Ben believed that the country could not fight and alleviate poverty through sheer ideology and utopia. To him, only actions based on the realities as they then existed in the country could achieve that.

"Ben believed that it was a sheer waste of time attempting to build a modern economy without taking concrete actions, some of which were not popular then. President John Magufuli underscored this point very well with his excellent speech at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam during the national mourning for Ben. Former president Kikwete also did

as much, with his wonderful articulation on Mkapa's legacy during burial at Lupaso. In the course of attempting to build a modern economy, as I explained previously, Mkapa had to embark on some very unpopular policies then - such as the Privatisation Programme."

Mzee Ruhinda adds: "There are many excellent achievements to Mwalimu Nyerere's credit. We all know them. Our Nation knows them. The list of the achievements is endless, and his legacy historical. There can never be any way of doubting that, and history will forever remember him and the wonderful gifts he bestowed on our country and our people.

"But there are some policies on which it is generally agreed that, because of our society's existing conditions then, they were failures. The policy that led to the privatisation of large commercial farms and factories and the setting up of large numbers of parastatal institutions, all at the taxpayer's expense, was disastrous. In order to build a modern economy, this had to change."

He goes further: "Ben was also mercilessly roasted by the political class and the media in equal measure for working and cooperating with major multilateral institutions, notably the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). But I honestly believe that, under the current global conditions, it is almost impossible to build a modern economy without such international cooperation. Still, cooperation with multilateral institutions cannot impede the building of Ujamaa. You cannot argue that China and Russia are not building Socialism today simply because they are cooperating with the WB and IMF."

Ambassador Ruhinda then turns his attention to another principle that guided Mkapa's administration and his approach to governance: "True, Ben Mkapa built the foundation for a modern economy. This was a major achievement by his presidency. However, he did not achieve this alone. It was Ben Mkapa working with others - his ministers and his entire cabinet, his Party, the central bank (Bank of Tanzania), and

many other people - including advisors. Vision 2025, for example, though I do not know where we stand on this now and how much has been achieved...was the brainchild of Mkapa and various other people. My point here is that all these achievements were not Mkapa's alone. He sincerely and firmly believed in the tenets of collective leadership."

He elaborates: "Our country has a major challenge, and it is the challenge of personification of governance, of development, of everything. We are building a personality cult. This has been there for some time and it is going on now - but personifying everything is a very dangerous trend. We need a leader, yes, but a leader is not everything. Standing alone, that leader will struggle... We need institutions and processes.

"We have recently been singing praises on our country's achievement of middle income economy status, for example. We are personalising that too. I have not had time to read much about this achievement. However, I am informed, that the upgrade of our economy has been confirmed by the World Bank. Yes, this is some achievement, but it is still a small one. We have just started. We have just opened the door into middle income economy status. Let us not overdo our praises. The battle to alleviate poverty is still long and will remain difficult."

Ambassador Ruhinda then addresses issues related to Ben Mkapa as a journalist and as an editor, which have also raised some debate recently: "When I first joined The Nationalist, and you guys know this better as you have all worked in newsrooms, we had a postmortem every morning to review our work and product of the previous day. Ben was the chairperson of these meetings. I liked his leadership during these meetings. We discussed freely, independently...we had friendly debates. We agreed on some issues, and differed on others. Ben would allow full freedom of debate and flow of ideas. But, as the editor, he would make a final decision on the position of the paper. In my view, that is what the job of the Editor is - to guide the final editorial direction of a media organisation. In that respects, yes, an editor is a controller or gatekeeper of his media product and outlet - and Ben was no different."

Ambassador Ruhinda adds: "But to claim that Benjamin Mkapa was an impediment to free flow of ideas, that he prevented debate, and that he intervened in thought processes by directing thinking in the newsrooms...no, that is just not true. I remember during our time at the Nationalist, we had reporters and journalists from Ghana and Biafra, and everybody was free to express his or her thoughts and ideas. However, the final decision on the paper's direction remained the editor's. That is how media outlets operate globally, and decision making is finally the core responsibility of the editor."

Mzee Ruhinda also explains that Ben Mkapa was fully qualified as a journalist and as an editor before his appointment as editor of the Nationalist newspaper: "Mkapa was trained as a journalist before he was appointed to lead the Nationalist. He was attached for training to The Daily Mirror, one of Britain's leading and influential publications, and worked there for some time, acquiring experience as a reporter and editor. But even before the attachment, he was a very able and excellent writer, very comfortable in both working languages - English and Kiswahili. He was also a proficient and excellent speaker of both languages. In my view, Mkapa was a very able journalist and an efficient editor."

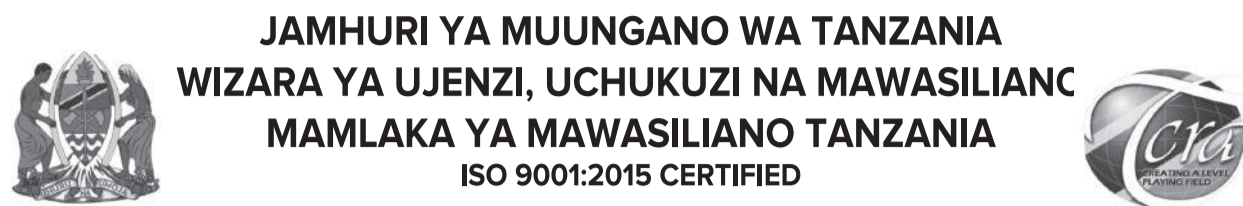
Finally, from Ambassador Ruhinda: "Allow me to conclude just as I started - by repeating what I said at the beginning of this interview. I was attracted to Ben Mkapa, as a friend, because of his wonderful human attributes. He was an excellent human being. As I said, Ben had all the good human qualities a human can possibly have. He had a willing heart. He was guided and directed by good intentions, and he meant well - throughout his life. Rest in Peace, Benjamin William Mkapa, my friend, my brother."

• All three writers who have contributed to this series of articles are Tanzanians boasting decades of distinguished track record in media practice. Salva Rweyemamu and Saidi Nguba are currently Directors with Dar es Salaam-based Pioneer Communications Limited, while Tido Mhando is Managing Director with Azam Media Group.



Flashback: President John Magufuli in tete-a-tete with former president Benjamin Mkapa





**TAARIFA KWA UMMA KUHUSU VITUO VYA UTANGAZAJI NCHINI  
VINAVYOJIUNGA NA VITUO VINGINE VYA UTANGAZAJI  
VYA NDANI NA NJE YA NCHI NA RAIA WA KIGENI KUTEMBELEA  
VITUO VYA UTANGAZAJI HAPA NCHINI.**

### 1.0 UTANGULIZI

Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) ina dhamana ya kusimamia Sekta ya Utangazaji pamoja na Sekta nyingine za Mawasiliano, ikiwa ni pamoja na kuhakikisha kuwa vituo vya Utangazaji vinazingatia weledi wa vipindi na habari au matukio yanayorushwa na vituo vyao. Ili kuhakikisha kuwa vituo vya Utangazaji vinatimiza wajibu wao, TCRA hutumia Kanuni zinazosimamia Sekta pamoja na kutoa leseni zilizo na msharti (Licence conditions) ya jinsi ya kutoa huduma za Utangazaji nchini.

**Kanuni ya 37** ya "THE ELECTRONIC AND POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS (RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING CONTENT) REGULATIONS, za 2018" ziliruhusu vituo vya Utangazaji kujiunga na kituo chochote cha utangazaji kwa ajili ya matangazo mubashara ili mradi kunakuwa na makubaliano ya kibiashara.

### 2.0 UZOEFU ULIOPATIKANA

Katika kusimamia utekelezaji wa Kanuni hii, kumekuwa na changamoto ya vipindi au habari zinazorushwa na vituo vya Utangazaji hasa pale vinapojiunga na vituo vya Utangazaji vilivyoko nje ya nchi na kurusha habari au matukio yanayohusu nchi yetu. Kwa mfano inapotokea dhahiri kuwa habari zinazohusu Nchi yetu hazikuzingatia maadili na weledi wa uandishi wa habari, huku habari hizo zikirushwa na vituo vilivyopewa leseni na TCRA, ni dhahiri hiyo inasababisha changamoto katika utekelezaji wa Kanuni hizo.

### 3.0 UTATUZI

Ili kuweza kusimamia vizuri maudhui ya nje yanayorushwa mubashara, Kanuni ya 37 ilifanyiwa marekebisho mwaka 2020 kwa kuongeza kanuni ndogo (2) inayokitaka Kituo chochote cha Utangazaji kinachotaka kujiunga na kituo kingine cha ndani au nje ya nchi kwa ajili ya kurusha matangazo yake yakiwemo yale ya mubashara kupata kibali/ruhusa ya kufanya hivyo kutoka TCRA. Huu ni utaratibu tu wa kawaida na biashara zitaendelea.

Aidha, ifahamike kuwa marekebisho haya yanavihusu vituo vyote vya utangazaji vya Redio na Televisheni na watoa huduma za Maudhui Mtandaoni (Online Radio & Televisheni).

Hivyo, TCRA inavielekeza vituo vya Utangazaji vinavyohitaji kurusha matangazo ya vituo vya Utangazaji vilivyoko nje ya nchi kuwasilisha makubaliano yao TCRA na kupata kibali kama utaratibu wa kawaida wenye lengo la kuleta ufanisi katika usimamizi wa maudhui yanayorushwa na vituo hivyo.

Kwa vituo ambavyo tayari wanarusha matangazo ya vituo hivi, vinatakiwa kuomba kibali/ruhusa husika na kuwasilisha makubaliano yao TCRA na sio kusimamisha matangazo au makubaliano yaliyopo. Huu ni utaratibu mzuri utakaowiezesha TCRA kufahamu makubaliano hayo na kusimamia Sekta kwa ufanisi kwa mujibu wa sheria na kanuni zilizo.

Vile vile Kanuni ya 37 ilifanyiwa marekebisho pia mwaka 2020 kwa kuongeza Kanuni ndogo ya (4) inayotaka raia wa kigeni anayetaka kutembelea kituo cha Utangazaji kwa shughuli inayohusiana na utangazaji au kufanya biashara/shughuli inayohusiana na utangazaji kuambatana na Afisa wa Serikali au wa TCRA. Kwa mantiki hiyo Kituo cha Utangazaji hakiruhusiwi kumruhusu raia wa kigeni kwa shughuli zilizotajwa kama hajaambatana na Afisa husika.

#### Kanuni hii ya 37 (4) imewekwa ili:

- kuweka uwazi madhumuni ya ushiriki wa raia wa kigeni katika shughuli za utangazaji wanapotembelea vituo vya Utangazaji hapa nchini;
- Kutumiza matakwa ya itifaki za kidiplomasia kuwa wawakilishi wa nchi za nje na mashirika ya kimataifa wanapaswa kuambatana au kupokewa kule wanakokwenda na maafisa wa Serikali wanapokuwa wamepata kibali cha kutembelea miradi ambayo wanajihusisha nayo; na
- Kuhakikisha uendeshaji wa vituo vyetu vya utangazaji unazingatia uhibitaji wenye uwazi (Regulatory Monitoring Transparency) hususan kwa upande wa ufundi maana ujenzi wa vituo hivyo huruhusiwa kwa kibali (Construction Permit – CP) cha TCRA.

Kwa hiyo, TCRA inavielekeza Vituo vyote kuwasilisha maombi yao ndani ya siku saba (7) tokea kutolewa kwa Taarifa hii kwa mara ya kwanza 11 Agosti, 2020. Na, tunawashukuru wale ambao tayari wameanza kutekeleza wito huu.

Ifahamike pia kwamba hoja kuu hapa ni Vyombo vya Habari na si Waandishi wa Habari.

#### Imetolewa na:

**Mkurugenzi Mkuu,  
Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania,  
Mawasiliano Towers,  
Kitalu Na. 20 Barabara ya Sam Nujoma,  
S. L. P 474,  
14414 DAR ES SALAAM  
12 Agosti, 2020**

215856301

www.nbc.co.tz

## TENDER NOTICE

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES

- National Bank of Commerce Limited has set aside funds for the procurement of various services during financial year 2020/2021, it is intended that, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the various contracts.
- Request for proposal is open to all eligible service providers with proven experience and capacity to offer the required services. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the provision of below list of services;
  - Mobile Banking application
  - Chat Banking application
- Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from the website [www.nbc.co.tz](http://www.nbc.co.tz) and then click 'Procurement' to access the document.
- All Proposals in one original and one copy set properly filled in, and enclosed in sealed envelope marked as per service name written on the RFP Document and should be addressed to; **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, and P. O. BOX 1863 DAR ES SALAAM.**
- Sealed applications and Bids must be submitted not later than **Friday, 04<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 1600 hrs.** Proposal shall be delivered by hand to the Tender Box located at reception of Head Office building, ground floor along Sokoine Drive /Azikiwe Street.

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED**

215856401

The Bank for a Working Nation



### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION RFQ 2020 - 08/01

**Closing Date: Wednesday 26th August 2020, 11am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)**

Pact Inc. is an international non-profit organization with its headquarters in Washington, DC. Pact serves communities challenged by poverty and marginalization because we envision a world where everyone owns their future. To do this, we build systemic solutions in partnership with local organizations, businesses and government. Our goal is thriving, resilient communities where those we serve are heard, capable, and vibrant.

Pact Tanzania now invites quotes from eligible, registered companies to supply start up kits to 379 out of school OVC age 14-17 in targeted councils. Below is list of start up kits to be supplied and distributed.

No	Type of Kit	# of kits needed
1	Plumbing kit	2
2	Masonry and Brick layering kit	3
3	Carpentry and joinery	14
4	Hair dressing and Beauty	15
5	Tailoring and Dress making kit	210
6	Batik Making kit	2
7	Decorations (venue) kit	8
8	Auto electrical toolbox	5
9	Baking and Decoration	3
10	Catering and Food production	18
11	Electronic installation toolbox	28
12	Welding and Fabrication	14
13	Motor vehicle mechanic toolbox	24
14	Motorcycle mechanics toolbox	1

Interested vendors should request for the full Terms of Reference through email to [procurementTZ@pactworld.org](mailto:procurementTZ@pactworld.org), deadline for requesting ToR is Monday 24th August 2020.

Interested, eligible vendor should deliver their quotation to:

**The Tender Committee  
Pact Tanzania  
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria  
P. O. Box 6348, Dar es salaam, Tanzania**

All quotes must be in Tanzanian Shillings and enclosed in a plain sealed envelope. The deadline is 11am EAT Wednesday 26th August 2020.

#### Please note:

- Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
- The quote that complies with all the specifications/requirements and offers the lowest price, as well as all other evaluation criteria indicated in the TOR, shall be selected.
- Pact may cancel solicitation and not award.
- Pact may reject any or all responses received.
- Issuance of request for quotes does not constitute a contract commitment by Pact.
- Pact reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow the solicitation instructions.
- Pact reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
- Pact will be contacting all offerors to confirm contact person, address and that the proposal was submitted for this solicitation.

215856101



# CPTPP trade liberalisation charade continues

KUALA LUMPUR

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement should be dead and buried after President Trump announced US withdrawal immediately after his inauguration in January 2017. After all, most major US presidential candidates in the last election, including Hillary Clinton, had opposed the TPP.

Encircling China with trade pact

However, the Japanese, Australian and Singaporean governments have kept the TPP alive, first by mooting TPP11, i.e., minus the USA, later pretentiously relabelled the Comprehensive and Progressive TPP (CPTPP), with the hope that the US will rejoin later. Other governments have remained 'on board' for various reasons, mainly foreign policy considerations, rather than with serious expectations of economic benefits, while ignoring the dangers and risks.

Last week, yet another ministerial meeting reiterated pious claims of steady progress as CPTPP boosters try to remain relevant despite the fast declining appetite for regional trade deals.

The CPTPP did not even get rid of the most onerous TPP provisions, but only suspended some intellectual property (IP) and other provisions, mainly of interest to the USA. These can easily be reincluded to bring the USA back in after

the November election.

However, other onerous aspects, such as investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions, remain. In the wake of Covid-19, lawyers are already advising foreign investors how to use extraordinary coping measures to sue governments, which will cost them even if they win.

If re-elected, the Trump administration's opposition to ISDS can easily be accommodated to bring the US back on board as it seeks new measures to isolate and weaken China. Biden will also revive a TPP avatar, having supported it before as Obama's loyal Vice-President.

But reselling the TPP in the USA will not be easy. Already, many US manufacturing jobs have been lost due to corporations automating and relocating abroad. Trump has changed US public discourse so much that most Americans now blame globalization, immigration, China and foreigners for the problems they face.

False claims for trade deal

Various studies have shown that supposed trade gains from the TPP claimed by its advocates were greatly exaggerated and misleading. This should come as no surprise.

The US already has free trade agreements with six of the other 11 TPP countries. Trade barriers with the other five were already low in most cases, so there was little scope for further



trade liberalization, except for US post-Vietnam war legislation.

All twelve also belong to the World Trade Organization (WTO) which concluded the 'single largest trade agreement ever' over a quarter century ago. For trade liberalization guru Jagdish Bhagwati, both bilateral and plurilateral FTAs undermine trade liberalisation welfare arguments.

For the Peterson Institute of International Economics (PIIE), the principal TPP advocate, gains mainly come from additional foreign direct investment (FDI), due to more investor rights, implying greater concessions from, and less gains for host economies.

But the official US International Trade Commis-

sion doubted PIIE claims of significant growth benefits in mid-2016, well before Trump was elected. Supposed gains were either dubious or paltry over the long-term time horizon involved.

Investor friendly rules? Rather than promoting trade, the TPP really sought more transnational corporation (TNC)-friendly rules. After all, the 6350-page deal had been negotiated by various working groups including hundreds of major US corporate representatives. But by involving lobbyists, US negotiators may well have locked themselves into a deal of little interest to most other businesses.

Doubts also remain over whether most TNCs really value the CPTPP's en-

hanced investor rights. The World Bank has found that investment treaties rank far below other considerations such as infrastructure, natural resource endowments, market size and growth potential.

Also, rules favouring foreign investors do not necessarily improve investment flows to host countries, let alone ensure development benefits without good national industrial policies in place.

Enriching rentiers

There is no evidence that stronger IP rights increase innovation, research and development. Strengthening IP monopolies for powerful TNCs, such as pharmaceutical firms, would raise the value of trade through higher prices, not more goods and services.

Extending IP protection would raise the prices of pharmaceutical drugs, including 'biologics', significantly increasing health costs. For Medecins Sans Frontieres, the TPP would go down in history as the worst "cause of needless suffering and death" in developing countries.

US laws cannot protect consumers anywhere. Martin Shkreli infamously raised the price of a drug whose patent he had bought by 6000%, from USD12.50 to USD750! As 'price-gouging' is not unlawful in the US, he was convicted for unrelated financial fraud.

Meanwhile, powerful pharmaceutical TNCs have made clear their intention to charge high prices for new vaccines despite enjoying government subsidies. Whereas vaccines for smallpox, polio, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases were available at cost, higher costs, due to enhanced IPRs, will impose heavy human and economic tolls.

Enabling foreign corporate bullying

FDI was expected to go up, thanks to enhanced TPP investor protection. Foreign companies could then sue TPP governments for ostensible loss of profits due to policy changes, even if in the national or public interest, e.g., to contain Covid-19 contagion.

ISDS is arbitrated by private tribunals. This extrajudicial system supersedes national laws and judicial

ies, with secret rulings not bound by precedent or subject to appeal.

All who have seriously studied TPP impacts concede that it offers little additional growth. Even the modest trade growth claims are premised on US market access, no longer on offer with the CPTPP, which incredibly, now claims even more growth benefits.

Without the USA, the CPTPP will mainly strengthen Japanese TNCs. With greater rights for foreign investors, domestic investments may even relocate abroad, e.g., to CPTPP tax havens. Declining foreign investment in recent years could thus accelerate with the CPTPP.

From the frying pan into the fire

The Covid-19 pandemic has precipitated severe recessions, which threaten to become depressions, as many governments had to impose nationwide 'stay in shelter' lockdowns with physical distancing and other preventive requirements disrupting economic life.

It is now clear that the CPTPP has not slowed growing trade protectionism. Instead, transborder supply chains have been disrupted, sometimes deliberately, with the US and Japan demanding 'onshoring', urging TNCs to withdraw investments and out-sourcing from China, also hurting suppliers, many from Southeast Asia.

Agencies

STOCKHOLM/ROME

COVID-19 has become a scourge affecting all levels of human society - morals, behaviour, human interaction, economy and politics. The pandemic has wrecked havoc on our way of being and its impact will remain huge and all-encompassing. It is not only affecting our globally shared existence, it is also changing what has been called "the little life", i.e. our own way of thinking and being, our personal life situation and the one of those close to us; people we love and depend upon - our friends and family.

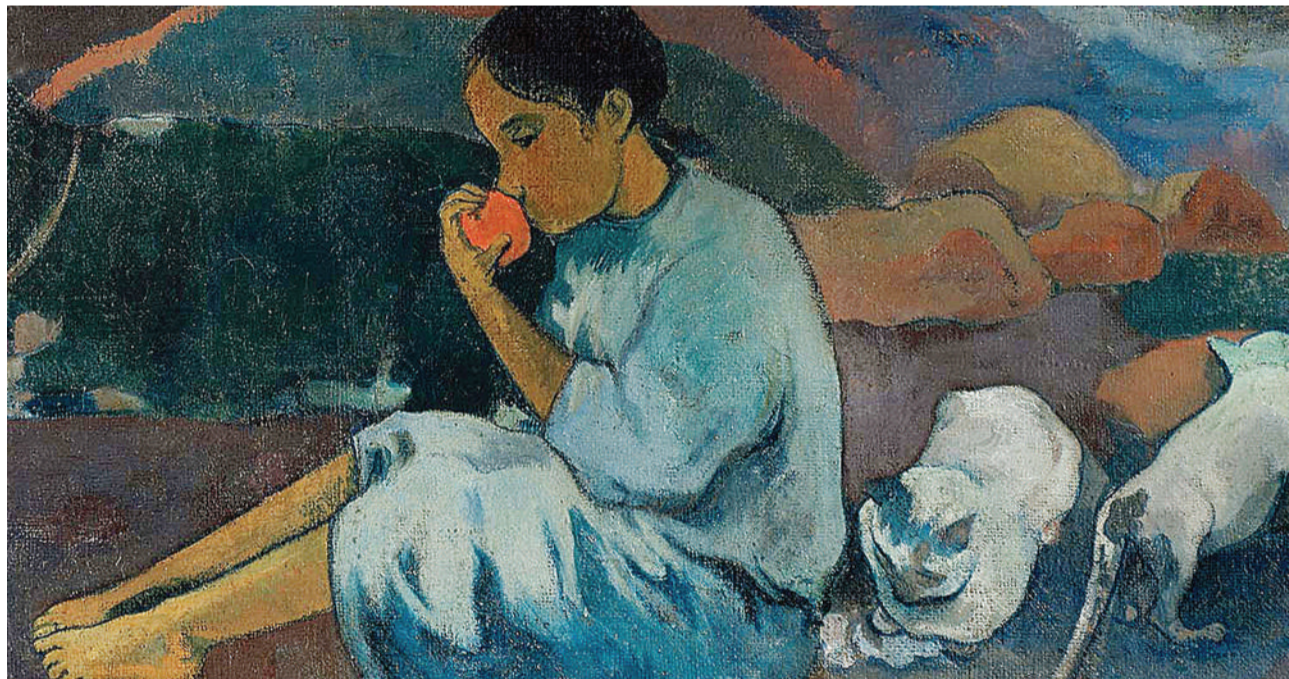
COVID-19 has so far mainly contaminated humans, though since everything on earth is connected it is already threatening other species, maybe the entire equilibrium of our vulnerable planet.

A painting by Paul Gauguin is inscribed with the questions D'où Venons Nous/ Que Sommes Nous/ Où Allons Nous - Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going? Questions we may ask ourselves while being confronted with COVID-19. When we reflect upon our origins it is difficult to avoid the most essential question of them all - What makes us humans different from other animals?

Like any other animal we are multicellular creatures, mobile and obtain our energy from food. Furthermore, we have muscles, nervous systems and internal cavities where food is broken down and converted into energy. As mammals, we can regulate our body temperature, our female variety can give birth to live children and breastfeed them.

However, our brain has difficulties in accepting

## Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?



that we actually are animals and thus highly dependent on nature. Our excessively abstract thinking, our ability to express ourselves in languages and symbols, have set us apart from other animals and contributed to the development of complex, ever-changing societies. We are able to communicate and cooperate in large numbers and have developed a unique capacity to believe in things existing purely in our imagination, such as gods, nations and money. This has placed us beside nature, made us think that we are unique and have the right to exploit everything for our own benefit, making us arrogant, prone to discrimination and making use of other creatures in an often abusive and even cruel manner.

Is this an unavoidable ingredient of the evolution of life on earth? As an answer to Gauguin's first question: "Where do we come from?" science has organized human evolution into six levels. We share the first five with other creatures, while the sixth level makes us unique.

In the beginning, chemical

compounds developed in liquid water and became bacteria, which over millions of years were transformed into eukaryotic cells, containing a nucleus and organelles enclosed by a plasma membrane. Our bodies are constructed by such cells. Millions of years later, a third crucial advance came about - sexuality, i.e. the controlled and regular exchange of DNA between cells. Finally, the eukaryotic cells assembled into multicellular organisms and it is here we find the ancestors to all animal species, including Homo Sapiens.

The fifth transition was more of a social than a biological change - eusociality, a phenomenon that occurred when animals came together in huge groups, where they developed a high level of cooperation, based on division of labour and altruism. It is altruism that makes us human, meaning that we as individuals are prepared to benefit others at our own expense. You might, with good reason, claim that humans are not at all any sympathetic beings. That each one of us is mainly concerned with her/his

own well-being, and this quite often at the expense of others. Nevertheless, while considering human society in its entirety it becomes evident that every individual is dependent on the welfare of others.

Humans are actually prepared to sacrifice themselves for the well-being of their loved ones, or even risking their lives for what they believe is the contentment and prosperity of the entire human society. They may act as health workers, fire men, or soldiers - there are numerous more examples of such tasks and assignments that actually have an altruistic origin. However, this is also common among other animals, even among such insects as ants and honey bees, where altruism is even more developed than among human beings. Nevertheless, the eusocial behaviour of such creatures is exempt from what we humans would call love and compassion.

What we humans have obtained at the sixth, and so far final, level of evolution is an advanced capacity for language, empathy and cooperation. This in spite of the fact that we easily

may point out major shortcomings when it comes to the last two characteristics, especially empathy.

The crucial faculty that makes us human is language. Other animals are capable of communicating by sound, facial expressions, bodily postures, and movements, though they are unable to speak in the sense that they can create the words and symbols that constitute the imaginary concepts mentioned above. This human ability has delivered us from the shackles of instinct and premeditated behaviour. Humans can create and communicate imagined and real stories, something that enable us to move back and forth through past, present and future time, and from place to place. We are able to create imaginary worlds that can be transformed into reality.

Through experience amassed by empirical science and stored in books and other data banks, we can with the help of means of communication, like mathematics, and mentally created maps and plans, transform almost anything in accordance with our needs and imagination. This unique skill has developed from our use of language and given rise to the sciences and philosophical thoughts that now are transforming the entire biosphere, while abusing it to such a degree that we are currently on the verge of destroying it completely.

This leads us to Gauguin's last question: "Where Are We Going?" Our human capacity for changing things for the better is currently put to the test, and COVID-19 may be part of that challenge. The long chain of evolutionary develop-

ment has taught us that survival and success do not depend on brutal force, but on empathy, compassion and cooperation. In these days, chauvinism is once again exposing its ugly face around the globe and political leaders assert that competition between nations is a driving force of human social evolution. However, contrary to such ideas science has proved that it is entirely reasonable that alliances and cooperation between large populations have been beneficial for cultural evolution and the sharing of resources. Innovations and beneficial solutions are more frequent within a large and diversified group, than in a small, homogenous one. Knowledge and skills are most effectively created and preserved within a global environment.

At the same time, it is also important to safeguard "the little life". It was apparently there that the success story of human evolution once began. Our current, massive cerebral memory banks were established by the African campsites of the first Homo Sapiens. While they prepared and shared their food they were talking about what had happened during the day and made plans for the future, and not only that - they entertained one another with tales about real and invented incidents and adventures, they sang and danced. While devoting time to such social interactions our ancestors developed and advanced their social skills and capacities. This meant that brutal strength and physical proficiency was not the most essential component in their struggle for control and

survival. The main issue was to take care of and accept the abilities of each and every member of the group.

One specific feature of humans has been that we honour and take care of the elderly. It was the stories about their experiences and the time they, in particular grandmothers, were able to dedicate to their grandchildren, that made it possible for younger members of the group to procure and prepare food, as well as shelter and protection for all of its members. Both children and their parents could thus, by making use of the skills of the elderly, gain experiences that ultimately fostered human development.

It is social interaction and empathy, not violence and discrimination that have been essential contributors to the evolution of our larger brain and higher intelligence, as well as the enormous source of experience and knowledge we humans have amassed over time. Let us now hope that all this will lead to a global consensus that the future well-being and actual life on earth depends on us all and our ability to express compassion and work together as the eusocial creatures we de facto are. Hopefully this could be a lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, teaching us that the earth is an enclosed sphere where every living creature is connected. It is now high time that humans shed their harmful arrogance and finally realized that peaceful coexistence, mutual support and shared responsibilities for our vulnerable biosphere is not only our raison d'être as human beings, but a necessity for the survival of our entire planet.

Agencies





**MARKET TRENDS**  
Both small and big investors reap windfall profits from bank as dividend soars to 44.4bn/- **page 15**

Thursday 13 August 2020

## Expert advises agency to review merger threshold for companies

By Francis Kajubi

**T**HE threshold requiring merging companies to seek Fair Competition Commission approval should be reviewed to enable rapid development of the sector, an expert has advised.

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of SSC Capital, Salum Awadh said FCC should also reform its regulations to allow pension funds take part in venture capital. Awadh said last week that the threshold for businesses to merge without requiring FCC approval should be increased to US\$6 million to align with Kenyan counterparts.

"We have some policy challenges including the lower threshold for merger notification required by FCC, pension funds not being allowed to invest in venture capital as an asset class, and lack of specific tax incentives for promoting the industry," said Awadh.

SSC Capital founder has suggested that policy and legal reforms to develop a competitive venture capital industry in the country, among others, should include the increase in merger

notification threshold.

According to him, the current threshold does not give a conducive environment to attract venture capital through mergers both at home and abroad so that the country can compete with other markets in East Africa notably Kenya.

"Venture capital and private equity is a fairly new industry in Tanzania, we still have massive work to do to increase investment flow, and unlock the industry, which currently stands at around 17 percent of US\$2.4bn, which is the regional industry size," he argued.

He asserted that Nairobi is Dar's main competitor for venture capital but with its merger threshold increased to around US\$10 million, it leaves Tanzania's estimated US\$1.2 million, far behind.

He hinted that increment in the threshold amount will widen the scope of venture capital transactions that need no FCC approval hence attract businesses that currently end up in Kenya and other EAC markets. The FCC raised the threshold from 800m/- to 3.5bn/- in 2017.

Responding to Awadh's concerns, FCC's Head of Communication, Frank Mndimi said that there is a big difference on how the commission operates compared to the Competition Authority of Kenya hence the varying of the approval processes with some taking months.

"FCC does everything on its own from investigation of the merger applications to approval while in the case of Kenya, such process is at large done by COMESA Competition Authority with the Competition Authority of Kenya take over the process at a point where everything is clear. That's why ACK can take few months to approve mergers," argued Mndimi.

On the case of increasing the threshold, he said that the current margin depicts the country's economy in line with financial status of entrepreneurs and startups. The FCC spokesman added that the local market has a big merger threshold that does not obligate merging businesses to seek the commission's approval compared to other countries in the EAC and SADC regions.



SSC Capital CEO Salum Awadh.



NCBA Group CEO John Gachora.

## Bank saves Sh222m by paying bond early

NAIROBI

Banking group NCBA #ticker:NCBA is set to redeem its Sh7 billion corporate bond 91 days ahead of its December 14, 2020 maturity date, a move that will see it save Sh222.5 million in interest expenses.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm says it will now settle the debt on September 14 using internal cash flows. The bond was issued on December 22, 2014 by CBA Group which merged with the former NIC Group to create the NCBA Group. The merged entity inherited the liabilities of the two former banks.

The debt has a fixed coupon of 12.75 per cent payable semi-annually and will have accrued interest of Sh222.5 million by the early redemption date, with the bank saving a similar amount by cancelling the obligation. "We are paying the bond from our internal cash flows," John Gachora, NCBA's chief executive told the Business Daily, adding that the lender has plenty of liquidity.

The early bond redemption will reduce interest expenses and is one of the optimal uses of capital at this time when lending has become riskier with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr Gachora said. Bondholders on record as of August 12 will be paid their principal together with the accrued interest on the new maturity date.

Settling the debt ahead of time marks NCBA's increased conservatism. The lender had earlier declared a final dividend of Sh1.5 per share for the year ended December 2019, but later cancelled the proposed payout citing the risks posed by the pandemic.

The move saw it save Sh2.2 billion. To preserve capital while offering shareholders an opportunity to raise cash through selling stock on the NSE, the bank is capitalising Sh748.8 million to issue bonus shares at a rate of one for every 10 held.

NCBA's redemption of its debt will further diminish the corporate bond market that has seen a drought of new issues in the wake of defaults and fraud that has cost insurers, fund managers and high-net-worth individuals billions of shillings.

East African Breweries Limited, Family Bank and property developer Acorn will be the only credible firms with outstanding bonds of Sh6 billion, Sh2 billion and Sh786 million respectively, according to NSE data. Chase Bank and Real People defaulted on their Sh4.8 billion and Sh2.6 billion bonds respectively.

## Horticultural group collects three awards at agribusiness exhibition

By The Banker reporter

Tanzania Horticultural Association and its affiliates took home three awards at this year's 'Nane-Nane' Agriculture Exhibitions held at national level in Simiyu Region.

Taha which is credited with turning the country's horticulture industry into a vibrant foreign currency earner with whopping US\$779 million per in the past 16 years was also feted in Arusha and Mwanza where zonal exhibitions were held.

The group was declared first-runner up in Simiyu for being a competent organization of the year 2020 in private sector's category for its painstaking efforts to grow the horticulture industry which has since changed lives of many smallholder farmers.

"It feels so good after emerging as a winner in private sector's category at 'Nane Nane' agricultural exhibitions for Lake Zone and Northern Zone as well as first runner-up in Nyakabindi in Simiyu. I'm proud of my vibrant team which has done a good job," said Taha Group's CEO, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi.

"We, however, dedicate the awards to our farmers and more importantly to our development partners who enabled us achieve this feat," Dr Mkindi added saying the horticulture group also featured prominently in Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa's speech delivered at the climax of this



Taha Group CEO Dr Jacqueline Mkindi (L) is joined by peers in celebrating winning three awards at this year's 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibition held countrywide last week.

year's exhibitions in Simiyu Region last week.

Majaliwa who visited Taha's booth and demonstration plot at the show, praised the institution for its steadfast struggles to compliment government's efforts in developing the agriculture industry. "I am used to following

up Taha's undertakings for quite sometimes now, and I must say that its work in our country is praiseworthy," the PM said.

Majaliwa called upon Tanzanians to invest heavily in horticulture because the industry has become a game changer but also pledged government's

commitment to continue working closely with Taha in a bid to take the horticulture sub-sector to new heights.

"I would like to implore farmers to seek loans through the state owned Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank that issues credits hassle-free. There's a lot of money waiting for

farmers there," the PM told Taha members at the pavilion in Simiyu.

Taha was also commended for its tailor-made interventions backed by United Nations Development Programme which is targeting commercial horticulture production in Busega and Bunda districts with a view to transform lives of farmers and rural economy at large.

Since its inception in 2004, Taha has been an effective lobby group for producers, traders, exporters and processors of horticultural products, mainly flowers, fruits, vegetables, horticultural seeds and spices. Over the period, Taha has increased the number of farmers from less than 50 to more than 4.5 million both large-scale, medium and smallholders farmers.

As a result, the horticultural industry has turned into the growth driver of the country's agriculture sector with annual growth rate of 11 percent with exports value increasing by 38 percent on average thanks to backing by the government and development partners such as USAID. Other key partners include SIDA, UNDP, TRIAS and FFD to mention, but a few.

## African tech startups raise U\$1.4b in five years

GENEVA

International funding for tech startups in Nigeria and the rest of Africa rose to \$1.4 billion between 2015 and 2019. However, investment flow could dip this year hit hard by the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic, projected to decline by up to 45 per cent, according (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2020.

The highest record of funding within the review period was last year of \$491.6 million recorded by 311 companies across the African tech startup space. Startup news and research portal Disrupt Africa, which tracks the total amount of funding raised by African tech startups each year, found the number of startups that secured

investment increased by more than 50 per cent on 2018, while total funding grew 47 per cent.

Kenya and Nigeria were the lead markets in terms of total funding, securing \$149 million and \$122 million each in funding, though Egypt was the main market in terms of startup numbers, with 88 companies rising funding over the year. In 2018, African tech startups smashed funding records as 210 start-

ups secured \$334.5 million worth of investment; with Nigeria emerging as the premier investment destination on the continent.

A key finding of the report was the emergence of Nigeria as Africa's startup funding hub, after years of playing second fiddle to South Africa. With 58 startups raising a total of \$94,912,000 in investment, the country was clearly top dog; while South Africa fell behind

with 40 businesses raising \$59,971,000.

The Disrupt Africa Tech Startups Funding Report 2017 found that 159 startups in Africa secure funds more than \$195 billion. The growing rate increased to and the funds went up 51 per cent on 2016 investments. Also South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya remained the top three investment destinations for the third year running.

146 African tech startups rose fund-

ing in excess of \$129 million in 2016, with the number of startups securing funding up by 16.8 per cent compared to the previous year. South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya remained the three most popular investment destinations on the continent, accounting for 80.3 per cent of funds secured. In 2015, a total of 125 African tech startups attracted \$185-million in funding, according to Disrupt Africa report.



# NIT, Tazara forge partnership to develop their human capital

By The Banker Reporter

In a bid to professionalise its manpower, Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority has forged working relations with National Institute of Transport for training.

Speaking after a field visit by NIT's Governing Council members to Tazara earlier this week, NIT Rector Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said the centre of excellence in East and Central Africa for transport and logistics management, has potential to solve Tazara's many challenges.

Prof Mganilwa added that the institute will identify the many challenges facing the railway authority including qualified human resources and prescribe a solution for them. "NIT will attach transport expert to Tazara for at least three months to find out exactly what are the challenges and later come up with solutions that will make the railway company achieve its goals," he said.

"We are enthusiastic to see Tazara benefit from NIT trainings programs for its employees, supply them with competent employees and exchange knowledge and experience," the NIT chief added while noting that among other things, the rail authority's management has acknowledged that it is facing shortage of qualified personnel because over 400 of its employees retire annually.

"We have many young people who have graduated from NIT and are unemployed. Tazara will provide volunteer work opportunities for our graduate mechanical engineers who need practical. I am confident that with them, the authority will be revived," Prof Mganilwa noted.



NIT delegation including the rector, Prof Zacharia Mganilwa (2nd L) is taken around Tazara premises in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo courtesy of NIT.

wa noted.

Briefing the NIT delegation, Tazara's Deputy Managing Director, Geoffrey Sengo said the authority is currently facing shortage of working capital which has led to inadequate and unreliable rolling stock, inadequate maintenance of tracks, obsolete telecommunication and signalling system and high indebtedness, among others.

"Tazara has a workforce of 2,775 employees many of which are old," he said adding that annual labour turnover has been on the increase from 262 being

9.4 percent I 2019/20 from 447 or about 16.1 percent in 2018/19. "The problem is that most employees were recruited at almost the same age hence the mass retirement with about 400 per year," he added.

Sengo added, "Training is one of our priorities currently through which in 2019/20 alone, about 80 employees were trained in various disciplines."

Tazara Deputy Managing Director pointed out that the company has been given 10bn/- by shareholders to procure 42 traction motors for

rehabilitation of seven locomotives but also buy quarrying equipment including excavator, drill rig, dump truck as well as paying salaries to employees. "We thank shareholding governments for efforts to revitalize Tazara," he noted.

The NIT delegation tour followed an order by Minister for Works Transport and Communication, Engineer Isack Kamwelwe last December for the governing council to visit all institutions which are under its ministry so as to see how they can solve their human capital challenges.

## DTB inks Sh5.4bn World Bank loan deal for SMEs



DTB Group chief executive Nasim Devji.

NAIROBI

Diamond Trust Bank Kenya has become the second top-tier lender in less than a month to secure Sh5.41 billion (\$50 million) from the World Bank Group's private sector arm for onward lending to small and medium-sized businesses which have been hardest hit by economic woes as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) loan will enable Kenya's eighth largest lender by assets to continue giving credit to small traders and companies, largely perceived to be risky by lenders because of inadequate collateral for loans.

Small-sized businesses have been hardest hit by the economic effects and uncertainty of the pandemic, weakening their ability to save and tap loans. "This facility will enable us to support SMEs to address their cash flow challenges, which is a key concern as businesses need easy access to short-term liquidity," DTB Group chief executive Nasim Devji said in a statement on Tuesday.

"We urge our SME borrowers to take advantage of the facility to ensure their survival during these tough times, as we remain committed to their development." The cash is part of the IFC's global

\$8 billion (Sh864.88 billion) Covid-19 facility, launched in March to support businesses with working and trade-related capital and protect jobs at a time countries are grappling with depressed economic activity as a result of the restrictions to stem the spread of the pandemic.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) governor Patrick Njoroge, quoting a survey he said was commissioned by Industrialisation and Trade ministry, noted late May that three quarters of small businesses were facing serious cash flow challenges as a result of Covid-19 economic shocks.

"IFC's partnership with DTB Kenya is part of our strategy to help businesses in Kenya manage the impacts of COVID-19 so they can continue providing essential goods and services and maintain jobs," IFC chief for Kenya Manuel Moses said in the statement.

"IFC is committed to helping countries across Africa meet the unique challenges of COVID-19 and also speed the process of recovery." The deal was inked barely a month after Equity Group, Kenya's second largest lender by market share, got similar amount for the same purpose. Treasury secretary Ukur Yatani has allocated for Sh3 billion as seed capital to operationalise a credit guarantee scheme for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

## US to delist firms failing to meet accounting standards

WASHINGTON

The US Treasury said companies from China and elsewhere that do not meet American accounting standards and comply with audit requirements will be delisted from stock exchanges in the country by the end of 2021.

"As of the end of next year ... Chinese companies, [and] any other companies, they all have to comply with the same exact accounting, or they will be delisted on the exchanges," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters on Monday.

The Treasury has already sent recommendations to the US Securities and Exchange Commission, which regulates US markets, that "Chinese firms are held to the same standards" as US companies. Mr Mnuchin said the SEC was

expected to adopt its proposals.

His comments follow a report by the President's Working Group on Financial Markets (PWG) - an advisory body that included Mr Mnuchin and SEC chairman Jay Clayton - last week in response to US President Donald Trump's June 4 memorandum on protecting US investors from "significant risks from Chinese companies."

"The US is the premier jurisdiction in the world for raising capital ... we will not compromise on the core principles that underpin investor confidence in our capital markets," said Mr Mnuchin, who chaired the group. The group's proposed remedies "will increase investor protection and level the playing field for all companies listed on US exchanges", he added.

The recommendations target an issue

that has irked US regulators for many years - China's refusal to let assessors from the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to check audits of Chinese companies such as Alibaba and Baidu that trade on US exchanges. Industry analysts said the issue has been brought to the fore due to the ongoing trade dispute between Washington and Beijing.

Mr Trump has also threatened to ban Chinese video streaming app TikTok from the US market over national security concerns unless an American company buys it by September 15. Mr Mnuchin said on Monday that TikTok cannot continue in its present form collecting data on Americans on a large scale and added the Treasury has "tools" to control it.

"We can't have an app that's collecting information on Americans of this size and

scale. It's not going to continue to exist in this format," Mr Mnuchin told CNBC. "To the extent, [if] there is an appropriate US buyer that can make us comfortable with the security issues going forward that deal will be approved ... if not, the President has given a deadline and it will be shut down."

The Trump administration's efforts to ban Chinese technology apps such as TikTok and WeChat represent "an intensification of his anti-China agenda", in the run-up to this year's US presidential election in November, according to Eli Lee, head of investment strategy at Bank of Singapore. This "plays well to his base and likely also to an American public, of which 73 per cent of adults now view China unfavourably according to the Pew Research Centre," Mr Lee said in a note on Tuesday.



Union Bank's Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing Ogochukwu Ekezie-Ekaidem.

## Union Bank Edu360 partners Awarri to unearth The Next Robotics Legend

LAGOS

Union Bank, through its education platform Edu360, has announced its partnership with Awarri, a pan-African technology company, to launch The Next Robotics Legend programme.

The Next Robotics programme is designed to train students in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics, and ignite a world of possibilities. This first-of-its-kind robotics training and competition for students aged 11 to 16 is being organised as part of the Bank's efforts to boost education in Nigeria through Edu360.

The initiative will focus on identifying and nurturing young potential inventors and creators who will receive necessary training to solve some of the challenges plaguing the Nigerian society. During the entry period from August 7th to 21st, 2020, entries will be accepted on the Edu360 website, from parents and guardians of interested children within this age bracket.

The top 25 entries will be shortlisted to participate in the intensive 3-month training programme and each of the participants will receive a tablet with preloaded information; a MekaMon, a robot that offers an unparalleled education experience in advanced robotics as well as access to seasoned tutors for the programme duration. At the end of the free training programme, participants will be required to identify a need in their community, and apply the skills learnt to proffer a solution.

The student with the best solution will be admitted for a mentorship program with Awarri, the advanced AI and robotics company owned by Silas Adekunle, a top international robotics engineer renowned for creating the world's first intelligent gaming robot. Speaking on the bank's partnership with Awarri, the Head, Corporate Communications, and Marketing at Union Bank, Ogochukwu Ekezie-Ekaidem said, "Edu360 is excited to work with Awarri on this initiative because this links three areas that we are passionate about- education, innovation and talent development.

"Our focus on these three areas stems from the realisation that they are crucial in driving development and sustainable impact in Nigeria. We are focused on collaborations and partnerships that will boost the development of education and shape a better and sustainable future." To ensure the sustenance of the initiative, Edu360 will partner with four secondary schools by providing robotics toolkits and training for their teachers to enable them includes robotics in their curriculum.

Edu360 was established by Union Bank in 2018 as a platform to drive much-needed reform within the education sector and rapidly accelerate access, quality and learning outcomes for Nigerian children and youth. Union Bank remains committed to supporting initiatives that will deliver a more sustainable future for generations to come.



# Small and big investors reap huge profits from CRDB as dividend soars to 44.4bn/-

By The Banker Reporter

**F**OR Mzee Gwamaka Mwakipiki investing in the former Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (CRDB) was a big gamble.

A struggling secondary school teacher who was nearing his retirement by then, putting 150,000/- into a struggling state owned bank in 1996 was unthinkable among many of his peers and family members.

"But I said well, losing 150,000/- is a big deal because it was almost equal to my salary," Mwakipiki who resides at Mapinga in Bagamoyo said while recalling that when the bank posted a loss in 1997, his wife and children simply felt it was all over with the investment.

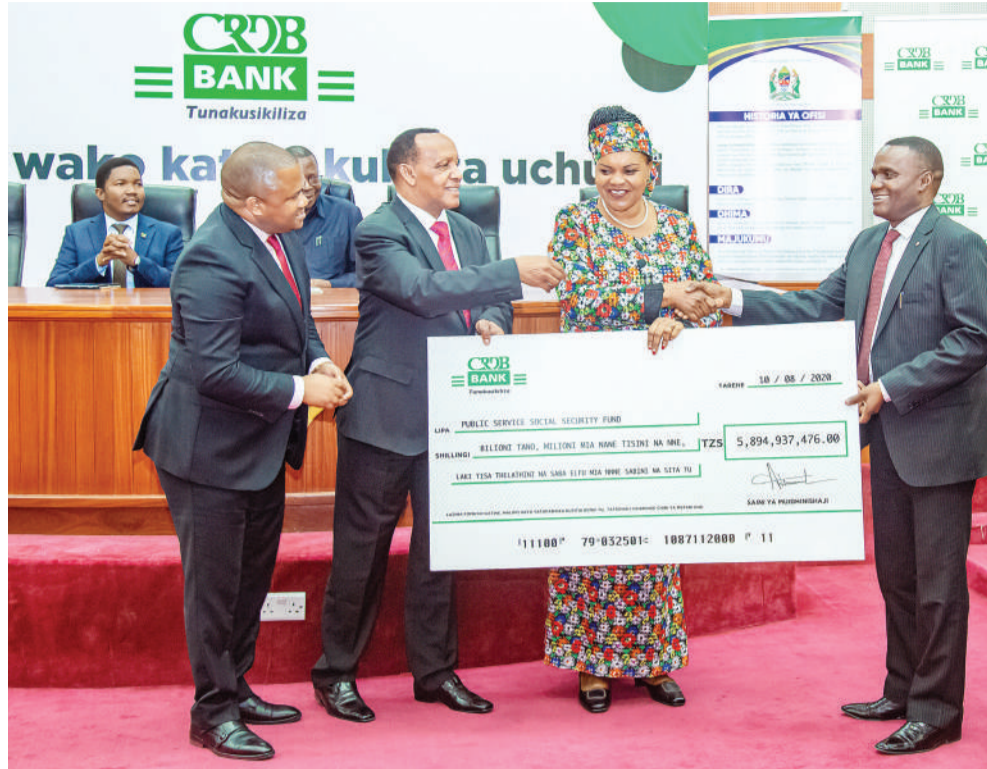
Then what followed in 1998 to date is something of a fairy tale, "I have been

making millions of shillings annually while in retirement thanks to my decision to invest in the bank which has never disappointed me," he said with a success smile while cuddling the latest annual report of the bank.

In its latest report, the Tier 1 capital bank which held its first virtual annual general meeting in June, declared a dividend of 44.4bn/- or an equivalent of 17/- per share from its impressive 120.1bn/- net profit made in 2019.

In remarks made after presenting a cheque 17bn/- to Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr Mpango in Dodoma earlier this week, CRDB Bank Plc's Board Chairman, Dr Ally Laay said the payment is a result profit made last year.

"During this year's virtual annual general meeting, shareholders endorsed payment of 17/- per share as dividend which is an equivalent of 112.5 percent," Dr Laay said while



CRDB Bank Plc board chairman Dr Ally Laay (2nd L) presents a dummy dividend cheque to Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Jenita Mhagama (2nd R), for social security funds which are shareholders of the bank. This was at a ceremony held in Dodoma earlier this week. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

promising Dr Mpango and other shareholders of more profits in the years to come.

He paid tribute to the government for continuing to put in place a conducive environment for banks to operate profitably adding that sustained profitability is a result of such good working environment.

The bank's youthful Managing Director and CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela who has steered it back into super profit making ways after a brief slump in 2017 when net profit plummeted to 36.2bn/- before bouncing back in 2018 when 99.1bn/- was made, said a number of measures had been taken.

Nsekela attributed the impressive performance to sustained reforms targeted at revitalizing the business by creating new efficiencies and synergies to power growth. "All our key performance indicators are in the green. This is because we

are taking our propositions seriously and we are working to elevate our customer experience by providing services efficiently and reliably," he said during the virtual AGM that was attended by thousands of the bank's shareholders.

Apart from Treasury, CRDB also gave dividend pay cheques to social security funds (NSSF, PSSSF, ZSSF) and Danish International Development Agency as shareholders. Treasury has a 21 percent shareholding at CRDB Bank Plc.

Speaking after receiving the handsome pay cheque, Dr Mpango hailed the bank's board, management and staff for a job well done last year while expressing optimism that this year's performance will be much better based on first half results of this year.

"This increased dividend payment is clear testimony

to the government that CRDB continues to grow and strengthen due to good and focused business strategies which have given confidence among Tanzanians," Dr Mpango said. He further noted that the increased dividend payment shows that shareholders entrusted the bank to good board, management and staff members hence sustaining the profit making spree for many years.

The Finance Minister praised the Dar es Salaam based lender for improving profitability during the first six months of this year with results showing that it has increased by 15 percent to 70.4bn/- compared to last year's 61.1bn/-. "Hiked interest rates has been a regular demand made by the government to banks in the country, I urge more banks to follow CRDB's example," he noted.

## SA bonds: 'There are supportive factors at play'

JOHANNESBURG

A year ago, 10-year South African government bonds were yielding a little over 8.0%. At the height of the March market crisis, however, yields blew out to 12.4%. They have since retracted to 9.3%, but the outlook appears unfavourable.

"The single biggest risk facing domestic bond investors is domestic growth," said Daphne Botha, portfolio manager at Futuregrowth Asset Management. "The forecast for this year is showing -7% GDP growth. That is a terrible number for this country. It is unprecedented in the recent past."

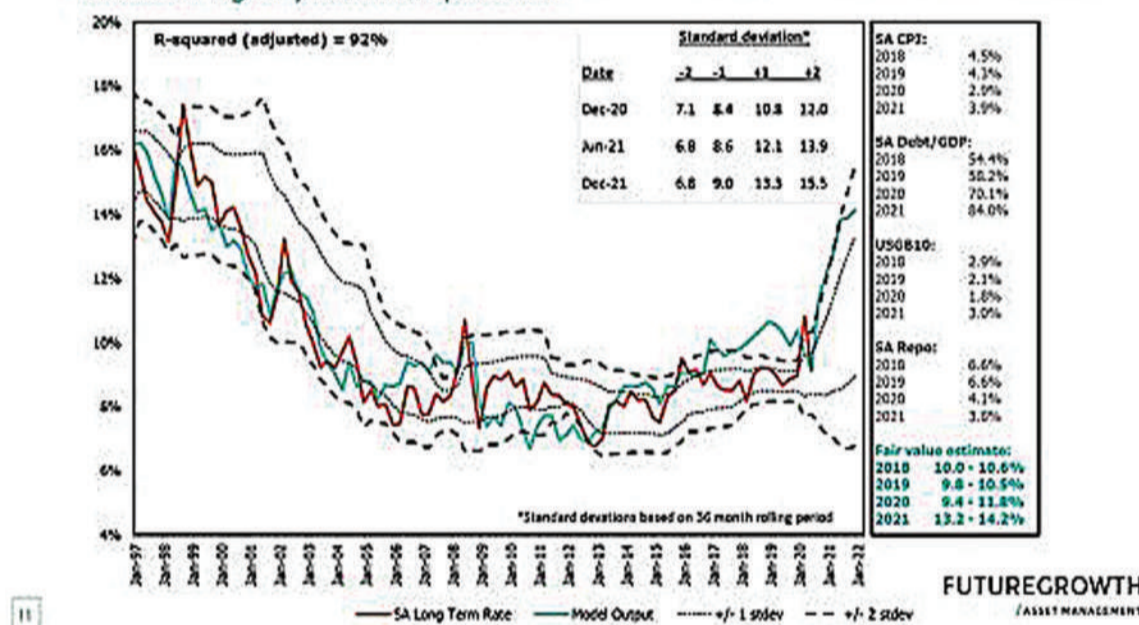
"Why is that a problem for bonds? The implication is that government revenue will drop. Companies are failing, people are unemployed, and not spending as much as they used to. Less spending means less VAT for government. Companies failing means less corporate taxes. And people losing their jobs means less personal income tax."

"In order for government to balance its books, it will have to come to the bond market and issue more bonds, or go to the money market and issue more treasury bills," added Botha. "That is the negative component for fixed income yields."

Fiscal deterioration At the February budget,

### Fair value estimate (10-year RSA Treasury yield)

The deteriorating fiscal backdrop crowds out the more benign inflation backdrop and dictates a higher yield...with upside risk



Treasury forecast a debt-to-GDP level of between 65% and 72% over the medium term. That, however, was before the Covid-19 crisis. Now, debt-to-GDP is forecast at between 80% and 100% this year. "The thing we need to concern ourselves with is not that number in itself, but how it impacts bond yields," said Botha.

Futuregrowth's projections are that yields on 10-year government bonds, which are currently around 9.5%, could climb as high as 14% next year. The chart below shows Futuregrowth's modelled yields (in teal) against historical bond yields (in red). It also indicates the firm's fair value estimates out to the end of next year.

"The risk of bond yields going higher is incrementally more than bond yields staying the same or going lower," said Botha. On top of this, foreign ownership of local bonds has been declining - from a peak of 43% of the market in 2018 to below 31%. This falling international demand potentially places additional pressure on yields.

Silver linings

There are, however, three, positives for investors. The first is inflation, which, in Botha's view, has moved 'structurally lower' in South Africa. Historically, inflation was the biggest driver of local bond yields, although fiscal risks have grown more prominent in recent years.

Nevertheless, if inflation remains low, that has a dampening effect on yields. "The second big positive factor affecting bond yields is the current account balance," said Botha. "It's still negative, but we are moving towards a neutral or positive current account balance."

The most significant positive, however, is the high real yields at which bond yields are already trading. "While the story is negative, we mustn't forget what is already in the price," said Botha. "If you look at the 10-year rate, you can see it is well above its 10-year average. That is telling you this market is pricing in a lot of risk already."

## Network International due to acquire DPO in landmark pan-African payments agreement

DUBAI

DPO Group (DPO), an African payment service provider operating across 19 countries, has entered into an agreement to be acquired by Network International, a significant enabler of digital commerce across the Middle East and Africa (MEA). DPO Group will support the expansion of Network International's presence across Africa, one of the most under-penetrated and fast-growing payments markets in the world.

In a landmark deal for the African payments space, Network International will be acquiring 100% of DPO Group, which will continue to operate under the same brand. Headquartered in Dubai and listed on the London Stock Exchange, Network International is a pan-regional provider of digital payment solutions, with presence across the entire payments value chain, delivering integrated omni channel payments services to its customers.

The acquisition of DPO Group will support Network International's capabilities in Africa across online, mobile and alternative payments as well as providing merchant and MNO relationships and increasing the cross-selling opportunities to both DPO and Network International's customers.

DPO Group is already a high-growth online commerce platform, with revenue CAGR of c.40% from 2017-2019. This transaction enables DPO to add point of sale payment solutions to its product portfolio, connecting DPO to acquirers and issuers across the African continent

and enabling DPO to penetrate the Middle East market for the first time.

The Group will retain its executive team and employees, as it continues to expand and will drive the payments agenda of the larger group within the African continent and the Middle East. The acquisition will also see DPO Group's shareholders and executives become key stakeholders in Network International.

Eran Feinstein, CEO of DPO Group commented: "This deal represents a significant milestone for the pan-African payments landscape and the customers and businesses we serve. Combining the two companies will allow us to broaden our offering for new and existing customers, significantly improving capacity for Africa's merchants to do business not only across the continent but in the Middle East as well as globally."

Simon Haslam, Network International's Chief Executive Officer said: "We are excited by this acquisition which will strengthen our strategic framework by combining both of our businesses' activities across the African market. This deal will also enhance our offering in the payments value chain by presence on both sides of the transaction, acquiring and issuing, and accelerate our future growth."

"Together, we have a powerful combination to accelerate digital payments across our regions and offer a one-stop shop solution for merchants, with multiple payment acceptance methods." The deal is expected to close by the end of 2020, subject to customary closing conditions including regulatory and anti-trust.

## Facebook forms finance arm for running in-app payment projects

NEW YORK

Facebook unveiled a new group to pursue payments and commerce opportunities and put David Marcus, co-creator of its Libra cryptocurrency project, in charge of the initiative. Called F2 internally, short for Facebook Financial, the team will run all payments projects, including Facebook Pay, the company's universal payments feature that it plans to build inside all of its apps.

Mr Marcus will continue running Novi, the division that is building a digital wallet to hold the Libra cryptocurrency. He will also be involved in WhatsApp's payments efforts in countries such as India and Brazil. Facebook has hired former

Upwork chief executive Stephane Kasriel to serve as a payments vice president under Mr Marcus.

This is the latest step in a companywide effort to bring Facebook's individual products and apps closer together. In the past two years, it re-branded Instagram and WhatsApp so people know they are owned by Facebook, and CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced plans to integrate all the company's messaging services. "We have a lot of commerce stuff going on across Facebook," Mr Marcus said. "It felt like it was the right thing to do to rationalise the strategy at a company level around all things payments."

The belief is that if users can make purchases on Instagram,

Messenger and WhatsApp, then Facebook's advertising will become more valuable, and users will spend more time inside the company's apps. On Facebook's second-quarter earnings call last month, Mr Zuckerberg said he was "quite excited" about commerce inside of messaging apps. "As payments grow across Messenger and WhatsApp, and as we're able to roll that out in more places, I think that that will only grow as a trend," he added.

Mr Marcus is a payments veteran, and a trusted executive inside the company. He joined Facebook in 2014 from his role as president of PayPal Holdings, and ran Facebook Messenger for four years before taking on Libra. One prior-

ity will be getting payments running inside WhatsApp in India and Brazil. The company has invested heavily to make WhatsApp a destination for commerce in those markets, but regulation has stalled its payments efforts in both countries.

Mr Marcus was most recently working to get Libra off the ground as a cryptocurrency for cross-border payments. That required negotiations with regulators, and the experience could help with Facebook's other payments initiatives. "It's helpful to have specific expertise in financial services regulation to build things the right way from the get-go," he said. "In the financial services world, it's very different than traditional technology companies that are not regulated."

**BANKING & FINANCE**



Eran Feinstein, CEO of DPO Group.



## WORLD

## Why Kamala Harris may prove an elusive target for Trump

WASHINGTON

JOE Biden's selection of Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate provides a brand-new target for President Donald Trump's re-election campaign that has struggled to find an effective line of attack against his Democratic rival.

But going after Harris comes with its own risks and challenges.

Within minutes of Biden's announcement on Tuesday, Trump had called Harris "nasty," "horrible" and "disrespectful," while his campaign painted her as an extremist who would yank the moderate Biden to the left.

But there is little evidence at the moment that suggests that the public views Harris, a former California prosecutor and attorney general with strong ties to the Democratic establishment, as a radical.

In fact, she's more liked by Republicans than Biden, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted on Aug. 10-11, just before she was announced as Biden's pick. The poll showed 21% of registered Republican voters have a favorable impression of Harris, compared with 13% who had a similarly favorable view of Biden.

More concerning for Trump: Attacks that could appear sexist or racist against the first Black woman on a major party ticket in U.S. history could complicate his campaign's effort to shore up his standing among suburban women, a critical voting bloc he must win back in order to get re-elected, strategists on both sides say.

Already, leading Democratic women warned against a replay of Trump's match-up in 2016 with then Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, who was subject to gender-based critiques as the first female presidential candidate. Trump has also called Clinton "nasty" and accused her of playing the "woman's card."

"If he wants to use misogynistic tropes against Kamala Harris, I think that is deeply challenging for him," said Neera Tanden, a top aide to Clinton during her presidential bid. "He has no room for error with suburban women."

According to the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll, Biden had an advantage of 10 percentage points among women and a 6-point lead among those who live in the suburbs. Overall, Biden leads Trump by 11 points, less than three months to go before the Nov. 3 vote.



Senator Kamala Harris

Sarah Longwell, a Republican pollster, said Trump's advisers would likely want the president, known for fiery and bombastic rhetoric against his political rivals, to be more cautious about attacking Harris unless they had reason to believe suburban women distrusted or disliked her.

"But there's no evidence yet that they do dislike or distrust her," Longwell said. "In fact, my guess is that she'll play pretty well with suburban women."

## LOOKING FOR AN EDGE

Trump's standing with the public has faded badly amid the coronavirus pandemic, the economic downturn and nationwide protests over police brutality and racial injustice.

Scrambling for something to alter the trajectory of the race, Trump and his Republican allies quickly launched a fusillade of attacks at Harris moments after the pick was announced.

The campaign hosted a conference call with reporters to assail her early stances during her own White House bid, when she supported progressive policy proposals such as the Green New Deal, a sweeping clean energy plan, and

Medicare for All, a single-payer, government sponsored healthcare plan. Biden has not backed either proposal.

Harris shifted several of her policy stances in the course of the campaign in a bid to move toward the center. But the Trump campaign made clear it will attempt to paint her as an unrepentant leftist, while suggesting that the 77-year-old Biden could soon be out of office and replaced by her.

At the same time, the campaign said it will also seek to highlight criticism of Harris from the African-American community over her criminal justice record, hoping to drive a wedge between her and the Democratic Party's most loyal constituency.

Privately, however, Trump's aides acknowledged Harris would be a formidable adversary. One senior White House official said that the Harris pick means Vice President Mike Pence would have a tough debate in October.

Trump, in his White House news conference, acknowledged Harris' aggressive questioning of then-Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh at his 2018 confirmation hearing.

"She was nasty to a level that was just a horrible thing the way she treated now-Justice Kavanaugh, and I won't forget that soon," Trump said.

Harris and Biden's immediate challenge, in fact, will be to stamp out any brush fires among progressives who had urged Biden to choose a more overtly progressive candidate, such as Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democratic activists say.

During her presidential bid, Harris was fiercely criticized by progressives who viewed her prosecutorial record as overly supportive of law enforcement. She has since become a vocal supporter of progressive criminal-justice reforms.

Rashad Robinson, executive director of Color of Change, an advocacy group that has worked with Harris on police reform efforts, said the nominee will have to engage her progressive critics to win them over.

Agencies

## Russia receives orders from 20 countries for ONE BILLION doses of world's first Covid-19 vaccine

MOSCOW

A total of 20 nations from Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia have already requested doses of Russia's breakthrough coronavirus vaccine, which was confirmed to be registered on Tuesday by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

At a conference dedicated to the announcement of the vaccine's registration, the CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) explained that it had already received orders for a billion doses.

"Together with our foreign partners, we are ready to produce more than 500 million doses of the vaccine per year," Kirill Dmitriev explained. Everything produced in Russia will be used domestically, and doses for use in other countries will be made abroad.

According to Dmitriev, the RDIF is also working on a humanitarian aid program for developing countries, with the aim of making the Covid-19 vaccine available in states that can't afford to make or buy their own.

Explaining that vaccination is an acute problem in the world's poorest countries, Dmitriev said that the fund believes "people around the world should have equal access to a vaccine, regardless of their financial situation."

On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that the country had registered the world's first Covid-19 vaccine. Named "Sputnik V," the vaccine is due to enter mass production soon, and will be available to the general public from January 2021. Despite being registered, the vaccine will still go through more clinical trials in Russia and the Middle East.

Agencies

## China's top legislature resolves HKSAR LegCo vacancy concern

BEIJING

CHINESE lawmakers on Tuesday voted to adopt a decision for the sixth Legislative Council (LegCo) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to continue performing duties.

The decision was passed at the 21st session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature.

After Sept. 30, 2020, the sixth LegCo will continue performing duties for no less than a year until the term of the seventh LegCo starts. The term of the seventh LegCo will still be four years when it is formed in accordance with the law, according to the decision.

The decision came as Hong Kong is endeavoring to contain a fresh COVID-19 outbreak since July. Hong Kong's health authorities reported 33 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, including 15 infections with unknown sources, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the city to 4,181.

HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced in late July to postpone the election of the seventh-term LegCo, which was originally scheduled for Sept. 6, 2020, for one year due to the epidemic.

On July 28, Carrie Lam submitted a report to the central government on matters concerning the postponement and asked the central government to request the NPC Standing Committee to make arrangements handling the vacancy of the LegCo incurred due to the postponement.

The State Council on Saturday presented a bill to Chinese lawmakers asking the NPC Standing Committee to make a decision for the sixth LegCo to continue operation.

Explaining the bill at the legislative session, Xia Baolong, head of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, said matters concerning the vacancy of the LegCo can only be resolved by the NPC Standing Committee at the constitutional level, as the HKSAR Chief Executive only has the power to postpone the election under the applicable law in the HKSAR.

The NPC Standing Committee has the power and duty to properly address constitutional issues arising from the implementation of the HKSAR Basic Law, according to Xia.

## NECESSARY, TIMELY MOVE

Addressing the closing meeting of the NPC Standing Committee session, Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said the decision has provided constitutional basis and legal guarantee for upholding the rule of law in Hong Kong and ensuring the normal governance of the HKSAR government and the orderly functioning of Hong Kong society.

In a statement supporting the NPC Standing Committee decision, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office applauded the decision as "important" and "timely," and pledged to cooperate with relevant authorities in implementing the decision.

In a separate statement, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR said the decision is in line with the Constitution and the HKSAR Basic Law and has unchallengeable legal authority.

It will minimize social instability and enable the society to focus on the most pressing task of curbing the COVID-19 epidemic, said the liaison office.

Carrie Lam also expressed her gratitude to the NPC Standing Committee decision, saying it resolved the problem of a lacuna in the local legislature.

Xinhua

## Somalia probes prison clashes as death toll rises to 19

MOGADISHU

THE Somali government on Tuesday launched investigations into a violent incident at Mogadishu's central prison on Monday which left at least 15 al-Shabab inmates and four soldiers dead.

Hassan Hussein Haji, Justice Minister, said the investigation is underway to determine how the incident took place at the

central prison in Mogadishu. The minister said they would immediately share the outcome of the investigations with the public to help establish the circumstances under which such a rare incident took place.

Haji said the authorities managed to arrest some of the fighters. "The investigations would reveal how the inmates got the weapons," he said, warning that

whoever is found culpable would face the full force of law.

"Some of the inmates committed a criminal act after receiving weapons and fought with prison guards. We are investigating who facilitated prisoners to get the weapon that resulted in the casualties," Haji said.

He said the government will come up with proper policies and measures to protect the safe-

ty of inmates and guards in the future.

Meanwhile, prison authorities confirmed that 15 inmates were killed and seven others injured during the deadly gunfight between the soldiers and al-Shabab inmates.

Abdikani Mohamed Qalaf, spokesman of Prison, said four soldiers were killed and another wounded during the shoot-out

Xinhua

## What helps Rwanda suppress COVID-19 early?

KIGALI

RWANDA was recently recognized by the chief of the World Health Organization (WHO) as a country that was able to suppress the COVID-19 early.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus attributed Rwanda's progress to a combination of strong leadership, universal health coverage, well-supported health workers and clear public health communications.

As of Tuesday evening, the densely populated nation with an estimated population of 1.2 million reported 2,171 cases in total, including 1,478 recoveries and seven deaths.

Since the reopening of airports on Aug. 1, Rwanda hasn't seen a surge in new cases and reported more recoveries than new cases in all but three days.

## STRONG LEADERSHIP

The Rwandan government showed a strong will in ensuring

that the preventive measures – keeping social distancing, regularly washing hands, wearing face masks in public, avoiding contact when greeting – are well implemented, Ismael Buchanan, a senior lecturer of political science at the University of Rwanda, told Xinhua.

The leadership, including Rwandan President Paul Kagame, took the lead in creating awareness on the preventive measures against coronavirus among the public, he said.

Kagame (pictured), who won 98.79 percent of the votes in 2017's presidential election, called upon the public to continue following the directives of the government and stressed the guidelines as early as March in a message on the pandemic.

The government also takes measures like lockdown, mass testing, curfew, mandatory testing on arrivals travelling by air.

Under the leadership, the central African nation formed the National Task Force led by the Prime



Minister Edouard Ngirente and the COVID-19 Command Post that consists of professionals from different sectors.

The government's response to the COVID-19 has been robust and rapid since the country recorded the first case on March 14, Rwandan epidemiologist Vedaste Ndahindwa told Xinhua.

Considering the present number of positive cases and death cases, Rwanda's measures towards containing the spread of the virus has been "very effective," said Ndahindwa.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

AGRE

Testing and treatment for COVID-19 is free in Rwanda, except for travelers entering Rwanda by air since the reopening of airports on Aug. 1.

So far, nearly 310,000 people have been tested.

According to health officials, Rwanda can test 4,000 to 5,000 samples per day, increasing from the initial 300 to 400. The government is still building the capacity of testing, treating and tracing at provincial levels.

Rwanda has seven sites that can test and the capacity is going to increase, Rwandan State Minister in charge of Primary Healthcare Tharcisse Mpunga told Xinhua on July 20.

"I think for us the outbreak is under control...our teams are able to detect new infections, trace and test contacted people, and also isolate those who are infected," he said.

"Getting the basics right provides a clear picture of where the virus is and the necessary targeted actions

## World Bank releases report, shares China's experience in improving business

THE World Bank issued a special report entitled China's Doing Business Success: Drivers of Reform and Opportunities for the Future on July 27.

According to the report, China has made great achievements in advancing reforms to delegate power, streamline administration and optimize government services as well as in improving the business environment.

The report has summarized the reforms China has carried out in re-

cent years in fields such as "starting a business", "getting electricity" and "dealing with construction permits", in a bid to share lessons learned from China's experience in improving the business environment with other economies and then improve the global business environment on the whole.

Taking the assessment of the World Bank on the business environment of global economies as a leverage, China has strived to create a stable, fair, transparent and predictable business

environment in recent years.

China's ranking in the world in terms of ease of doing business has continuously rocketed up, according to the World Bank's Doing Business reports. China leaped from the 78th place in Doing Business 2018 to the 31st in 2020 and was recognized as one of the top 10 most improved economies worldwide for the ease of doing business for two years in a row.

Before 2018, only around two to three reforms in China were captured by Doing Business each year. How-

ever, Doing Business 2019 recorded seven areas of reforms for China while Doing Business 2020 captured reforms in eight areas.

The number of China's business reforms recognized by Doing Business ranks among the top three in the world and the country has become the top reformer among large economies.

The World Bank attributed China's successful reforms to six key factors, including high-level leadership and ownership of the reform agenda, lo-

cal policy experimentation, international knowledge sharing, strong enforcement of the reform agenda and accountability for results, robust private sector participation and effective communication, as well as intensive use of digital technologies and e-government services.

Provinces and government departments in China have always comprehensively implemented the decisions and plans of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council compre-

hensively and advanced reforms to delegate power, streamline administration and optimize government services.

By cutting the drawbacks of institutional mechanisms and strengthening services and regulation, China has maximally reduced its direct allocation of resources and direct intervention in market activities, and greatly stimulated market vitality and social creativity.

People's Daily





Villagers of Manjianghong village carefully select dried fritillaries.

### Village in NE China's Heilongjiang shakes off poverty by developing characteristic industries

"IT'S these little fritillaries that paved the way of prosperity for our village," Zhang Bao, secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Manjianghong village committee, told the People's Daily.

Manjianghong village, which is located in Tieli township, Tieli, a county-level city of Yichun, Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, has to sustain a large population with insufficient arable land resources, so growing traditional Chinese medicinal materials with high output value like fritillaries became a natural choice of local villagers, introduced Nie Wei, head of the poverty-relief working team of the village.

With Hulan River in the west saturating the sandy soil, the humus of the Hingan Mountains in the east, and the high diurnal temperature variation, Manjianghong village enjoys exceptional advantages for cultivating fritillaries.

Today, local people have developed it into a featured industry of the village where clean and tidy roads have been built and decorated with eye-catching and exquisitely-designed round signs that read "Each village has a special product. Manjianghong village has fritillary."

"Our village has 40 to 50 years of history of growing fritillaries, but the size of the industry had always been small until recent years," Zhang said, explaining that the village had not been able to sell their high-quality fritillaries at good prices due to the small scale of the industry and the lack of relevant techniques and organization.

At the end of February 2016, based on investigation and surveys by relevant authorities of Tieli city and Tieli township, the village finalized a plan to shake off poverty and increase villagers' income through fritillary cultivation.

Before long, Manjianghong village received a special poverty-relief fund worth 1.8 million yuan (about \$257,900) from the provincial government of Heilongjiang and 500,000 yuan from the municipal government of Tieli city.

In addition, the village also got 1.8-million-yuan worth of loans for poverty alleviation with interest subsidies after villagers joined a specialized fritillary cultivation cooperative with their land.

The cooperative was set up in March 2016, together with a traditional Chinese medicinal materials distribution company.

Fifty-three impoverished households joined the cooperative with their land and each of them has since been able to enjoy an annual dividend of 4,000 yuan.

Meanwhile, the cooperative also employed 13 villagers from poverty-stricken households, increasing their monthly income by 1,746 yuan on average.

These efforts have led to fruitful results. In the summer of 2018, Manjianghong village saw a good harvest of the first batch of fritillaries, with the yield and the output value reaching 85 tons and 4.6 million yuan.

At the end of 2018, Manjianghong village was officially removed from the list of impoverished villages.

At the same time, the village has constantly extended its fritillary industrial chain while continuously exploring new industries, developing a variety of projects including photovoltaic projects, greenhouse vegetable planting projects, and small vegetable garden projects.

"The financial departments of Yichun city and Tieli city helped establish a fritillary drying plant and a refrigeration warehouse for the village. Last year, Manjianghong village registered the Tiexin trademark for 29 categories of agricultural and sideline products," said Du Wei, Party chief of the CPC Tieli township committee.

These projects have improved the fritillary cooperative's bargaining power and anti-risk capability while increasing the valued added of the local products, Du said, adding that all the earnings from these projects would be used to support impoverished households, helping these families further tap into the development of featured industries.

The endeavors of Manjianghong village to develop multiple industries yielded remarkable results in 2019, when the per capita annual income of the village rocketed from over 5,000 yuan in 2016 to 23,000 yuan, up nearly five times.

At the end of 2019, all the 53 poor households of Manjianghong village shook off poverty.

As the sizes of industries grew larger day by day, Manjianghong village found itself facing new challenges threatening the local natural environment.

According to Du, villagers used to clean fritillaries in Hulan River with large manual iron troughs. Such traditional way of collecting and cleaning fritillaries had consumed more than 20,000 square meters of black soil every year. Besides, the water quality of Hulan River was also affected by the great amount of black soil flowing into the river.

Fortunately, Manjianghong village put into service a total of 21 automated fritillary cleaning plants this year. All these plants have adopted a three-level precipitation method to clean fritillaries.

"The black soil rinsed from fritillaries doesn't flow into the river anymore, but is taken back to the farmlands," Zhang told the People's Daily. When he said that, two workers were pouring out fritillaries mixed with soil in front of the three-level "production line".

An ecological tourism park that integrates fishing, sightseeing, fruit picking and catering is expected to be finished in Manjianghong village at the end of this October, Nie told the People's Daily.

People's Daily

## Afghans slam violence as 44 killed following prisoners swap

**KABUL,** AT least 44 fighters, with the majority of them Taliban militants, have been killed in the country over the past 24 hours since the conclusion of the three-day traditional grand assembly on Sunday that approved the release of 400 hardcore Taliban inmates, officials said on Tuesday.

In the latest waves of violent incidents, six pro-government militiamen and three Taliban insurgents were killed and seven others, including two militants, injured as a clash erupted in Pachiragaram district of the eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday, provincial government spokesman Attaullah Khogiani said.

east 23 insurgents have been killed in Muqar district of the eastern Ghazni and the neighboring Khost provinces over the past 24 hours, according to security officials. A dozen more Taliban militiamen have reportedly been killed in their own bomb blasts in Kunduz, Takhar and Logar provinces since Monday. Taliban militants have yet to make comment.

Reports of violent incidents and fighting emanating just days after the completion of prisoners exchange between the Afghan government and the Taliban group as precondition for beginning peace talks between the two sides.

Xinhua

## UN calls for early formation of Lebanese govt as more donations arrive after Beirut's blasts

WASHINGTON/BEIRUT

UNITED Nations (UN) Special Coordinator for Lebanon Jan Kubis on Tuesday called for early formation of a Lebanese government following the resignation of Prime Minister Hassan Diab and his cabinet.

Kubis, who briefed the Security Council in a closed session on Tuesday, emphasized the importance of avoiding a prolonged period of governmental vacuum. He urged a rapid formation of a new government that meets the aspirations of the Lebanese people and enjoys their support, a government that can address the urgent and many challenges facing the country, break with the corrupt practices of the past, his office said in a press release after the briefing.

"There are immediate humanitarian needs that need to be addressed and necessary reforms that need to be undertaken without any delay to restore the trust of the Lebanese people, and of the international community in Lebanon," Kubis was quoted as saying.

The Lebanese government resigned on Monday amid protests after two huge explosions hit the Port of Beirut on Aug. 4, claiming at least 171 lives and injuring thousands.

The deadly blasts also caused massive economic losses worth 10 billion to 15 billion U.S. dollars, according to Beirut Governor Marwan Abboud.

"A rapid assessment of the 55 primary health centers in the blast areas shows that some 35 percent sustained moderate to severe damage," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The UN Children's Fund reported that an education assessment shows



Prime Minister Hassan Diab

some 20 technical schools have been damaged.

A dozen of countries and international organizations have expressed solidarity and sympathy with Lebanon over the deadly explosions, with emergency aid to the Middle East country.

Members of the Security Council reiterated their solidarity and strong support through urgent humanitarian assistance and commitment of the international community to Lebanon and its people, according to the press release.

The World Health Organization said that an 18-ton shipment of personal protective equipment landed in Beirut on Tuesday.

The World Food Programme is allocating 5,000 food parcels to affected

families in Lebanon. Each package of basic food items such as rice, pasta, oil, sugar, salt and tomato paste is enough to feed five people for one month. A fund-raising conference backed by UN and hosted by France on Sunday has so far received more than 290 million dollars in pledges.

Lebanon has in the past days received donations from multiple countries, including China, Russia, France, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Britain and many more.

UN Undersecretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix, who also briefed the Security Council, said the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, continues to work in close coordination with the Lebanese armed forces.

## Western countries fighting 'info war' to discredit Russian Covid-19 vaccine are 'endangering lives of their citizens' - developer

MOSCOW

SPUTNIK V, the Russian vaccine against Covid-19, has already become subject to coordinated information attacks from nations that have political differences with Moscow.

That's according to the head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) which bankrolled the research. Kirill Dmitriev claims that, whether inspired by commercial concerns or just malice, the politicized approach of a number of Western countries ultimately jeopardizes the health and safety of their own citizens.

In the development and trials of the vaccine, Russia used a proven platform that had been tested on thousands of people over the past six years, the RDIF chief stressed, during an online conference on Tuesday.

"Coordinated and carefully prepared information attacks on the Russian vaccine are trying to discredit and hide the correctness of the Russian approach to drug development," Dmitriev (pictured) said.

"A politicized approach to the Russian vaccine on the part of a number of Western countries endangers the lives



of their citizens."

"Meanwhile, a number of countries are trying to prove, in the case of 30,000 to 40,000 patients, the safety of fundamentally new approaches towards creation of vaccines, which, in fact, need to be tested for several years," Dmitriev explained on Tuesday. "The fact is that none of these vaccines has been registered anywhere in the world."

"They have not studied the long-term effects on the human body, including fertility," he added. "Thinking that such approaches are safe in the long term

without carefully studying them, in particular their long-term consequences, is a dangerous illusion."

Eyebrows have been raised at the speed of the Russian development process, particularly in the West, where nations such as the US and Britain are working on their own solutions.

Of course, this also means these countries have commercial and political reasons for wanting to be the first to produce a solution to the Covid-19 crisis, which has also devastated the global economy.

However, Vadim Tarasov, a top scientist at Moscow's Sechenov University, where the trials took place, said the country had a head start as it has spent the past 20 years developing skills in this field and trying to understand how viruses transmit.

On August 11, the Russian Health Ministry registered the first Covid-19 vaccine in the world. The formula was developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology and the RDIF. President Vladimir Putin said his own daughter had already been immunized and that she had experienced no serious side effects.

Agencies

# Bullying practices to maintain hegemony only makes US utterly isolated

CERTAIN politicians in the U.S. have fully unmasked their Cold War mentality and attempt to maintain hegemony with a series of crazy talks in the recent days.

Clearly, it's the U.S. who has been wielding the big stick against China, trying to obstruct the latter's development in all respects for no reason whatsoever. Shockingly, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shamelessly accused the Communist Party of China (CPC) of pursuing hegemony.

What those U.S. politicians like Pompeo have done represents their bald-faced and authentic

intentions to pursue hegemony and power politics, and has grossly trampled on the bottom line of the basic norms governing international relations, and posed serious threats to world peace and development. The international community should be on high alert for them.

Setting up traps is a frequent trick used by hegemonists.

Trying every means to relate China to a hegemonic power, certain politicians in the U.S. have attempted to drag the whole world into their well-designed narrative trap. However, these politicians have obviously overestimated

their ability to lie and deceive.

"His credibility is so diminished, any statements he makes are met with skepticism," pointed out an article published on U.S. magazine Vanity Fair, noting that Pompeo's unrelenting fixation with punishing China is leaving the U.S. exposed and isolated.

Pompeo's China-bashing speech was an "angry lament" and "extended ideological rant", said Daniel Russel, former U.S. assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

The reason why the CPC is far more powerful than the U.S. imagines is exactly that it doesn't

want to dominate the world, said Kishore Mahbubani, a Singaporean scholar.

The Chinese nation is a peace-loving nation, and the Chinese dream is a dream about peace. China has explicitly stated its commitment to adhering to the path of peaceful development and resolve to oppose hegemonism in both the Constitution of the CPC and the Constitution of the People's Republic of China.

China's development creates opportunities for the world, while the Chinese dream is closely connected with the beautiful dreams of peoples in various countries

around the world.

"No matter how much progress China has made in development, China will not threaten anyone else, attempt to overturn the existing international system, or seek spheres of influence," Chinese President Xi Jinping told the world in his speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018 two years ago.

Misrepresenting China's normal development as a threat to interests of the U.S. and playing up China's active participation in global governance as competing with the U.S. for hegemony, these

U.S. politicians are just suffering persecution mania.

Hegemonists never conceal their ambition to seek hegemony. Shouting "America First" all over the world, the U.S. has long been criticized by the international community for its terribly self-conceited mindset and hegemonic acts.

In order to tout for the so-called anti-China alliance, certain politicians in the U.S. have openly forced other countries into choosing a side at the expense of their interests.

The U.S. has publicly boasted that British officials' attitude to-

Brazil's Bolsonaro calls surging Amazon fires a 'lie'

BRASILIA

B R A Z I L ' S President Jair Bolsonaro on Tuesday angrily denied the existence of fires in the Amazon



rainforest, calling it a "lie," despite data produced by his own government showing that thousands of fires are surging across the region.

Bolsonaro (pictured) last year similarly denied a spike in fires that provoked a global outcry, with the right-wing populist trading barbs with French President Emmanuel Macron and other world leaders.

The president's comments on Tuesday come even as Reuters witnesses in the remote Amazon town of Aputi observed smoke blanketing the horizon in all directions during the day and large fires setting the sky aglow at night.

Fires in Brazil's Amazon for the month of August hit a nine-year high in 2019 and this month so far looks even worse.

More than 10,000 fires have been recorded in the first 10 days of August, up 17 percent from the same period a year ago, according to data from the country's national space research agency Inpe.

But in a speech to other South American leaders on Tuesday, Bolsonaro challenged foreign representatives to fly over the Amazon saying that traveling by air from the far flung cities of Boa Vista to Manaus, you would not see a single flame.

"They won't find any spot of fire, nor a quarter of a hectare deforested," the former army captain told a meeting of members of the Leticia Pact, an agreement between Amazon countries to protect the rainforest.

"This story that the Amazon is going up in flames is a lie and we must combat it with true numbers," he said.

Bolsonaro interfered in Inpe after it released unfavorable data on Amazon deforestation last year, firing the agency's head Ricardo Galvao who defended his agency's numbers that showed rising destruction.

In his speech, Bolsonaro argued that Brazil has shown itself capable of protecting the Amazon alone because the majority of the forest is still standing.

He said the Amazon is a wet forest that preserves itself and does not catch fire. The media and foreign governments are presenting a false narrative about the Amazon, he said.

Experts say that fires are not a natural phenomenon in the rainforest, but are usually man-made in order to clear deforested land for pasture.

Deforestation rose 34.5 percent in the 12-months through July, compared to the same period a year ago. Forest clearances did fall in July, the first decline in 15 months, a point emphasized by Bolsonaro.

Foreign pressure is mounting on Brazil to protect the world's largest rainforest, an ecosystem vital to preserving climate change because of the vast amount of carbon dioxide that it absorbs.

Global investors managing more than US\$2 trillion have threatened to pull their investments out of Brazil's meatpackers, grains traders and government bonds if Bolsonaro's administration doesn't take action on Amazon destruction.

Bolsonaro has dispatched the military to fight fires and deforestation since May, with the armed forces working with environmental agency Ibama to combat fires near Aputi, according to Reuters witnesses.

People's Daily



# Serena, Venus win, now Williams sisters play each other



Venus Williams -

Serena Williams

LEXINGTON, KY.

SERENA Williams was calm in a return more dramatic than some might have expected – even after a long layoff.

Williams needed to rally to win in her comeback following a six-month layoff, beating unseeded American Bernarda Pera 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in Tuesday's first round of the Top Seed Open.

Williams advanced to a second-round showdown on Thursday against older sister Venus, who dispatched Victoria Azarenka 6-3, 6-2. The two will meet for the 31st time in a match that figures to be emotionally and physically challenging for both of them.

"From one Grand Slam (winner), one No. 1 to another," said Venus Williams, who's 12-18 against her sister. "It's been quite the draw for me but, honestly, it's perfect because I don't play forever so I want to play the best players. And I think I got my wish. Here we go."

Serena first had to clear some athletic hurdles against Pera in the opening match at center court.

Looking to return to form following the break caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the 23-time Grand Slam champion labored to avoid her 14th loss to an opponent ranked outside the top 50. The ninth-ranked Williams quickly struggled after a promising start as Pera, ranked No. 60, broke her at love in the fifth game on the way to a first-set victory.

The tournament's top seed positioned herself to even the match to break Pera for a 3-1 lead in the second set before Pera answered with a break in the next game. The Croatian-born Pera eventually evened the set and had Williams down 0-40 at 4-4 before the 38-year-old Williams rallied to stay on serve.

"I just knew I needed to be better," Williams said. "I knew I could be better. And it was an interesting game. She had so many winners and (was) so low. I just had to kind of get used to a game a little bit. She played really well."

Williams needed another rally to win the next game before getting a hard-earned break to force a third set. She bore down from there to break Pera at 3-1, then gutted out the next game at deuce and sealed the

match with another break.

Williams took 2 hours, 16 minutes to make it to another day at an event where players hope to polish their hard-court skills for this month's U.S. Open in New York. She was especially excited to get going after the long layoff and advanced by remaining composed under stress.

Williams hadn't played since splitting two Fed Cup matches in February but used the down time to begin building a gym and training on a court built by her husband, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian. Williams arrived looking cut and ready to begin preparation for the Open.

Pera wasn't awed by Williams' stellar resume or power in their first meeting. The left-hander broke Williams at love for a 3-2 edge on the way to taking the first set. Williams appeared to turn her left ankle slightly and she fell backward on one return, losing the point and the next game.

She had other stumbles but managed to regain her footing – and her serve.

Venus Williams had a much easier time against Azarenka on a star-studded Tuesday. The seven-time Slam champ led 4-0 in the second before splitting the final four games to earn her first victory in four tries this year.

Up-and-coming Coco Gauff, 16, moved on to the next round by beating Caroline Dolehide, 7-5, 7-5.

"I played pretty freely today and it didn't turn out too bad," said Gauff, who acknowledged some pre-match nerves.

Seventh-seeded Sloane Stephens, the 2017 U.S. Open champ, lost to Canadian qualifier Leylah Fernandez, 6-3, 6-3.

In other matches, CiCi Bellis beat fellow American Francesca di Lorenzo, a last-minute replacement for fourth-seeded American Amanda Anisimova, 6-1, 6-2. Anisimova withdrew Tuesday morning with an injured right shoulder.

Fifth-seeded Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan cruised past Australian Ajla Tomljanovic, 6-0, 6-4. Switzerland's Jill Teichmann ousted Russian qualifier Anna Kalinskaya, 6-2, 7-5. And Anna Blinkova of Russia topped American Kristie Ahn 6-2, 4-6, 3-1 (retired).

AP

# Bank revels in contribution to 2019/20 Premier League success

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE KCB Bank's contribution to Tanzanian soccer cannot go unnoticed, the bank has, among others, been co-sponsoring the Mainland Premier League for the past two seasons.

The bank, as disclosed by the institution's officials, has contributed to the country's football sector by sponsoring many tournaments.

The bank, for instance, financially supported the 2018 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final match that involved Singida United Mtibwa Sugar, which was held in Arusha.

The institution, also, sponsored this season's ASFC final, which had Simba locking with Namungo FC in Sumbawanga, Rukwa.

As for the Premier League, the officials disclosed, the bank sponsored one of the top flight's last matches, which saw Simba confront Namungo FC in Lindi.

The most notable sponsorship rolled out by the bank, though, is that of senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, in their participation in AFCON 2019 finals.

Apart from business, KCB Bank has various endeavours that aim at contributing to the development of the nation's economy and eradicating poverty among the youth.

The KCB Bank was one of the institutions which graced this season's Premier League awards ceremony, held in Dar es Salaam recently.

The bank's Head of Marketing & Corporate Affairs, Christina Many-



JKT Tanzania midfielder, Jabbir Aziz (C), challenges Singida United player when the two outfits locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Saturday. JKT Tanzania won 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

eye, said: "football contributes to strengthening our economy and the society as a whole".

The sentiment reflected the bank's efforts to sponsor the Premier League. The ceremony saw the KCB bank hand over cash prize of 10m/- to this season's top scorer, Simba forward Meddie Kagere, who netted 22 goals.

The institution presented the same amount of cash prize to the tournament's top scorer in

previous season of 2018/19, proving it focuses on motivating the league's players and awarding them for their achievement.

The bank also provides economic opportunities to youths by employing more than 300 Tanzanians in their institution.

The institution has further been providing training and sponsorship in establishing businesses through a program dubbed 'Tujajiri'.

In this manner, the officials noted, the institution successfully gives back to the community as it highly invests in the youth and helps the government improve the economy.

The KCB Bank, the officials disclosed, still aspires to keep on contributing to soccer development and collaborate with Tanzania Football Federation to assist the growth of football in the country.

# Analysis: Lillard has enough motivation for his playoff push

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

DAMIAN Lillard has no shortage of motivation.

There's the painful kind, the kind that comes from dealing with the death three months ago of a cousin who was very close to him. There's the made-up variety, stemming from the belief he shared Tuesday night that people who cover the league don't respect his work. There's the silly stuff, like a back-and-forth on social media with other NBA players.

And then there's probably the biggest sort – his want to get the Portland Trail Blazers back to the playoffs.

He topped a 51-point performance on Sunday by offering a 61-point performance on Tuesday, doing all that with the Blazers' postseason fate still not secure and knowing that any loss would put a sizable dent in those playoff hopes. He's the 12th player in NBA history to have consecutive 50-point games, and just the second – joining only Wilt Chamberlain – to have three 60-point games in a season.

"Couldn't have been a better time for that type of game," Lillard said Tuesday, after he helped the Blazers beat Dallas and move past Memphis into the No. 8 spot in the Western Conference. "So, like I said, it's a pleasure and honor to be company with Wilt. And hopefully, you know, it can continue."

This is where the Blazers are: Win Thursday's seeding-game finale against nothing-to-play-for Brooklyn, and they're in the West play-in series that starts on Saturday as the No. 8 seed. Lose Thursday, and nothing is guaranteed.

Portland is eighth at 34-39. Memphis and Phoenix are tied for ninth at 33-39. San Antonio is 11th at 32-38, but only a half-game out of eighth. How those teams fare on Thursday – they all play their seeding-game finales that day – will determine who goes to the play-in series.

And Lillard, even with those stakes, is putting on the best show in the bubble.

"If we lose this game, we might not make it to the playoffs," Portland coach Terry Stotts said Tues-



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) dribbles while defended by Dallas Mavericks forward Kristaps Porzingis (6) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

day night. "So, the magnitude of this game, even though it's in an empty gym and in a bubble ... this was the season was on the line."

The three-point win Tuesday had some help from above, Lillard said.

He took a 3-pointer in the fourth quarter from somewhere between 35 and 40 feet away, felt it was good when it left his hand, then saw it hit the back of the rim and bounce straight up – way, way up – in the air.

Lillard's cousin and chef, Brandon Johnson, died suddenly and unexpectedly in May. Chef B, they called him. Lillard knelt over his body and prayed moments after Johnson died. Blazers teammate CJ McCollum, who was also close with Johnson, came over soon afterward. Lillard and McCollum sat and cried together. And in the bubble, Chef B is in their mind.

"I just tried to continue what I feel like he would want me to do," Lillard said.

Back to that 3-pointer. A shot from that far away, moving with that much energy, typically

doesn't hit the rim and bounce straight up. They tend to bounce upward. Not this one. It went up, up, up and fell for three points.

A reminder: The Blazers beat the Mavericks by three points.

"Rest in peace, Chef B," Lillard said. "I think that was him dropping that in."

Blazers forward Carmelo Anthony said he knew that 3-pointer, as he watched the ball go up and then in, was special.

"I probably said about 20 please, like please-please-please-please-please like repeatedly," Anthony said. "It wasn't meant for us to lose when that shot went in. It just wasn't meant for us to lose."

When the night was done, when the last of the 61 points had hit the books, Lillard said he shouted "put some respect on my name" to the media area, because as he put it "those were the people who usually have something to say or put out whatever they put out."

In the bubble, there's pretty much only been marveling, for

good reason.

Lillard got into a bit of a social-media beef a few days ago, after the Los Angeles Clippers' Patrick Beverley and Paul George revealed in how he missed two late free throws in what became a Portland loss. That fired him up, too – in the two games since, he's 33 for 34 from the line, those shots all critical given how close the games were.

The NBA said Tuesday that there will be an All-Seeding Games team and MVP selected by reporters and broadcasters who are covering the restart. Lillard is pretty much a lock to be a strong candidate.

Those awards will be handed out Saturday before Game 1 of the West play-in series. He didn't come here to be on that award list. He came here for the playoffs, and thanks to him, the Blazers are now in the driver's seat for a chance to play the Los Angeles Lakers in Round 1.

And that will deliver even more motivation.

AP



## Stars aligning for Atletico with Champions League glory not so far away

MADRID

ATLETICO Madrid's triumph over Liverpool in March was a throwback to a more celebrated past under Diego Simeone (pictured) but five months on and the Champions League offers them a very real opportunity in the present.

Knocking out the holders at Anfield may prove to be the first glimpse of a new era under Simeone, where the likes of Joao Felix, Marcos Llorente, Jose Gimenez and Jan Oblak push Atletico to challenge for major honours again.

Or it could be a last hurrah for the Simeone project, which some believe will never again scale the heights of their incredible La Liga title win in 2014 or their runs to the Champions League finals in 2014 and 2016.

Either way, few believed Llorente's two goals in extra-time would be the start of something even more surprising, namely Simeone lifting the cup in May.

Certainly nobody anticipated football shutting down completely the following week, as nervousness turned to indignation about Atletico fans travelling to Anfield, before matches behind closed doors became matches postponed indefinitely.

And yet when football returned in June, Atletico were transformed. They went unbeaten in the 11 games after the resumption, to dispel concerns they could miss out on La Liga's four.

They won seven matches and drew four, one of them against Barcelona at Camp Nou, which helped Real Madrid clinch the title.

They scored 20 goals and conceded six. If the season had started when the league restarted, Atletico would have finished second.

"We did well and we know we're on a really good streak but the Champions League is a different competition," said Diego Costa last week.

Atletico face Leipzig in Lisbon on Thursday as one of the form teams still standing, in a tournament that has gifted them the significantly kinder half of the draw.

If they beat Leipzig, who laboured to a third-place finish in the Bundesliga, they will face either Atalanta, the tournament's minnows or Paris Saint-Germain, who have played two games in almost half a year.

Meanwhile, in the other half, only one of Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Manchester City and Lyon can reach the final.

Without doubt, Atletico's op-



ponents and potential semi-final opponents will be just as eager to capitalise, especially PSG, whose longing for success in the Champions League has come to define them.

And it is unknown how Simeone's squad will be affected by the club's announcement on Sunday that Angel Correa and Sime Vrsaljko tested positive for coronavirus, with both players, who would likely have been on the bench, left at home.

A required second round of tests on Sunday meant preparations had to be tweaked, including delaying the squad's flight to Lisbon from Monday until Tuesday afternoon.

But it is hard to shake the sense that as a team, Atletico are very well-placed, even if the club have always appeared more comfortable as under-dogs under Simeone than burdened by expectation.

Even the new format could suit them, in single matches where game management is likely to be key and technical superiority has less time to win out than over the traditional 180 minutes.

A riled Jurgen Klopp said after Liverpool's 1-0 defeat at the Wanda Metropolitano in February that Atletico's backs-to-the-wall approach would not be as effective without their own fans.

Yet they were able to frustrate Liverpool at Anfield too, before winning 3-2 in the second leg.

"It's important to accept the new format because once you accept it, you can adapt," said Atleti's Saul Niguez.

Leipzig, meanwhile, were still in the title race in March and considered a threat even in the Champions League, on the back of destroying Jose Mourinho's Tottenham in the last 16.

But they have been less effective since the restart and will be less potent without Timo Werner, whose move to Chelsea cruelly prevents him from finishing what he started in the Champions League. It could be Atletico's year.

AFP

## Nuno proud of Wolves in defeat, excuses Jimenez for penalty miss

DUISBURG, GERMANY

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers manager Nuno Espirito Santo was proud of his players despite their 1-0 Europa League quarter-final defeat by Sevilla on Tuesday and refused to blame striker Raul Jimenez for a costly first-half penalty miss.

Up against a Sevilla team who won three Europa League titles from 2014-2016, Wolves gave a good account of themselves, even though they were playing in their 59th match of the season.

However, Lucas Ocampos' late header ensured the Midlands club's season ended 383 days after it had begun.

"Like I've said many times it's a long journey," Nuno said. "We wanted to go as far as we could. We came really close today."

"Everyone is disappointed but we should not ignore the effort of the players. It's 14 months of hard work - in the Europa League and the Premier League - and we've achieved good things."

Advertisement  
"The disappointment cannot take away from all the good things we've been doing."

Wolves, who came seventh in the Premier League and missed a

Europa league spot for next season, had a golden chance to open the scoring at the MSV Arena but Mexican Jimenez, normally so reliable from the spot, saw his penalty saved by Bono.

"Raul is an amazing player, all the things he does for the team," Nuno added. "The work, the goals, the talent he has is amazing - Raul is a fantastic player."

Sevilla have made the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup/Europa League for the seventh time - only Inter Milan have reached the same stage on more occasions - and will face Manchester United next in their last-four clash in Cologne on Sunday.

"I think we deserved the win," Sevilla manager Julen Lopetegui said. "The key was to chip, chip, chip away, have patience and wait until the right moment."

Advertisement  
"We are going to play against Manchester United in the next match. They're the biggest team in the world but we're going to be prepared for them."

Inter face Shakhtar Donetsk, who thrashed FC Basel 4-1 on Tuesday, in the second semi-final next Monday.

REUTERS

## Portugal ready for Champions League after subduing virus

LISBON, PORTUGAL

SEEN as an example for the rest of Europe, Portugal successfully controlled the coronavirus pandemic - and earned the right to host the world's most important club soccer tournament.

Portugal will take the center stage from Wednesday when eight of Europe's best teams start fighting for the coveted Champions League title amid strict health protocols.

Thanks in part to its handling of the pandemic, Portugal was chosen by UEFA to stage the mini-tournament in two Lisbon stadiums over the next two weeks. Despite the country's success, there will be no fans for this week's quarterfinals, next week's semifinals and the Aug. 23 final.

Portugal avoided the problems that hit other southern European countries such as Italy and neighboring Spain, where the known combined COVID-19 death toll surpassed 63,000.

There have been fewer than 2,000 registered deaths in Portugal, which took quick action when the pandemic started to hit nearby countries and even though only a few cases had been reported locally.

"UEFA recognized that Portugal was the safest place to host this competition," Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa said on Tuesday in a video call with international correspondents.

"All security measures have been guaranteed for players, coaches, journalists, visitors and the Portuguese community in general."

Costa noted that Portugal's past experience in hosting sporting events



A bus carrying the Atalanta soccer team arrives at the Pina Manique stadium in Lisbon for a training session, Tuesday Aug. 11, 2020. Atalanta will face PSG in a Champions League quarterfinals match on Wednesday in Lisbon. (AP Photo)

helped the nation land the Champions League. Portugal hosted the inaugural Nations League Finals last year, Champions League final in Lisbon in 2014, and the European Championship in 2004.

Later this year, the country will hold a Formula One grand prix and a MotoGP race, both in the city of Portimão.

"We are only able to host these Champions League matches because of the good behavior of the Portuguese people in the fight against the pandemic," Portuguese Football Federation president Fernando Gomes said.

"The matches will be seen by hundreds of mil-

lions of people, helping to underline and reinforce the positive image that Portugal has given the world during a period that has been particularly difficult and demanding for everyone."

The final was originally scheduled to take place at Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul. Madrid was among cities which also wanted to host the re-shaped mini-tournament.

Portugal, a country of 10.3 million people with an economy that relies heavily on tourism, saw a surge in outbreaks that raised concerns a few weeks ago and prompted the return of some restrictions in some places. But the numbers

came down again recently and have been mostly under control in the run-up to the Champions League knockout stage.

There were also concerns when Spanish club Atlético Madrid reported two positive cases in its squad ahead of its trip to Lisbon. The entire team had to be tested again and the club was cleared to travel only after negative results came back.

None of the other seven clubs involved in the quarterfinals have reported positive tests among players.

In Lisbon, they will have to comply with UEFA's 31-page return-to-play protocols for international

matches. Players will be tested before departure for a host city and a day before games. Anyone who has had either a coronavirus diagnosis or "any suspicious symptoms or contacts" will be subject to pulmonary function testing and, in severe cases, "organ-dependent examinations."

Costa noted the Portugal was one of the first soccer leagues to resume amid the pandemic, and that it finished with only one player having tested positive for COVID-19.

The venues in Lisbon are Benfica's Stadium of Light and Sporting Lisbon's Alvalade Stadium.

AP

## 'Thousands have tried' - Bayern ponder how to stop Messi

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich midfielder Leon Goretzka said the German giants are working out how to curb the legendary talents of Barcelona star Lionel Messi ahead of Friday's Champions League quarter-final.

"Thousands of people before me have tried to answer this question," Goretzka replied Tuesday in Lisbon when asked how to stop Messi.

"It is nice - after playing against (Juventus star Cristiano) Ronaldo a few times - to play the other formative player of the last decade."

"That can only be done collectively," the 25-year-old central midfielder said of Messi, "because he is a gifted footballer."

"I don't know how, but we have to force our game on them."

Messi scored his 31st goal this season on Saturday and is looking to lift the Champions League for the fifth time in his career with Barcelona.

Treble-chasing Bayern, however, have won all 13 games since the coronavirus lockdown restart.

They underlined their impressive form on Saturday when Robert Lewandowski, the Champions League's top scorer, netted twice and created two more in the last 16, second-leg rout of Chelsea to seal a 7-1 thrashing on aggregate.

Bayern are chasing the treble having already won an eighth straight Bundesliga title and lifted the German Cup, but Goretzka says Barcelona present a true test.

"There is no easy way now. We are here in the sun in Portugal and are preparing for a knockout game in the Champions League," he said.

"We're really up for it. Knockout matches are great."

While Barcelona are packed with stars alongside Messi, Goretzka says Bayern are far more than just Lewandowski's goals.

"At the moment, we're playing as a unit, in addition to the quality of the individual players."

"We have a clear plan in hand and our intensity without the ball can make the difference."

But he admitted being wary of Arturo Vidal, Barca's ex-Bayern midfielder.

"I got to know him for a few weeks and played against him many times. He has a first-class mentality with amazing fitness," added Goretzka.

"I noticed that during fitness tests - which I took next to him - he can go beyond the pain threshold."

Meanwhile, Yussuf Poulsen has



Lionel Messi celebrates scoring for Barcelona in last Saturday's win over Napoli to set up their Champions League quarter-final clash with Bayern Munich. (Agencies)

shaken off an ankle injury and is ready to slot in for Timo Werner and help provide the goals for RB Leipzig in Thursday's Champions League quarter-final against Atletico Madrid.

After scoring 34 times last season, including four in the Champions League, Germany striker Werner quit Leipzig to sign for Premier League side Chelsea in June.

Despite permission from Chelsea, Werner turned down the chance to play for Leipzig in the quarterfinals in order to focus on settling into life in London.

In his absence Poulsen, who has recovered from an ankle injury in May, is set to partner on-loan Czech forward Patrik Schick in Lisbon.

"We know that we can't completely replace Timo one to one," Poulsen told AFP subsidiary SID.

"But I also know that the coach has a lot of ideas on how we can approach this and be at least as effective in Lisbon as we were in our previous Champions League games."

"As long as I'm in the starting eleven, I always agree with the coach," he joked.

Leipzig were only founded in 2009 and are in the knock-out stages of the Champions League for the

first time.

After beating Tottenham in the last 16, they are eager to extend their run under ambitious head coach Julian Nagelsmann.

Despite being just 26, Poulsen has spent seven years at Leipzig and has come up with them from Germany's third division to Europe's top table.

The Denmark international has scored 63 goals and created 51 more in 250 appearances for the club from Germany's east.

He has the distinction of being the first Leipzig player to score a Bundesliga hat-trick, doing so against Hertha Berlin in March 2019.

Now, after weeks of uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic between February's last-16 win and the quarter-final, Poulsen said the Germans are ready to face an experienced Atletico side.

- Title aspirations -  
"We're all really looking forward to the game," said the Dane.

"We've worked hard for it and we're happy that we can finish it."

"There were times when that wasn't certain, so it's a great feeling to be in Lisbon."

"Once you're there, you must have the determination to go all the way to the final and the title."

Under Diego Simeone,

Atletico are hunting their first Champions League title after losing the 2014 and 2016 finals to arch-rivals Real Madrid.

"Those responsible have been doing a very good job at Atletico for many years," said Poulsen.

"Of course Atletico is the favourite, we are more the underdog."

"We're in the Champions League quarterfinals for the first time, they've always been fully involved for the last eight, ten years."

"But, of course, we have a chance and we believe we do."

Under Nagelsmann, RB Leipzig play a brand of attacking football and big things are expected from their talented Spanish attacking midfielder Daniel Olmo, a product of Barcelona's youth academy.

In contrast, Atletico have earned a reputation for tough defending with their back four notoriously hard to break down, as Liverpool found to their cost in the last 16.

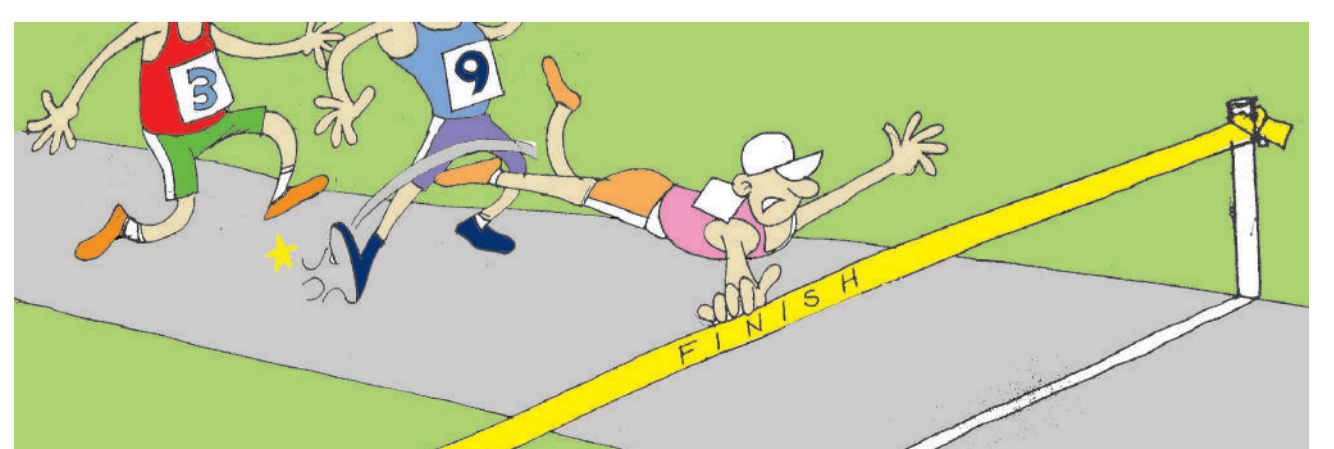
"Yes, there are a few differences, but whoever says that Atletico only sit deep and defend, only knows the team partially," warned Poulsen.

"They can also push very high, but are very well trained to prevent a goal from being scored."

"We can learn from that too."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# Azam FC crosses swords with Yanga

## SPORT

Portugal ready for Champions League after subduing virus

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

### Farid Mussa joins Yanga

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona



Farid Mussa

YANGA yesterday continued to reinforce their squad by signing Tanzanian winger Farid Mussa on a two-year contract.

Mussa, who was playing for Spain's CD Tenerife, put pen to paper yesterday, ending long time rumours of his future as he was also linked to a move to his former club Azam FC.

Reports from Yanga said they are delighted to have completed signing Mussa that was described as talented and promising player.

"The club is delighted to have completed the signing of Farid Mussa, he is a complete player who can play as a striker and midfielder, his coming will help the club in its quest to reclaim its lost glory," Hassan Bumbuli, Yanga's information officer, noted.

The player has signed for Yanga after the end of his four-year contract with the Spanish Segunda B team.

Yanga are in the process of rebuilding their squad in an effort to reclaim their lost glory.

They have so far re-

leased 14 players and since the window period opened the Jangwani Street-based outfit has been active on the market.

They have signed Waziri Junior from Mbao FC, Yassin Mustapha from Polisi Tanzania, Bakari Mwanje from Coastal Union, Zawadi Mauya from Kagera Sugar, Abdallah Shaibu, Kibwana Shomari from Mtiwba Sugar.

They have also roped in Burkina Faso midfielder, Yacouba Sogne, from Asante Kotoko of Ghana and they are linked to DR Congo midfielder Deo Kanda from Simba SC, who was on loan from DR Congo's TP Mazembe, Walter Bwalya that is playing in Egypt and DR Congo's AS Vita Club players, Fabrice Mukoko Tonombe and Tusila Kisindu.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE battle for the signature of Azam FC's gifted midfielder, Salum Abubakary, has taken a new twist as the Chamazi-based side and Yanga are demanding an apology from each other.

Yanga were interested in the services of the player, who is better known as 'Sure Boy', but their three offers were turned down by Azam FC, who claimed



Azam FC midfielder, Salum Abubakary. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

the offers did not meet the price of the player.

It all started on Tuesday morning when Azam FC, through the side's information officer Thabit Zakaria, issued a statement that they have withdrawn the midfielder from the transfer market after failing to get a suitable bid.

In the afternoon the same day, Zakaria went to the press alleging that a person from Yanga brought a letter purportedly to have been written by Abubakary demanding Azam FC to sell him to Yanga.

He said this is disrespectful to Azam FC and the outfit demanded an immediate

apology from Yanga.

Zakaria could not disclose if the letter, purportedly from Abubakary, had the player's signature and his name, and the title of the person who brought the letter to his club.

"The issue of Abubakary joining another club is a closed chapter, he is training with his team mates to prepare for the coming season," the Azam FC official noted.

"But, to our surprise, a certain man came today with a letter, in the letter Abubakary is demanding the club to sell him to Yanga."

"The messenger is the same person who has been bringing Yanga offers for our player. This really confused us all including the player who was with his team mates training, we are demanding an apology from them," he said.

Several hours later, Hassani Bumbuli, Yanga information officer, distanced his club from the letter and demanded an apology from Zakaria.

He said it has now become a tendency for clubs to use Yanga to gain mileage on the social media.

The Yanga official gave his Azam FC counterpart up to yesterday to make the apology, failure of which he threatened to take unspecified action.

Bumbuli challenged Zakaria to

name the person who brought the letter to Azam FC, suggesting that saying the particular man is a person from Yanga is not enough proof that the person was sent by the outfit.

"This is not true as Yanga were interested in the services of the player, but after our offers were rejected, we are now focusing on other alternative players," he disclosed.

"I'm demanding an apology from them. It has now become a tendency that teams (he did not mention names) are using us to gain mileage on social media."

"They want to have many followers and likes using Yanga's fame, we will not allow this, if he will not issue an apology by tomorrow (yesterday) we will take an action which will serve as a lesson to others," he said.

For almost five years in a row, Yanga have been interested in the services of Abubakary, who is also a senior national team's dependable midfielder.

However, this year, Yanga openly expressed their interest in the services of the player, but their offers were rejected as they were deemed to be on the lower side.

Both Azam FC and Yanga are in the process of rebuilding their teams after playing second fiddle to Simba SC in domestic competitions for three years in a row.

## Twiga Titans cricketers clobber Simba Kings in 2020 APL

By Guardian Reporter

TWIGA Titans cricketers have improved their pursuit of the title in the 2020 Advanced Players League (APL), cruising to a comprehensive five-wicket victory over Simba Kings in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The eventual winners have as a result notched their third victory in the competition to effectively emerge as yet other serious contenders for the top honour.

Simba Kings and Chui Challengers are also deemed as the favourites for the tournament's top honour.

Twiga Titans registered three-wicket victory over Royal Rhinos in the first encounter, which took place last weekend, and the former went on to record 48-run victory over Buffalo Blasters in the following duel.

Zafar Khan, Simba Kings' skipper, ended seven runs short of a half century after the squad had won the toss, chose to start batting and went on to notch 109 runs for the loss of six wickets in 20 overs in the yesterday duel.

Khan, batting at number three, had the most significant contribution at the crease in his team, he cracked four fours and two sixes.

Stewart Kaduma and Muzamil Hussain posted 19 runs and 14 runs respectively in what was the other notable contribution in



Caravans Club's all rounder, Kassim Nassor (L), in action against Lions Club in the 2019 GP Gymkhana Shield tournament, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Nassor starred for Twiga Titans in this year's Advanced Players League clash with Simba Kings, which took place in the city yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

the club.

Benson Mwita was a run short of double digit score, closing out the innings with unbeaten spell, and Mohammad Ali posted three runs not out.

Twiga Titans bowler Zahid Abbas took three wickets, leaking 15 runs in three overs and fellow bowler Kassimu Nassoro, also the outfit's skipper,

ended with two wickets, leaking 11 runs in three overs.

Needing 110 runs to post victory, Twiga Titans experienced a somewhat frustrating start to the chase, as they faced quick dismissals of their three key batsmen.

Twiga Titans' opening batsmen, promising all rounder, Abdulrahman

Akida, and his experienced partner Abbas lasted a few overs, as Simba Kings sought to frustrate the former from early on.

Akida posted five runs before he was caught by Hussain from Khan's delivery, Abbas was caught by Simba Kings' wicket keeper Kikasi from Vipul Pindoria's delivery.

Twiga Titans' youthful all

rounder, Dhruvit Mehta, and Jatin Darji to some extent steadied the ship after posting 18 runs and 16 runs not out respectively.

After another wobble, which had Nyenje Hashim being sent back to the pavilion by Khan, all rounder Harsheed Chohan catapulted his club to victory, ending three runs short of a half century.

The youngster cracked five fours and a six in what was the best innings in the Twiga Titans.

Khan had the best bowling spell in Simba Kings, given he took three wickets and leaked 14 runs in four overs.

He ultimately was voted as the man of the match, although his squad succumbed to the loss. In the day's second encounter Chui Challengers were set to play Royal Rhinos in the afternoon.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized league, which will climax on Sunday this week, takes place with a view to raising the standard of the sport at the domestic level.

The showpiece, which has exclusively brought together domestic cricketers, is set to climax this weekend, with the first of the semi-finals taking place on Saturday, whilst the second semi-final will take place Sunday morning.

The first of the semi-finals, dubbed Qualifier 1, will have the club which will finish first take on the one which will finish second.

There will as well be an Eliminator 1 that will have the third-placed side locking horns with the fourth-placed club.

The Sunday's semi-final, therefore, will have winners of the Eliminator 1 facing losers of the Qualifier 1.

The 2020 APL's final will then take place in the afternoon the same day.

### Dar Hip Hop artistes set to colour Arusha lounge's opening

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

IT seems Dar es Salaam musicians will still dominate entertainment events in other regions in Tanzania.

For instance during the forthcoming Dreamers' Lounge opening event, slated to take place in two weeks' time, the two top new-age music artistes, Ambwene Yessaya, popularly known as 'AY', and Farid Kubanda, going by the name 'Fid Q', are going to make scene in Themis Hills area of Njiro in Arusha.

The two Hip-Hop artistes from Dar es Salaam have been invited to Arusha to colour the grand re-opening of the Dreamers' Lounge of Engutoto Ward of Themis Hills in Njiro, South-East of Arusha at the end of this month.

"There is healthy competition of entertainment venues in Arusha as life resumes following the Coronavirus lockdown period," the Director of Dreamers' Lounge, Famy Amin Saleh, said during the initial soft opening of the arena, adding that the club had been closed for a while and now is set to be revived.

"It is going to be like a sports bar, mixed with entertainment with different designs and the soft opening was simply meant to re-introduce the venue to local residents," the Dreamers' Lounge official said.

The recent initial club opening was coloured by disco music, featuring top Disco Jockeys such as the resident spinners, DJ Hasanoo from Arusha and DJ Pulu from Kilimanjaro that had recently to Arusha, and guest jockey, DJ Mac from Dar es Salaam.

"Until now we have confirmed the presence of the two artistes for the grand event while we are still working to contact other top singers and performers so that the ultimate 'Dreamers' opening show will be one big occasion," he said. According to the Dreamers' Lounge Management, all entertainment centers of Arusha offer the same thing and therefore they plan to introduce the Dar es Salaam styled 'vibe' in Njiro so that Arusha revellers can also experience something new in town.

Mega Beverages Sales Representative, Mathias Kimaro, said entertainment venues and related concerts are what drive business in products such as their K-Vant liquor and this helps to promote industrial development.

Other than the newly launched Dreamers' Lounge of Njiro, Arusha's entertainment scene also has other vibrant outfits such as the Cocoriko Annex, Blue Stone, Club 'D', Kiringa Garden, Mjengoni Club, 'The Don' and 'The Boss'.

### Flexibles by David Chikoko

