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## HEALTH



**GAVI ALLIANCE OKS FUNDING FOR MALARIA**  
PG 3

## PROGRAMME



**PLASTIC, RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERIES**  
**BENEFIT WOMEN** PG 4

## DISEASE



**BANK DISBURSES \$3.2BN TO FIGHT**  
**CORONAVIRUS** PG 5

## SOCIETY



**IFAKARA EMBARKS ON PROJECT TO FIGHT**  
**TEEN PREGNANCIES** PG 6

# Samia: Red tape puts off investors

## Govt keen on tree planting to aid climate change curbs

By Guardian Reporter

REGISTERED villages across the country need to initiate tree farms in an effort to tame effects of climate change, the government has declared. Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) has issued a directive on public officials at the grassroots level to ensure that every household plants trees to complement wider government efforts in environmental conservation.

He issued the directive when inaugurating an agricultural symposium held in Musoma, Mara Region, organised by Vi Agroforestry under the theme 'Mixed Agriculture for Income and Environmental Conservation.'

Mixed agriculture is likely to



**"If we do not take action the world will not be a safe place to live; we have a lot of work to do to combat climate change,**

improve people's living conditions and reduce the effects of climate change, thus the minister underlined that it is important for every village and household to embrace the culture of planting and caring for trees. That would be a step to help in the fight against climate change, he stated. Addressing visitors and exhibitors at the lakeside town, the minister expressed gratitude at the way the development partners support government efforts in various environmental projects, citing the challenge of

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An expert with Raddy Fibre Manufacturing Tanzania Ltd's factory briefs President Samia Suluhu Hassan when she visited the firm's cable testing laboratory in Mkuranga District, Coast Region, yesterday. Photo: State House

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday reaffirmed the government's commitment to accelerating efforts to clear bureaucratic red tape and improve ease of doing business, uplifting the country's investment environment.

Launching a factory for Raddy Fiber Manufacturing (T) Ltd in Mkuranga District, Coast Region; the president said that eliminating bureaucracy was meant to ease things for both local and foreign investors.

"When you delay issuing a business permit you are delaying government tax, delaying job creation and suffocating our economy. You should remember that some of these investors secure loans so they are supposed to pay on time. We need to change this and this kind of bureaucracy cannot be tolerated," she declared.

The government would continue to update and improve the business and investment regulatory environment, working with the private sector to improve the investment climate, she said, indicating that the government has made some progress in easing the business climate, thus accelerating new investment projects, enhancing job opportunities.

"This particular investor started perusing this business idea in 2015 and he must have gone through so much to bring it to reality. He could have been despised as a local investor," she stated, insisting that such habits ought to stop.

"There are Tanzanians with exposure outside who want to invest here. Please receive them positively," she emphasised, highlighting that the government has continued to put in place a friendly investment climate and the relevant policies.

"We know that a strong private sector is critical for the country's development so we will continue work-

## 'With AfCFTA we have to use regulatory blueprint'

By Getrude Mbago

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) has called on the government to speed up the implementation of

'Blueprint on Regulatory and Licensing Reform' to facilitate greater utilization of opportunities in the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Paul Makanza, the CTI chairman,

made this appeal during the CTI annual symposium and general meeting in Dar

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Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (L) receives documents on 115,200 doses of Johnson & Johnson/Janssen Covid-19 vaccines from the Belgian Ambassador to Tanzania, Peter Van Acker. This was shortly after the consignment, donated to Tanzania by Belgium through the COVAX Facility, was flown into Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday. Photo: Correspondent James Kandoya

**The sixth phase government has advanced the regulatory environment especially on the issue of work permits that are now issued online between one and three days plus voluntary compliance in tax payment**

ing towards developing the private sector," she said, pointing at increased job opportunities in various sectors as a result of this effort.

"We have commenced a road show week for the 60th anniversary of independence, in tandem with showcasing the country's major industrial projects. The launch of this industry is a sign of the many investment opportunities available in our country," the president asserted, urging potential investors to take up available opportunities as their invested capital will be safe.

Geoffrey Mwambe, the minister responsible for Investment, said that the government has renewed efforts towards easing business start up and regulations to enhance the country's competitiveness.

"The sixth phase government has advanced the regulatory environment especially on the issue of work

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## TMA projects three days of coastal downpour

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has said six coastal regional areas will experience heavy rains for three consecutive days.

The rains forecast from yesterday would pound the coastal zone until Monday, with a TMA statement saying the re-

gional areas as including Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Coast, Zanzibar and Pemba islands, Morogoro and Lindi.

The rains might interrupt some economic activities like shops and transport, but are unlikely to pose real threat to human life, it said, noting that the effect of the downpour will be minimal in those regions.

Though delayed, the November to April seasonal rains are already pounding various parts of the country, it said, as reports from Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region say heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds recently left over 100 houses without roofing cover.

District Commissioner Dr Julius Ningu said that the downpour lasted for 45 min-

utes on Tuesday, wrecking the roofing of 133 houses, leaving occupants without shelter.

A forecast released by TMA late October said food basket regions in the Southern Highlands would receive below normal to normal rains during the end year to the first quarter,

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## Govt keen on tree planting to aid climate change curbs

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lost investment potential for hotels along inhabited lake coastlines owing to the rising water level.

Such areas include the Fungu Islands in Rufiji district of Coast Region which are flooded and lost from view, while by contrast drought is rampant in many areas, so people lack water. "If we do not take action the world will not be a safe place to live; we have a lot of work to do to combat climate change," he emphasised.

Change can similarly not be achieved without investing in human resources so that people have a better understanding or interpreting things what is happening in environmental matters and thus help the society, he stated.

Regional Commissioner Ally Hapi said Mara region intends to launch a tree planting campaign in various areas including residential neighbourhoods, public institutions and in villages, where villagers will be encouraged to raise new woodlands or forests for firewood instead of cutting down natural trees indiscrimi-

nately as this leads to environmental degradation.

"We plan to plant more trees in our region through this campaign so that we can combat the effects of climate change, get fresh air and remove carbon dioxide," the RC told the minister, citing the need to plant drought-tolerant crops.

Eva Aberg, the director of Vi Agroforestry, said the NGO appreciates the contribution of smallholder farmers, in which case researchers and industrial firms need to work with farmers by taking up the raw materials they produce. The NGO pursues education to farmers in agroforestry techniques meant to avoid impacts on the human environment, she stated, noting further that over the years climate change has had a profound effect on many communities, causing harm and thus the need for joint efforts to address the matter.

Organisers said the exhibition is held annually for farmers cultivating a range of crops in the Lake Zone and this year it features participants from Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda.



Dr Hashil Abdallah (2nd-R), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Industry and Trade ministry, inspects motorcycles made by Hero company shortly after launching an India automobile show in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Right is India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binnaya Srikanta Pradhan. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## 'With AfCFTA we have to use regulatory blueprint'

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es Salaam yesterday, focused on the theme "Implementation of CTI Strategic Plan 2021-2025 for Effective Advocacy in Improving the Business Environment."

He said the blueprint, prepared after thorough consultations with various private sector associations and World Bank officials, demands amendments of various laws including on Value Added Tax (VAT), regulatory bodies, immigration and labour issues, as well as social security and environmental management, among others.

Despite various reforms conducted by the government so far, a number of chal-

lenges thwart the ability of industrialists to conduct their businesses smoothly, he said, pointing at the need to implement the blueprint.

"It is now more urgent than ever before, if we are to compete effectively in the domestic, regional and world markets. We commend the government for ratifying the AfCFTA and we hope that it will take all the needed reforms to enable the country to have active and competitive players as set out in the pact," he said.

As AfCFTA covers a market of 1.3bn people this is a huge opportunity but it will be meaningless if Tanzania will not take the required to utilise its potential, he stated, as

it ought to have a competitive manufacturing sector that is not overburdened by inefficient regulations.

"There is a complex and unfair tax regime in place, with CTI members facing challenges especially by having multiple regulatory bodies. This remains a huge concern for us," he declared.

Dr Ismail Seif Salum, permanent secretary from Zanzibar in the Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development, said the government is taking necessary measures to improve the business environment so that Tanzanian companies can effectively participate in domestic and international markets.

"The 6th phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan continues to take all needed measures geared to improve the business environment upon which the manufacturing sector can thrive," he stated, underlining that some of the reform measures undertaken include the implementation of recommendations from the blueprint.

These measures were set out in the National Budget 2020/21 and several other interventions seeking to develop a roadmap towards reducing the cost of doing business, he stated, asserting that the government would like to see the entire private sector properly coordinated and driving the economy of the country.

"I know CTI has been a leading business association in assisting the government to address some of the challenges affecting the business community. Your valuable recommendations to the government to improve industrial development and trade related policies, rules and regulations have contributed a lot," he told the gathering.

The government and the private sector have to work together to meet the high expectations and aspirations of Tanzanians in attaining high economic growth necessary for poverty reduction, thus manufacturers need to be more innovative and produce quality products that will compete well in the Africa free trade zone, he added.



Jenista Mhagama (2nd-L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities), receives a medical assistance request letter from Masha Mbise who suffered a spinal cord injury in a road accident. This was during International Day of Persons with Disabilities held at national level at Tangamano grounds in Tanga city yesterday. Left is Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

## TMA projects three days of coastal downpour

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raising the threat of food shortages.

Recent data for the weather outlook showed that rains were likely to be below normal in Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Singida, Dodoma, Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya and Iringa regions, with Njombe, Ruvuma, Lindi,

Mtwara and the southern part of Morogoro region, showing a similar rainfall projection pattern, the agency noted.

Rukwa, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Ruvuma are the leading grain producing regions, all projected to receive relatively below normal rains during the six month period, which is critical for unimodal rainfall areas, it said.

November 2021 to January 2022 would see prolonged periods of dry spells with slight increase of rainfall prevalence later in March 2022, with the relatively sparse rains commencing in the third week of November and cease around the second or third week of April 2022, the earlier advisory had projected.

## Africa health watchdog CDC appeals for calm over Omicron

By Special Correspondent

THE African Union's health watchdog has appealed for calm over Omicron, the new, heavily mutated coronavirus variant which has prompted many countries to impose new restrictions.

The variant was first re-

ported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) by South Africa a week ago, and has quickly showed up across continents, deepening fears of another deadly wave of infections and signaling that the nearly two-year battle against the pandemic is not over.

But John Nkengasong,

head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), urged moderation.

"We are very concerned but are not worried that the situation cannot be managed," he told a press briefing. "There is no need to panic. We are not defenceless."

## Samia: Red tape puts off investors

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permits that are now issued on-line between one and three days plus voluntary compliance in tax payments," he said, reiterating the government's assurance to foreign and local investors.

Tanzanians need to take courage and invest in various sectors as the peaceful environment is a guarantee for their investments.

The Raddy (T) managing director Ramadhani Mlanzi said that the fiber optic cable plant sits on 7.9 hectares in the district, expected to produce 24,000km fiber optic cables per annum in length. "We have invested \$9.49m (around 22bn/-) in this project and we anticipate that it will create over 600 jobs in line with the Tanzania Development Vision 2025," he said.

The plant is the only fiber optic cable manufacturer in Tanzania and billed as the fourth largest in Africa, he said, noting that the aim is to produce enough fiber optic cables to support the telecommunications industry for the Tanza-

nian market and other regional markets.

Kundo Mathew, the deputy minister for Communications and Information Technology, stated that up to 670bn/- has been invested in constructing the 8,319 km national IT backbone starting from 2009.

The 2021/2022 budget allocated 170bn/- to support expansion of the national IT backbone project, where the government is building 4,442km this year, to a total mileage of 12,761kms, or 85 per cent of the 2925 target, he stated.

Raddy (T) Ltd will be involved in building the national fiber optic cable from Mangaka to Mtambaswala (72km) in Manyoni (Singida region) district to Mbeya (265kms), as well as Arusha to Namanga (105kms).

"With the launch of this industry our dream to be an ICT hub is being realised. We cannot consume all that the plant will produce so they will have to seek markets in neighboring markets," he added.



Tanzania Youth Alliance (Tayo) director Peter Masika (L) briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the agency's pavilion during the commemoration of World AIDS Day held at national level in Mbeya city on Wednesday. To the PM's right is Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Chief Govt Chemist to police detectives: Observe procedures, handle exhibits well

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CHIEF government Chemist Dr Fidelice Mafumiko has urged police detectives to observe procedures when collecting, storing and transporting samples related to crimes and eventually tendered as exhibits in the court.

Dr Mafumiko said yesterday when opening a training that was organised by the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) to police in Zanzibar on how to collect, store and transport samples related to crimes to his office before submitted to the court as exhibits.

"GCLA is one of main stakeholders of police to ensure all samples collected and submitted by police to the authority are tested accordingly and the results established. However, the authority has been facing challenges from the samples collected and submitted by the police," he said.

He mentioned some of the challenges as samples don't meet the criteria to undergo laboratory tests and weak documents submitted at the authority. Others are storing of samples in unrecompensed equipment such as that are not dry.

Dr Mafumiko said the authority conducted training for the police to remind them to solve the above challenges to ensure the samples submitted to the authority meet all criteria.

Also, to enable police and other related cadres to get the results on time and therefore the courts to proceed accordingly

"Our target is to remind them the best ways of collecting samples related to crimes from the scenes or from the victims, packaging, storing and preparation of documents and the entire chain until submitted to the GCLA office," he said. "It is my hope that, the training will be sustainable in coming for the years," he added.

For his part, Zanzibar Police ACP, Augustino Senga, thanked for the training saying it will help them collect the samples rightly as per requirement. "We thank GCLA office for training that aimed to ensure police play their duties to ensure the samples submitted met all criteria tested, diagnosed and are used for legal procedures in court. Let's continue collaborating to built capacities of our staffs and on so doing, I hope we can perform our duties much better," he said

## 'Govt empowering institutions to cope with swift technology change'

By Getrude Mbago

THE government is taking several measures to ensure that Tanzanians and the economy are not negatively impacted by the wave of the fourth industrial revolution.

The fourth industrial revolution refers to rapid changes in technology, industries, and societal patterns and processes in the 21st century due to increasing interconnectivity and smart automation.

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, Minister for Finance and Planning has said that the government is empowering institutions of governance at local and national level so that the country is left out.

Speaking during the opening of the Accountants' Annual Conference

2021 in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, he said the government is addressing the challenges through supporting its ministries, local government, departments and agencies to build the enabling environments for a digital economy.

In his speech read on behalf by the ministry's deputy Permanent Secretary Dr Khatib Kazungu, the minister said the government was also assisting ministries, local government, agencies and departments to build sustainable ICT infrastructures.

This year's annual conference was themed: "The 4th Industrial Revolution for Accountancy Sustainable Development".

He noted: "The fourth industrial revolution is expected to change how we

live, work, and communicate; it is also likely to change the things we value and the way we value them in the future. It is radically changing value creation in every economy and making a significant impact on society."

He said the country already has Development Vision 2025 (TDV -2025), Sustainable Industrial Development Policy for Tanzania 2020 (SIDP -2020) and the National Five Year Development Plan (2021/2022 -2025/2026). The FYDP stipulates clearly the interventions that can be carried out to improve science and technology in the country among other things investing on technology transfer, human development and strategic use of ICT.

"The government is putting more efforts to im-

prove and expand the mobile telecommunications networks and internet connectivity by establishing National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB). The Government has constructed the National Fibre Optic Cable network named as National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) with a view to achieve its ICT vision," he said.

He said the infrastructure is expected to enhance usage of ICT applications for sustainable socio-economic development including implementation of e-governments, e-learning, e-health, e-commerce and many other attributes for purposes of improving service delivery to our people.

He said technological advances offer great hope for accelerating progress towards sustainable eco-

nomic development. Digital technology connects people across the world instantaneously and provides access to information and services at a very low cost despite the fact that huge investment is required to sustain the fourth industrial revolution.

The minister said that the World Economic Forum, 2018 Report says that "These transformations, if managed wisely, could lead to a new age of good work, good jobs and improved quality of life for all, but if managed poorly, pose the risk of widening skills gaps, greater inequality and broader polarization".

The minister further insisted that under this digital era, internal and external auditors need to provide the expected oversight during audits. Current tech-

nology involving artificial intelligence should enable the auditing profession to capitalize and improve so that past identified lapses do not occur in the future.

"Through the use of automated systems, auditors should be able to appropriately identify the operational risks resulting in more informed decisions along with ensuring transparent and accurate reporting. Accountants and auditors have to do their job in an ethical manner in order to detect and prevent the cyber-crimes which are prevalent in technology driven economies," he said.

Prof Sylvia Temu, chairperson of NBAA governing board said participants will get a chance to discuss important issues that are related to the accountancy profession and other gener-

al issues in line with the 4th Industrial Revolution.

"As technology is spreading the scope of the profession, knowledge of trending technologies along with some survival skills are required for accountants. Therefore, in our three days of stay here our discussion will also need to look at the upcoming trends of the accountancy profession, at the same time discuss the required skills to adapt to the technological changes," she said.

She said accountants need to be more adaptive and improve their skills to keep pace with machines. Artificial intelligence, robotics, and machine learning are free from human error and have higher processing power; which causes erosion in traditional accounting activities.

## Lack of equal access to health services prolonging war on HIV/Aids - Z'bar VP

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR First Vice President, Othman Masoud Othman has said lack of equality in accessing to health services to people living with HIV contributes to the continual existence of the disease in the country.

Othman (pictured) made the remarks on Wednesday in South Unguja region at the apex of the commemoration of World's Aids Day.

He said without the government and the community making special joint efforts to make sure all HIV/Aids sufferers get equal medical treatment, the country, and the entire world in general will not succeed to eradicate the disease by 2030.

He said as for now the world has stressed in making sure all nations join together in strengthening the availability of health services to all.

However, the First Vice President said statistics show that Zanzibar has made great achieves in reducing new HIV infections from 366 cases in 2010 to 177 this year and called on the people to continue taking more precautions against the disease.

He also warned the community that despite the achievements, the situation on HIV infections in Zanzibar was not good in regard to vulnerable groups and that these need to be accorded priority.

He said statistics show that only 48 per cent of people using illicit drugs through injections recognize their HIV statuses, while 60 per cent of men engaged in sexual acts recognize themselves as living with HIV.

For his part Unguja South Regional Commissioner, Rashid Hadid Rashid said despite national statistics showing reduction of HIV/Aids prevalence, but the



situation in regard to HIV infections in the region was not good as the region's Central District leads in new infections.

For her part, Saada Mkuya Salum, Minister of State in the First Vice President's Office said the Zanzibar Government, through the Zanzibar Commission of HIV/Aids and various stakeholders were revising policies and strategies in the fight against the disease.

She said that the Central district is an area with fast new HIV infections due to the existence of many factors, hence, he added, special efforts were needed to save the community from the scourge.

For his part, UNAIDS Representative in Zanzibar, Dr George Loy praised the Zanzibar government for its great efforts against the disease and called on for more steps to attain the needed achievements.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF TEMEKE AT ONE STOP CENTRE  
 PROBATE APPEAL NO. 12 OF 2021  
 MOJJA GAYDON MAPUNDA (the 2nd Administrators of the estate of the late MARTHA TUPEGE MAPUNDA).....APPELLANT  
 VERSUS  
 JOYCE MAPUNDA MTABO (the 1st Administrator of the estate of the late MARTHA TUPEGE MAPUNDA).....1st RESPONDENT  
 GODFREY JOSEPH MAPUNDA (the 3rd Administrator of the estate of the late MARTHA TUPEGE MAPUNDA).....2nd RESPONDENT  
**NOTICE OF DATE OF MENTION/HEARING**  
 TAKE NOTICE that the above case has been fixed for mention on 10th day of December, 2021 at 10:00 before HON. MPRESSA, SRM. Your required to appear in this Court without failure and you must produce to that day all the documents upon which you intended to rely in support of your case. GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the Court this 22nd day of November, 2021.

## IN LOVING MEMORY 11th YEAR ANNIVERSARY



JULIANA MASIONILA ALLY SAIDI  
(28th FEBRUARY 1968 - 04th DECEMBER 2010)

TODAY MARKS 11 YEARS SINCE THE DAY YOU SUDDENLY LEFT US. A DEEP SENSE OF LOSS STILL REMAIN ON OUR HEARTS, THE GAP YOU LEFT ONLY FILLED BY FOUND MEMORIES, MISSING YOU COMES IN WAKES, AT TIMES TOO MUCH TO BEAR. WE MISS YOUR FRIENDSHIP, INCREDIBLE SENSE OF HUMOUR, GENEROSITY, LOVE, WISDOM, VISION AND YOUR GUIDANCE. WE MISS YOU SO MUCH MASIONILA. YOU WERE ALWAYS KIND, CARING, UNDERSTANDING AND INSPIRATIONAL TO US. YOU WERE A GIFT TO ALL WORLDS AND BROUGHT JOY TO EVERYONE AND LIFE HAS NEVER BEEN THE SAME EVER SINCE YOU HAVE GONE. 'INDEED GOOD WOMEN MUST DIE AND A GOOD AND STRONG WOMAN YOU WERE MASIONILA; BUT DEATH CANNOT KILL THEIR LEGACY, DREAMS, NAMES, IDEAS AND VISIONS.

DEARLY MISSED AND FONDLY REMEMBERED BY OUR HUSBAND, SON BRIAN, EXTENDED FAMILIES, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

YOU MAY BE GONE FROM OUR SIGHT BUT YOU ARE NEVER GONE FROM OUR HEARTS;

THOSE WHO TRUST IN ALLAH NEVER LOSE HOPE FOR WE SHALL MEET AGAIN IN JANNAH'



Zanzibar's Tourism and Heritage minister, Lela Muhammed Mussa (L), has a feel of a wide range of hand-made items at an entrepreneurs' exhibition held in the Forodhani suburb yesterday in marking Stone Town Day. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Plastic and reconstructive surgeries help 24 women

By Guardian Reporter

TWENTY-FOUR women and children with deformities resulting from violence, burns and accidents have benefited from free plastic and reconstructive surgeries conducted during the ongoing week-long health camp in Dar es Salaam.

The surgeries have been performed under the Women for Women Programme implemented by the Aga Khan Hospital Dar es Salaam (AKHD) in collaboration with Reconstructive Women International (RWI) and the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

Briefing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Andrea Pusic from RWI said since the programme commenced in 2016, about 240 women and children have restored their smiles by benefiting from the surgeries.

"We are happy to see our women and children smiling again especially after losing hope due to irregularities they got in their bodies resulting from violence, burns and accidents. We will continue working to ensure that we reach more people in need of the service," she said.

She commended the Aga Khan hospital for providing facilities which enabled the successful surgeries to take place.

"This is our sixth camp since we started performing surgery at the Aga Khan hospital, Dar es Salaam which is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment which have facilitated successful surgical operations. This year's camp

commenced on November 29 and will end tomorrow," she said.

She said the programme was initiated in January 2016 with surgeons from the United States, Canada and Europe working closely with Tanzania medical professionals to perform free of charge reconstructive surgeries for women and children. Dr Aidan Njau from Aga Khan Hospital expressed his gratitude to the RWI for the programme that restores and transforms lives of women and children while also continuing to support and develop local expertise in reconstructive surgery.

He said that the programme has helped restoration of physical function and appearance to many women and children and they are now living happily.

Dr Edwin Mrema from MNH said: "We have been able to perform surgery to 24 patients in this camp and we are happy that we have been able to reach out and help those in need. This has also opened opportunities for our post-graduate students from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) to learn more about the surgeries," he said.

Women for Women is a charity programme supported by female plastic surgeons whose goal is to help women suffering from disfiguring or socially excluding injuries and trauma, with the goal of enabling such women to continue on to lead happy and prosperous lives despite their injuries and trauma they have suffered in the past.

## SIDO, CBE conduct training on financial literacy in Dar

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

SMALL Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) in collaboration with the College of Business Education (CBE) have conducted the first training on investment and financial literacy to small and medium entrepreneurs who are based in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

Speaking during the event conducted yesterday in the city, the SIDO regional man-

ager for Dar es Salaam, Eng. Ridhiwani Matange, said that the training aimed at helping SMEs to conduct their business more profitable so as to contribute to the state coffers.

He said recently SIDO and CBE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would enable them to provide training to the SMEs based in Dar es Salaam.

Matange said that was the first training to be con-

ducted by the two organizations since they signed the MoU, adding that it would be extended to other regions countrywide.

He said most of the SMEs who attended the training are those who have already established small industries but do not have enough knowledge on financial literacy and marketing.

Speaking on behalf of others, an entrepreneur identified as Aswile Mwak-

ipesile, thanked the two organizations for organizing the event which he said has come at the right time.

He said most of them who established their business do not have enough knowledge to develop, hence the training would provide a chance for improvement.

"Most of us do not know what comes first before embarking on business, so this training has enlightened us with a lot of strategies to

improve our activities," he said.

Narrating he said, most of the SMEs do not have enough knowledge on the importance of government securities or shares.

He said they learnt a lot about the importance of shares, units and treasury bills and bonds where they can now make clear decisions on investment into that area.

Earlier, the Training Co-

ordinator, Melkiado January, said most of SMEs have financial education but not financial literacy.

"Lack of financial literacy is a big challenge to most SMEs and can lead to increased poverty, hence the training would act as a bridge for them to succeed," he said.

According to him the training has four components: financial literacy where participants were

trained on the importance of shares, bonds and units, marketing skills, and financial products by officials from UTT where they were enlightened on various schemes.

He said officials from SIDO also trained participants on opportunities of investing in SMEs in Tanzania.

The one day training attracted a total of 60 entrepreneurs from Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.



Ardhi University vice chancellor Prof Evaristo Liwa (2nd-L) presents a prize to Grace Mhina after she emerged Best Overall Student in academic year 2020/2021. This was at a prize-giving ceremony held at the university in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is deputy VC (Academic) Prof Gabriel Kassaga. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## TAEC to install plant for nuclear technology for storing food crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIA Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) has officially started the building of special equipment using nuclear technology that will be storing food crops to increase their period of use by protecting them against destructive pests.

TAEC head of communications, Peter Ngamilo has said the technology incorporates Gamma rays, X-rays and Electronic (e-beam) in order to enhance nutrients to various food crops, industrial products and medical devices by exterminating destructive bacteria and improve the quality of the products.

He said the technology has great benefits in improving health services, food and crops and contribute to the national economic growth.

"This technology can also be used in medical treatment, wires, semiconductors, polymeric and treatment of facial scars, phytosanitary and in reducing environmental degradation," he said.

Ngamilo further said Tanzania still lags behind compared to other neighbouring countries on the issue on quality products produced for export, value addition in the manufacturing of goods and food crops, thereby making Tanzania to be in danger of fierce competition in the world markets.

The nuclear technology has a big contribution in regard to agricultural and other products.

He said the market for the storage of food crops in the world was growing every year at about 4.8 per cent, and in the coming decade it will reach USD 232.5 million by 2025.

The main aim for using the technology is to remove problems brought by the increase of diseases caused by bacteria and great destruction to crops and other goods before reaching consumers.

He said statistics show that more than 30 per cent of food in the world get destroyed every year due to destructive pests.

## Swapping probiotics for antibiotics: How it could be a game changer for chickens, us

By Deon Neveling

IN 1928, microbiologist Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin was hailed as a scientific breakthrough. In the nearly 100 years since then, scientists have discovered numerous other antibiotics that have saved billions of lives.

However, bacteria have become increasingly resistant to these treatments. There are two reasons for this: the overuse and misuse of antibiotics by humans, and the introduction of antibiotics to agriculture.

During 2021's World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week, the World Health Organisation (WHO) repeated a

warning it had issued before: antibiotic resistance is rising to dangerously high levels globally. Globally it is estimated that antibiotic-resistant bacteria kill between 700,000 and several million people every year.

Resistance to antibiotics leads to a situation in which previously treatable infections are becoming harder - and sometimes impossible - to treat. Without urgent action, the world is heading for a post-antibiotic era. Common bacterial infections could once again become frequent killers.

One way to address this crisis is to cut back on the unnecessary use of antibiotics. Some countries are doing this by banning the inclusion of antibiotics in

animal feed as growth promoters. This is because when humans consume meat or chicken, we ingest not only the antibiotics added to animal feed, but also antibiotic resistant bacteria.

A 2018 joint report by the WHO, Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Organisation for Animal Health found that only 42% of countries have limited their use as growth promoters. Most are in Europe; only a fraction of countries in Africa and the Americas have taken these steps. The agricultural sector desperately needs alternatives to maintain animal health without detrimental consequences to human health.

The term "antibiotic growth promoter" describes the administration of anti-

biotics at a low, sub therapeutic dose as a preventative measure. It's not entirely clear why antibiotics influence livestock growth. However, research suggests that they possibly promote growth by depressing the growth of microbes that are toxic or that steal nutrients from the host, leading to increased nutrition utilisation and reducing the energy that must be invested in maintaining immune responses.

One alternative to this is the use of probiotics, rather than antibiotics, in animal feed. I am a microbiologist and have developed a probiotic for chickens. Most probiotics on the market are not developed for a specific host; ours is developed specifically for chickens

and contains multiple bacterial strains, which each target different areas of the gut to strive for complete gut protection.

My research shows that the probiotic has numerous beneficial characteristics - both for chickens and the humans who will ultimately eat them. The probiotic decreases the presence of pathogens in the animal's gut and can be used safely on a daily basis.

Probiotics are health-promoting bacteria that naturally occur in the intestine of any animal with a gut. They have a mutually beneficial relationship with the host. A large body of research has shown that probiotics may improve animal health and growth performance.



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT**  
**TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION**  
**TASAC**



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**OPINION ON SUITABILITY OF APPLICANTS FOR SHIPPING AGENCY LICENCE**

*The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC), established under Section 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Cap 415 of 2017, is a maritime administration and regulator of ports, shipping services, maritime environment, safety, security and related matters. The Corporation is charged, among others, with a responsibility of regulating private shipping agents.*

Section 13 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act of 2017 and regulation 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Shipping Agents) Regulations, 2018 empowers TASAC to license private shipping agents and requires applications for shipping agency licence to be made before or on 31st October.

Regulation 4(5) of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Shipping Agents) Regulations, 2018 requires the Corporation to seek opinion of the general public on suitability of applicants for shipping agency licence before issuance of the licence. As of 31st October, 2021 TASAC, had received applications from 26 companies for renewal of their shipping agency licences for the year 2022. Following this development and in accordance with provisions of the legislation, TASAC herewith invites members of the general public to submit their opinions on suitability of the applicants listed below. The opinions should be submitted timely so as to reach the Director General within fourteen days from the date of the first appearance of this advertisement.

**List of companies which have applied for shipping agency licence renewal**

Sn	Name of the Applicant	Physical Address	Name of Shareholders	Citizenship	Share percentage
1	TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCY LTD	P.O.BOX 372 DSM MANDELA ROAD HIGHWAY- KURASINI	1. ANIL VAGHJIBHAI PATEL 2. HARIDATT VAGHJIBHAI PATEL – 3. SIDDHARTH ANIL PATEL	TANZANIANN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	50 25 25
2	I.MESSINA (T) LTD	P. O. BOX 3317 DSM OHIO STREET – AMANI PLACE	1. FATMA KARUME- 2. DR. OMARY AWADH	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	95 5
3	WOSAC LIMITED	P. O. BOX 63210 DSM SAMORA AVENUE – HARBOUR VIEW TOWER	1. ALPHONCE M. KAMENDE 2. THERESIA B. KISENGA 3. AMIRI A. OMARI 4. BARUANI M. PONDA 5. ZARAU T. MASAMBA 6. KHALIDI A. MKAVULA 7. SAIDI S. NZILAIMO- 8. HALIMA M. HARUNA- 9. DEBORA E. MWALONGO-	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	12.45 12.44 10.73 10.73 10.73 10.73 10.73 10.73
4	RAIS SHIPPING SERVICES (TANZANIA) LTD	P.O.BOX 79869 DSM SAMORA AVENUE – HARBOUR VIEW TOWER	1. GATE SHIPPING SERVICE LLC. 2. JACKSON KAALE. 3. SHIEK MOHAMMED AKBAR.	UAE TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	39.92 30.74 29.33
5	FALCONY MARINES TRANSPORTATIONS LTD	P. O. BOX 726 KIGOMA KIGOMA PORT YARD	1. MBARAK HAMOUD - TANZANIA 2. NAIMA SALUM - TANZANIA	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	90 10
6	SEAFORTH GENERAL AGENCIES LTD	P.O.BOX 9313 DSM IT PLAZA TENTH FLOOR JUNCTION OF OHIO STREET AND GARDEN AVENUE	1. ANVERALI RAJPAR 2. HATIM KARIMJEE 3. SEAFORTH SHIPPING (K) LTD	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN KENYAN	44 16 40
7	INCHCAPE SHIPPING SERVICES	P.O.BOX 3524 DSM AZIKIWE ST- MAKTABA SQUIRE	1. ISS GROUP HOLDING LTD 2. SIMON MPONJI	UK TANZANIAN	39 61
8	SIMA MARINE LTD	P. O. BOX 78230 DSM SAMORA AVENUE – NHC HOUSE	1. MOHAMMAD REZA GHAEM MAGHAMI 3. ARIF YUSUPH ABDULRAHMAN	CYPRUS TANZANIAN	40 60
9	SEVEN SEAS SHIPPING AGENCIES LTD	P.O. BOX 74515 DSM CORNER OF OHIO & GARDEN- IT PLAZA	1. ARIF YUSUF 2. ANU GEORGE 3. KOMATH RAMESH	TANZANIAN INDIAN INDIAN	60 25 15
10	MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY (T) LIMITED	P.O.BOX 63039 DSM KURASINI AREA- MSC BUILDING	1. ANIL PATEL 2. CTI TRANSPORT –ISLE OF MAN	TANZANIAN BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY	60 40
11	CORAL SHIPPING (TANZANIA) LTD	P.O.BOX 10345,DSM HARBOUR VIEW TOWERS, 2ND FLOOR.	1. ALTAAF MUNGE 2. HIMMAT SINGH AHLAWAT	TANZANIAN INDIA	60 40
12	DIAMOND SHIPPING SERVICES LTD	P.O.BOX 75970 DSM, TALL BUILDING, BLOCK A GEREZANI (CORNER OF SHAURIMOYO STREET & NYERERE ROAD)	1. MR. ABDULRAHMAN OMAR KINANA AND MS. RAHMA HUSSEIN 2. OASIS INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LTD 3. SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR	TANZANIAN MAURITIUS INDIAN	60 39.96 .0004

13	STURROCK SHIPPING LTD	P.O.BOX 3746,DSM,MAKTABA BUILD COMPLE, 3 <sup>RD</sup> FLOOR,BIBI TITI RD	1.EMMANUEL PERICLES CONSTANTINIDES 2.STURROCK SHIPPING HOLDINGS (PTY)LTD 3.HASHIM AHMED ABDULLA	TANZANIA SOUTH AFRICA KENYAN	61 37.05 1.95
14	GULF BADR GROUP (T) LTD	P.O.BOX 79651, DSM, DIPLOMATIC, 7TH FLOOR MKWEPU STREET.	1.MOHAMED BAHAA ELDIN AHMED HELMY BADR 2.BAHAA ELDIN AHMED HELMY MOHAMED BADR 3.NEEMA SEBASTIAN MURO 4.ABDALLAH SALEHE NANTEMBELE AS THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF RASHID JUMA NANTEMBELELE	EGYPTIAN EGYPTIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	18.85 18.85 31.54 30.76
15	NYOTA TANZANIA LIMITED	P.O.BOX77264, DSM, DIAMOND PLAZA, 4 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, MILAMBO STREET.	1.RJH INVESTMENTS&MANAGEMENT SERVICES LTD 2. AMI RAMADHANI MPUNGWE 3.RAJENDRA BATUKBHAI DAVE 4. CHIDI OFONG	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN NIGERIAN	20.28 20.28 19.44 40
16	SHARAF SHIPPING AGENCY(T)LTD	P.O.BOX 75924 DSM, TALL BUILDING (GROUND FLOOR) PLOT NO 2447/208/2, BLOCK A, GEREZANI (CORNER OF SHAURI MOYO & NYERERE ROAD)	1.MR. ABDULRAHMAN OMARI KINANA 2.MRS RAHMA HUSSEIN GULLED 3.SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR 4.M/S OASIS INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN INDIAN MAURITIUS	49.59 10.42 0.0003 39.96
17	CMA CGM (TANZANIA) LIMITED	P.O.BOX 13463 DSM, HARBOUR VIEW TOWERS, 8ND FLOOR, SAMORA AVENUE.	1.DR. WILBERT BASILIUS KAPINGA 2.MOHAMEDALI JAFFERALI REMTULLA 3.ALDIN INVESTING INC	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN FRANCE	42 18 40
18	MARITIME ALLIANCE LTD	P.O.BOX 80311 DSM,SOCIAL SECURITY HOUSE,SAMORA AVENUE	1.OPTATUS CHRISANTUS NDONDE 2.GEORGE NDOMBA	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	50 50
19	SOUTHERN SHIPPING SERVICES LTD	P.O.BOX 8316 DSM,ALPHA,ALHASSAN MWINYI RD.	1.ASILA SULEMANI DITOPILE 2.MARIAM DITOPILE	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	99 1
20	VEJSA INVESTMENT CO. LTD	P.O.BOX 467,MWANZA,NKURUMAH STREET,37 BLOCK S	1.SALVATORY PASTORY IJUMBA 2.JUMA ISMAIL MAKARANGA 3.EDWARD NGAIZA GERALD 4.VEDASTUS PASTORY IJUMBA	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	64 12 12 12
21	SHEGEMA COMPANY LIMITED	P.O.BOX 178 KIGOMA,LUMUMBA STREET,PLOT NO.162	1. JULIENNE BAKENDA M 2. SHABAN IBRAHIM KILASA 3. JOYCE KAMBUGA BYEBALILO	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	70 20 10
22	EAST AFRICA COMMERCIAL&SHIPPING COMPANY DAR ES SALAAM LTD	P.O.BOX 80202 DSM,APT 002,BANDARI KURASINI,BLOCK B	1.YUSUF HAMIS MUSHI 2.AUGUSTIN AVISHASHE 3.SDV MINING ANTRAK AFRICA	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN FRANCE	38.5 21.6 39.9
23	EXPRESS CHARTERING& SHIPPING LTD	P.O.BOX 2989 DSM,SAMORA TOWER,10 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR,SAMORA AVENUE	1.LUSIU PETER 2.EXPRESS SHIPPING AND LOGISTICS(EA)LTD	TANZANIAN KENYAN	60 40
24	PIL TANZANIA LTD	P.O.BOX 77940DSM, MAKTABA SQUARE, MAKTABA STREET, WING A, 3 <sup>RD</sup> FLOOR.	1. MAC GROUP CO. LTD. 2.SELATAN MARITIME	TANZANIAN SINGAPORE	60 40
25	ROUND THE WORLD SHIPPING & LOGISTICS LIMITED	HABOUR VIEW BUILDING, SAMORA AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR, ROOM 411	1. DORBIBI FIROZ OSMAN 2. AKRAM MOGHAL 3. ASITHA UDAWELA	TANZANIAN PAKISTAN SRI LANKA	60 20 20
26	GREAT LAKES SHIPPING LIMITED	KIRUMBA, ILEMELA - MLIMANI STREET	1. ACKSON MILLANGTONE 2. KELVIN OEL MTAO	TANZANIAN TANZANIAN	5 60

**Director General**  
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The construction of this bridge by the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura) is nearing completion, as captured by a special correspondent earlier this week. It is a crucial link for Bulinga and Bugunda villages and other parts of Musoma Rural constituency.

## Ifakara embarks on special 3-year girls' project on early marriages

By Francis Kajubi

THE implementation of a special three-year project on early marriages in Ifakara town council, Kilombero District, Morogoro region has helped to reduce the number of incidents as majority of residents are now taking the lead to protect girls.

Dubbed 'Strengthening Civil Society to end Child Marriage in Ifakara-Kilombero District', the project targeted young girls and boys under the age of 18 from primary and ordinary level secondary schools and those who are not in school due to various reasons but are under 18 years old.

Financed by BMZ Germany through PLAN International Tanzania and implemented by Women In Social Entrepreneurship (WISE), the programme started in 2019.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of marking an end of the programme, WISE executive director Dr Astronaut Rutenge Bagile said that the programme involved a cross section of stakeholders such as prominent elders in Ifakara, religious leaders, traditional leaders, social welfare officers and school teachers.

"Through the programme we have achieved the intention of transforming the society's mindset from keeping information they have on early marriage and gender discrimination cases to sharing them to public authorities. The programme has been implemented through youth clubs that involved not less than 15 participants each," said Dr Bagile.

Juster Dismas, programme coordinator said that the project targeted 70 percent of young girls and 30 percent young boys with education on safer maternity health affairs.

"It covered 18 villages' from seven wards of Ifakara. The programme also involved child protection committees; it covered 20 primary schools and three secondary schools. Almost 20 clubs involved 15 participants and above each for fighting early marriages," said Dismas.

Freedom Lugongo, Ifakara Town Council social welfare officer, said that his office took part in the programme by collaborating with WISE in educating the girls and boys in the clubs who were also tasked at extending the knowledge of educating their peers on the importance of reporting gender based violence cases they inflict.

"Prior the programme a number of cases were kept secret or just negotiated and resolved at family levels but today are reported to us and other public authorities for deserved measures," said Lugongo.

Suzana Mwautende, Legal Officer of the Tanzania Interfaith Partnership (TIP) said that her organization role in the programme was educating the youth on what the world require them to live and behave before getting married.

"Our role was sensitizing young girls and boys by using our child safeguarding policy that is basically rooted on Christian and Islamic religion guidelines. Such programmes are of key importance in fighting early marriages and gender discrimination," said

## Delegates decry gender-based violence, call for measures

By Getrude Mbago

WOMEN and children stakeholders are calling for more concerted efforts to end gender based violence (GBV) as it continues to cause adverse impacts to the society and the country as whole.

Gender-based violence remains one of the greatest challenges facing women in Tanzania, in spite of national commitment to tackle gender inequalities. According to government data, 41,000 cases of violence against

women were reported in 2017 alone, with discriminatory customs and traditions still presenting significant barriers to the realization of gender equality.

Speaking with this paper as part of the commemoration of 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the stakeholders said there is still little understanding among the community about the effects of the violence and discrimination that still needed sufficient education to counter them.

The global theme for this year's 16 Days of Activism against GBV, which will run from 25 November to 10 December 2021, is "Orange the world: End violence against women now".

Abiah Richard, lawyer and advocate from the Women Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) said that sexual and gender-based violence was still a major problem in the country that needs efforts from everyone in the country to address.

She said that more determined cooperation among

the youth, elders, parents, religious leaders, security officers and judiciary were needed to fight the challenge. "WLAC has implemented several programmes to support the efforts to end GBV. We have implemented programmes in schools, communities, sports areas by engaging key stakeholders and are happy that the education has reached many people," she said.

Salome Makamba, Special Seats MP (Chadema) said GBV is now spreading very rapidly to almost all areas of work and women have been struggling

to face the challenges.

"The first victim group of violence is our domestic workers, let's join forces to help our house workers, majority of them undergo torture from their bosses with some of them facing sexual violence, we have to act on this now," she said.

Neema Lugangira, Special Seats MP (CCM) said women MPs also face challenges including online harassment and violence, something which also needs collaborative efforts to fight.

She commended the Speak

er of the National Assembly Job Ndugai for allowing them to establish a group of women champions who lead the fight against GBV.

Recently, Finland and UNFPA partnered to empower young women and adolescent girls, including those living with disabilities, to uphold their right to live free from violence. Finland is providing UNFPA with US\$6.1 million (14.2bn/-) for a three and a half year programme, "Chaguo Langu Haki Yangu - My Choice My Rights", which will support women in the Mara and

Shinyanga regions, mainland Tanzania, and Zanzibar, to uphold their right to live free from violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage.

The programme will be implemented in collaboration with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, including the regional and local government authorities as part of multisectoral and coordinated efforts to eliminate violence against women and children and harmful practices.



NICOL Investment Plc chairman Dr Gideon Kaunda (R) speaks at the firm's 7th annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others (L-R) are acting CEO Erasto Ngamilaga, director Peter Chisawilo and secretary Benjamin Mwakagamba. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Government underlines need to step up online sexuality and gender-based violence education

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has suggested the need to scale up online sexuality and gender-based violence education to all higher learning institutions in Tanzania so as to prevent new HIV infections.

Currently the online course is offered through a UNESCO facilitated programme that is run in three universities.

Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Jenista Mhagama made the suggestion in Mbeya region while visiting the United Nations (UN)'s booth at the climax of World AIDS Day.

She directed the Tanzania Commission for AIDS to explore rolling out the program to all higher and tertiary institutions in Tanzania.

"We need to do all that we can to protect young people from new HIV infection," said the Minister adding, "Our higher learning campuses host thousands of youth which is one of the most risky populations. An online program like this will facilitate building their personal armour for protection."

Official statistics show that by 2020, there will be 68,000 new HIV infections annually in Tanzania and adolescents and young people account for 40 percent of new infections. Girls make 80 percent of new infections among youth since its inception in March 2021 the online program called Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Higher Learning Institutions has reached over 7,000 students from St. Augustine University in Mwanza, Iringa University and University of Dar es Salaam.

Run by UNESCO in collaboration with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and TACAIDS, the program has five modules that cover adolescence and sexuality, sexual and reproductive health and HIV, relationships, gender-based violence and personal finance.

"Since it is online, students can register on their mobile, take it at their own pace," said Catherine Amri a Programme assistant with UNESCO. The interactive interface enables a person to follow with ease and upon demonstrating acquiring a desired level of knowledge is issued with a completion certificate.

This year's theme of the World Aids Day (WAD) commemorations emphasized ending inequalities that still haunt different populations and hinder efforts to halt the rate of new HIV infections. The theme, end inequalities, end HIV, end pandemics; contextualize inequalities made more evident during the global response to COVID-19, where key interventions, such as vaccines are unequally accessible to populations. This undercuts efforts to end diseases.

In HIV response, inequalities based on gender, level of education and socio-economic status put some populations, including young women, at higher risk. The situation of new infections in Tanzania reflects Sub-Saharan Africa, where young women are twice more likely to be living with HIV than men. For adolescents aged 15 to 19 years, three in every five new infections are among girls who don't have access to comprehensive sexuality education, who face sexual and gender-based violence, and live with harmful gender norms. They also have less access to school than their male peers.

## German bank to support development of mini-grids

By Special Correspondent

GERMAN Development Bank (KfW) will provide EUR 49 million (USD 55.56m) to support the development of mini-grids to supply green electricity to people in sparsely populated ar-

reas of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The financing will be used to create 187 off-grid, small-scale power networks and to install around 70,000 power connections with the support of KfW's foundation Clean Energy and Energy Inclusion for Africa (CEI

Africa), KfW said on Wednesday. The project will give more than 350,000 people in Sub-Saharan Africa access to electricity.

The foundation was created to promote renewable energy in Africa and provide grants to local companies to invest in

climate-friendly energy. In cooperation with digital lending platforms, it will work to support the installation of mini-grids and small energy solutions such as solar lighting, home solar systems, solar-powered mills, pumps and cooling systems.

## 'Female role models in newsrooms matter for young journalists'

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Media Women Association (TAMWA), executive director Dr Rose Reuben has said female role models in the newsroom matter for youthful journalists, calling them to ensure they inspire the young ones.

Dr Reuben made the call on Wednesday when speaking at virtual meeting on 'Leadership and gender violence in newsrooms' under the Tanzania Media and Civil Society Strengthening Project

"Boresha Habari". She said: "This will make young female journalists confident, determine to realize their future ambitions and continue working in the media industry, contrary to the current situation whereby more are enrolled in journalism courses, but few remain in the newsrooms."

She said: "It is important for female journalists who are in the newsrooms to inspire the young ones for the betterment of the industry."

She also challenged media houses to come up with gender policy to drive di-

iversity and inclusion as well as bringing women in top decision-making bodies in newsrooms.

She said it's high time for media organisations to embrace gender equality in their newsrooms to achieve broadly equal opportunities and outcomes for women and men.

According to her, the move will encourage more female journalists to get acquire top positions in the media.

"We're not saying that there are no women who are leaders in the media, but

the challenge there are few as compared to their counterparts. Adopting gender policy in newsrooms it can instill systematic changes in the culture, leadership and a system within the industry, hence helps women to get into top managerial positions."

She however called on female journalists to be confident when executing their daily duties for them to excel in their career. On his comment one of the Tanzania media gurus, Theophil Makunga stressed the need for women journalists to be con-

dent when executing their duties, so that they can be able to acquire top managerial positions in newsrooms.

According to the recent study, titled The Missing Perspective of Women in News, commissioned by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, women form a minority of leaders and top managers in media organisations.

The research insights focused on six countries: India, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States.



Dr Katanta Simwanza (R), EngenderHeath's senior programme technical advisor for gender and social inclusion, makes a presentation at a Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF) conference on '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Conference on data set for Dar Monday

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAR ES SALAAM is on Monday expected to host third round of data conference, which will provide a platform for participants to extensively discuss the importance of data and statistics for country's socio-economic development.

Organised by Tanzania Data Lab (dLab), the three-day forum is themed: "Unboxing Data for the Digital Economy".

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, dLab director, Stephen Chacha said: "This is an exceptional event, where various stakeholders in the data ecosystem come together to explore the role of data in decision making we are happy to create a space where such engagement can be done and we look forward to an outcome that can affect policies and spearhead the data revolution."

He said Data Tamasha 2021 is a biennial event that showcases the role of data in development and how data can make a difference in our community and it brings together data enthusiasts, leaders and practitioners across industries, private and public sector, academia, and civil society organizations.

He said Data Tamasha was held for the first time in 2017 with the theme "Data in Action" and was attended by over 300 participants from all over the world.

The second Data Tamasha was held in 2019 with the theme "The Power of Data for Inclusive Sustainable Development and attended by over 800 participants from all over the world. He added that Data Tamasha 2021 is the third event which is expected to bring together over 1,000 participants from all over the world with the theme "Unboxing Data for the Digital Economy".

Speaking about Tanzania Data Lab (dLab) Chacha said is organization that harnesses the potential of the data revolution and the fourth industrial revolution in solving local, regional, and global sustainable development challenges through data and innovation.

He said dLab envisions Tanzania and Africa where data is frequently and effectively used to inform policy and decision-making at all levels by strengthening data ecosystems and data usage in innovation, policy and decision making in the areas of health, gender equality and economic empowerment.

## Stakeholders call for harmonisation of hazardous waste management policies

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

ENVIRONMENT stakeholders have called upon the Government to harmonize hazardous waste management policies across various sectors to ensure long-term environmental sustainability in line with the Basel Convention.

The Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted by Tanzania in 2002 and went into force on De-

ember 12, 2019. It establishes a framework of control over the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.

Speaking during a workshop on Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Solutions for the Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULABs) in Tanzania organized by Pure Earth and sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Abdallah Mkindi, the Pure Earth Country Coordinator said there is need for the Government to intensify

hazardous waste management so as to ensure safety of the people and environment. The meeting brought together various e-waste stakeholders from both the formal and informal sector to discuss sustainable e-waste management practices.

"The meeting has been a good platform for e-waste management practitioners to share their experience. Safety remains a major challenge in the aspect of e-waste management especially in the informal sector so there

is a need to ensure the safety of all those involved," he said.

Mkindi called upon all stakeholders in the environmental sector to play their part to ensure sustainability of the environment. "We have the laws as a policy guideline by which the Government should work around the clock to ensure the application of the best practice hazardous waste management practices," he said.

On his part Daniel Sabai, Senior Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam said

disposal of used lead acid batteries remains a major challenge in Tanzania and poses many health and environmental risks. "Battery electrolyte contain sulphuric acid which is classified as a hazardous waste that can affect the health of those who get into contact with it. Statistics reveal that it also has negative impacts on the environment," he said.

Sabai noted that there is a need to identify the risks posed by Used Lead Acid Batteries, analyze the extent of

the risks and if possible come up with mitigation measures.

He noted that there is need for surveillance of the entire Used Lead Acid Batteries cycle to check health, safety and environmental compliance in accordance with Tanzania's laws.

"There is a need to prepare and implement a comprehensive lead risk reduction strategy that should include a legislative framework for hazardous waste management, Occupational Health and Safety, provision of li-

censing and monitoring, social responsibility and public awareness among other things," he said.

He noted that if possible, the country should adopt a strategy to transfer the risks by exporting the recycling process of the hazardous waste to another country. On their part, informal Lead Acid dealers thanked Pure Earth for the insightful workshop and promised to share the safety knowledge gained through their workshop with their colleagues.

## IRDP works on project to expand key infrastructure

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) has embarked on a special project for the construction of four new modern hostels, each will capacity to accommodate at least 192 students.

The robust project which target to scale up accommodation and training infrastructures at the state-owned college will incorporate installation of state-of-the-art lecture theatres, classrooms, staff offices, sports ground as well as other vital facilities.

The timely development was unveiled yesterday by the IRDP's Rector, Professor Hozen Mayaya at the 14th Convocation gathering for the 35th graduation ceremony of the institute.

"We thank the sixth phase government for the development of budget support which has capacitated us to embark on this vital project, though we're still in need for more support to enable us accomplishing the project more professional," he expressed.

According to him, the institute is currently in final stages to finalize

tion in February 1979, the institute has continuously grown up academically as it is now running twenty five long-term academic programs and various short courses programs.

"The number of students enrolled at the Institute has also keep on catapulting over the years. For example, in 2020/21 academic year, the institute enrolled a total of 5,018 fresh students, and the registration for the 2021/2022 is still in a good progress," he said.

Professor Mayaya informed that during the 2020/21 academic year, the Institute finalized a crucial process for the review of thirteen curricula for long term training programs to align with accreditation and regulatory authorities as well as the needs of the labour market.

"We also conducted a tracer study for our graduates," he insisted.

On his side, the event's chief guest, Deputy Secretary in the ministry of finance and planning, Dr. Khatibu Kazungu said the sixth phase government will continue to roll-out all necessary support to ensure that IRDP remains a bet-



Kisarawe district commissioner Nickson Simon (R) speaks at Thursday's launch of a project meant to support 30 schools and 15 health centres in enhancing their capacity to dealing with diseases. It is jointly funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and WaterAid Tanzania. He is with JICA official Iida Masashi (L) and WaterAid Tanzania Country director Anna Tenga. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Govt to roll out 1.19bn/- support towards country's major vineyard

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

GRAPE cultivation in Dodoma region is inching towards impressive momentum following readiness by the CRDB Plc to roll out a total of 719m/- loan support to revive the country's major Chinangali II vineyard in Chamwino district.

The tall amount will cover for the costs of uprooting old plants and replanting of new seedlings at the extent of 295 hectares, as well as establishment of a modern bulk wine

processing factory. He detailed that since its inception in a further successive development, the government is also finalizing process to dish out at least 474m/- to support installation of irrigation dripping system at the farm.

David Mwaka, the chairperson of the vineyard's farmers who cultivate under the Chabuma's Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) said installation of the drippers was expecting to commence earlier next week.

"The government, through the parent ministry has already contracted a reputable

experienced contractor to install the drippers more professional," he unveiled.

And he added, if all goes well it is done professionally and in accord to recommended agronomic practices. "We're also appreciating good support from the Chamwino district authority especially by providing us with at least six professional extension officers who are currently working with us on daily basis," he informed.

Mwaka said they were expecting to start planting the new seedlings on February next year, targeting to pro-

duce a total of 600,000 seedlings, it also help them to ensure revival of the farms is done professionally and in accord to recommended agronomic practices.

"We're also appreciating good support from the Chamwino district authority especially by providing us with at least six professional extension officers who are currently working with us on daily basis," he informed.

Mwaka said they were expecting to start planting the new seedlings on February next year, targeting to pro-

duce between 2 and 2.5 tons per hectare.

Under the tutelage of experts from TARI, he said they have well prepared to start cultivating more agronomical in order to produce grape fruits with required sugar contents for brewing best wine varieties.

"Basically, we're sincerely appreciating a close time-heart support and cooperation that we have been receiving from prime minister Kassim Majaliwa as well as deputy minister for agriculture, Hussein Bashe," Mwaka

appreciated.

The 600-acre grapes block farm, worth at least 3bn/- in Chinangali II area of Chamwino districts was left unproductive by its occupant farmers for about four consecutive years.

According to the Chamwino district's agriculture officer, Geoffrey Mnyamale, during its production heydays, the potential modern farm located alongside Morogoro road, more than 37.3 km from Dodoma city, used to produce up to 637 tons of grapes.

But after years of unpro-

ductiveness and stagnation, the major farm has once again come into life, thanks to serious impetus by the sixth phase government to revive and promote cultivation of grapes within the semi-arid region.

As part of the first phase to have the farm bounce back in production, the farmers engaging in the project have reinstated electricity power at the farm, and have so far gone beyond to renovate the major water poll with capacity to restore a total of 21 million liters.

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SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER 2021

**Taking A New Look  
At The News**  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Conducive atmosphere for doing business is wide-ranging demand

HOW far senior public officials in regulatory positions have grasped the policy drive by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for creating a conducive atmosphere for doing business in all sectors is in a way open to question. In a sense this isn't surprising as interpreting policy is a complicated process, as there is plenty of enthusiasm for what the law says, or what existing regulations provide for, and they are meant to be observed. In that case shaking bureaucracies to taking steps to improve sector atmosphere is exhausting.

Quite often a clear decision has to be made on a particular issue, for instance the decision to allow girls who become pregnant to continue with schooling in the same place or by any other arrangement but in formal schooling may have come from the very top. That announcement was given by the responsible minister - and it is in the same direction of making it easy not just for teachers but also for learners to survive a midlife error (the life of schooling that is) without it erasing all their hopes. A breadth of the public has continued to be critical on that decision; a good majority looks into the benevolence it shows.

At least two cases of policy interpretation or regulatory initiative put out in the past week stand out as illustrations of how this course of adaptation to a conducive business atmosphere is complicated. For one thing, a 'conducive' atmosphere has to do with a transaction between a customer and service provider

rather than seeking the say-so of a regulatory official, irrespective of the feelings of a regulatory body or individual holder of office in that regard. That clashes with certain other values, which traditionally speaking boils down to what we know as patriotism, that it isn't in the public interest to do this or that.

The public interest was usually taken to be synonymous with regulatory prerogatives, that a certain statutory body is empowered to set conditions for doing business in one area or another. When a top official says that all pupils or secondary school students must return home during holidays and no classes be conducted, why shouldn't that be left between parents and the schools? There are general rules that the ministry sets out, but prohibiting paying for auxiliary learning during holidays is a disruptive initiative.

Another is the prohibition of spraying insecticide in butcheries, on worries that it will harm people. We often spray insecticide before sleeping, and breathe such air, and it isn't poison; just a little inconvenient, perhaps. Meat that is touched upon by an insect repellent will be cut up and washed before being cooked or roasted, and worrying about repellents at that stage is tantamount to mentally creating the problem just in order to act on it. And with 300,000/- to 1m/- fines floated, one can imagine the breadth of inaction bribes likely - and it is hard to actually separate this implication from the intention itself.

## UN days this weekend markedly aligned, by a happy coincidence

THREE international commemorative days are being marked this weekend around the world, and as usual there are major public events for some days, others marked in relative silence by activists but with substantial networking between them. It is unlikely that there are UN days that simply pass unnoticed, except with regard to nationwide public activities, as that is reserved for some of them. Falling on a weekend, chances are that these three events may attract restricted professional groupings for reflection.

One of them, the International Day of Banks is being marked on Saturday December 4, dating only from late 2019 when the UN General Assembly decided to celebrate banks every December 4 to highlight their contribution to achieving sustainable development goals. This reasoning makes the commemoration quite close to the one the following day, titled the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, on Sunday December 5. It however has a longer observance history, dating back to 1985. Chroniclers say it offers an opportunity for kindred organizations and individual volunteers to promote the spirit of volunteering, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts and recognize volunteer contributions to realizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals set for 2030. Not by budgeting alone!

The volunteering spirit is championed by the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, which one can say was modeled around the United

States Peace Corps initiative. At 60 years of independence we ought to salute the spirit of the young men and women who helped founder president Mwalimu Nyerere in efforts to spread schooling at all levels, especially adult education and community (fork development) schools. In all these stages and including original spreading of secondary schools, volunteers did plenty of work and those of us who schooled at that period remember our Peace Corps teachers. They taught sports, and many of the country's youth learned basketball during that period, and even a little bit of rugby!

By contrast, the World Soil Day also marked on December 5 started in 2015 as an International Year of Soils, as an aspect of worldwide struggle for food security, propagation of improved or green farming methods to protect soils, instead of feeding them with chemical nutrition which many environmentalists question. Some of this educative work is being done by extension officers and financial sector advisers when credit is needed for farming projects, etc. Volunteers first raised activist alarm on declining soils.

One such whistleblower was the late Professor Rene Dumont whose classic work, False Start in Africa has remained the basic text on environmental destruction and poverty after independence. We admittedly didn't do enough to stem the process, with the villagisation initiative depleting trees as well as technology failure to exploit coal for domestic cooking after modification. Had we

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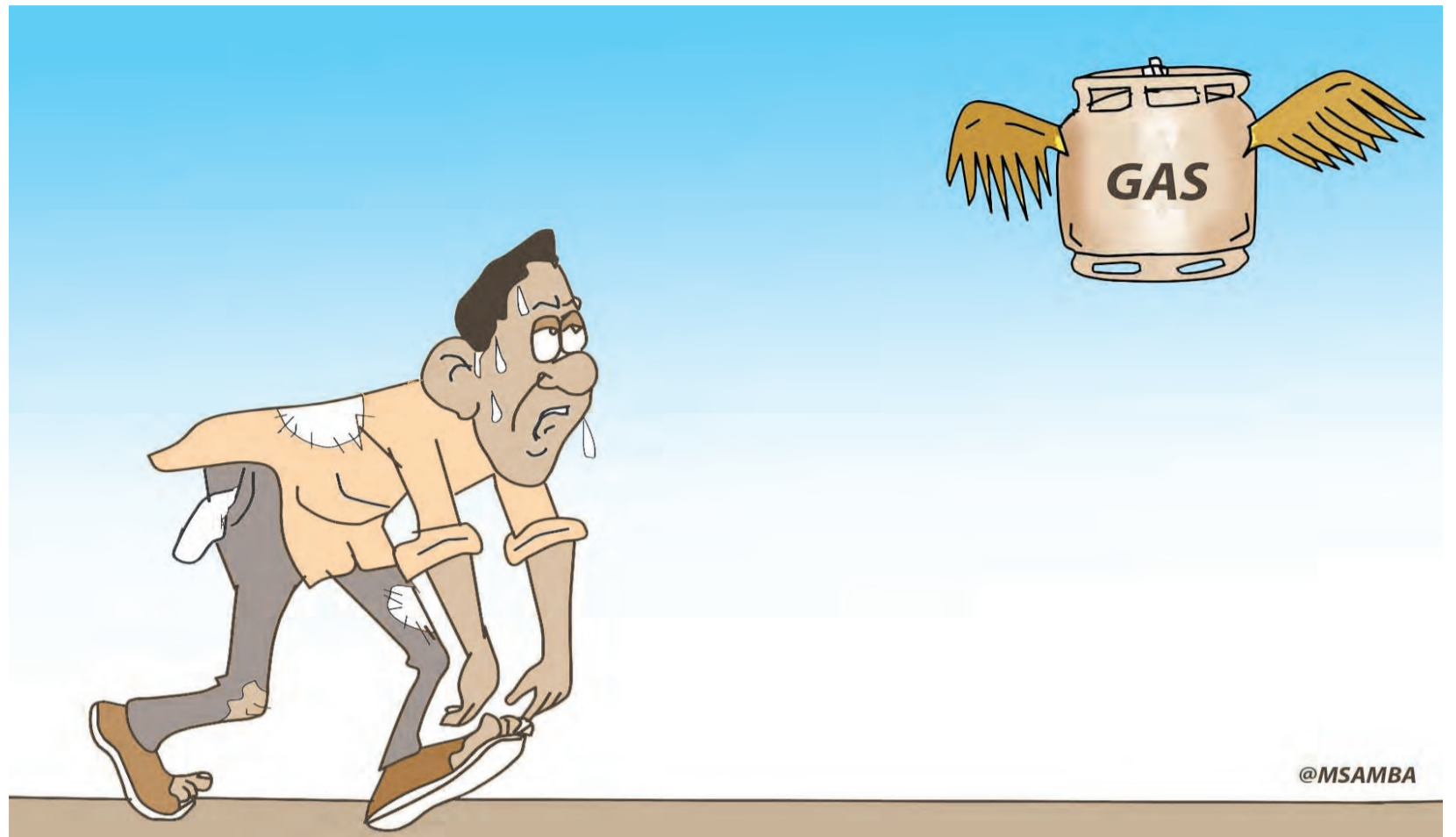
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## Waiting for Nigeria's madam president

By Hamzat Lawal

WE live in a world that is transforming, where norms are disrupted at the speed of light. However, a dimension of disruption that I still look forward to - the transfer of presidential power to the womenfolk.

For centuries now, we have lived with the paradox of 'Man-Power' on this planet. There have been successes recorded in leaps and bounds but we must admit that things have also fallen apart. More than 10 million people die of hunger every year; poverty, gender inequality and now the climate crises are some of the toughest issues we still have to tackle in a world where we celebrate technology advancements. Men have been at the forefront of tackling these global issues, with the support of women, of course. However, a disruption that must not be delayed any longer is one where a woman is given the opportunity to take the reins of highest power, especially in Africa where talks of a woman President are rare and deemed unacceptable.

Women may be seen as the softer gender but they are powerful beyond our imaginations. This is why I strongly hold the conviction that women must be given the opportunity to hold absolute leadership positions such as the Presidency. I believe that now is the time to not only work for a change of narrative in women leadership, but to also embrace the change when it comes.

I must mention that the relevance and value of the Nigerian woman is not up for debate. The feminine gender has blazed the trail in every sector - in business, education innovation, civil society and even in the new "green industry" (renewable energy) and the entertainment industry is abuzz with them too. However, one sector that continues to witness a dearth of women leadership is the political sector. Over the years, thousands of women have played pivotal roles in electing men into political offices, while voting in a handful of women into office. To put things in perspective, in the last Nigerian general elections, women accounted for over 40 million registered voters, meaning that they made up about 47.14 percent of the total eligible voters, yet were poorly represented.

From my experience as a social accountability activist, I have not witnessed anything trickier than allowing a previously marginalized class into an enclosed political niche. My colleagues and I ran the campaign known as #NotTooYoungToRun and I came face to face with entrenched biases nurtured over the years and have festered into a gangrene that now threatens national growth and development. The campaign, however, was successful. In hindsight, I am convinced that we could break the glass ceiling by accepting the reality that we must work for change. Call it #NotTooFeminineToRun or #HelpWomenWin, the woman must



Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari

stand up, organize and strategize, before she can buck the trend.

To be fair, women have often struggled for leadership roles in a male-dominated world. They have to deal with challenges that are beyond their control- patriarchy and deeply rooted traditions and social conditioning that program women to play second fiddle. While I call on women to arise, I acknowledge that men must also give unconditional support to women in leadership roles and women that are aspiring to be leaders. There are so many examples of global women leaders who have continued to thrive, progress and build their countries. This is a progressive development that Nigeria must adopt.

Nigeria is a beacon of hope in Africa; and more than 61 years after independence, we have never had a woman occupy the highest seat in the land, not even as the Vice-President, or a duly elected Governor of a State. The irony, however, is that while we are one of the most culturally diverse, modern and cosmopolitan African nations, we are still backward in terms of gender equity.

The last National Convention of the main opposition political party, the People's Democracy Party (PDP), has shown that we still have a long way to go. Of all the twenty-one National Working Committee seats in the PDP, only one was won by a woman that of the Women Leader. This means that in practical terms, no seat was conceded to a woman as the women leader's seat could not have possibly gone to the male gender. Is this a sign of things to come? Yes. But we can challenge the status quo!

It is time to vote women into elective offices, including that of President of Nigeria. There are exemplary

women in leadership who have blazed exceptional trails and are presidential materials in their own right. Take for instance, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Ms Amina J. Mohammed, who are now on global assignments.

It was under Okonjo-Iweala's tenure as two-time Finance Minister that Nigeria became the biggest economy in Africa. She is now at the helm of affairs at the World Trade Organization (WTO), elected at the right time to move forward an institution that was beset with huge challenges as the global community struggles to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. On her part, Amina J. Mohammed, now the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, led the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) interventions in Nigeria, and also rallied stakeholders for building the post-2015 infrastructure for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mechanism.

The glass ceiling is not easy to crack, though. In the United States of America, Hillary Clinton nearly made history when she almost clinched the highest office in 2016. She was treading the path paved by female presidential aspirants before her such as Margaret Chase Smith, 1964; Shirley Chisholm, 1972; Patricia Schroeder, 1988; Elizabeth Dole, 2000; Carol Moseley Braun, 2004.

We must not lose sight of the goal and must find a way to liberate women for political offices, even the presidential seat. However, the strategy can be like that of the #NotTooYoungToRun (the Age Reduction Act), which was actually a legislative reform aimed at amending the constitution to accommodate young people in elective offices. It was led by young people from different fields with different capacities, strengths

and resources. By the time the bills were presented in the Senate and at the House of Representatives, the movement had already engaged the legislators at the state levels. Young people drove this initiative because it was in their interest.

Now, for us to have a Madam President, women need to come together too. We can take lessons from America. EMILY's List was founded in 1985 by Ellen Malcolm as a political action committee that aims to help elect Democratic female candidates in favour of abortion rights to office. The power of money in political campaigns is very important to electing women, so EMILY which is an acronym for Early Money Is Like Yeast because "it makes the dough rise" is a reference to the convention of political fundraising which theorizes that receiving many donations early in a race helps to attract subsequent donors. It now has over two million members.

In 1986, early financial support from EMILY's List helped elect Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, the first female Democrat elected to the United States Senate in her own right (not appointed or filling a seat of a deceased husband). It endorsed 31 candidates in 2006, eight of whom were victorious. In the 2016 election cycle, it raised \$60 million, much of which was earmarked for Hillary Clinton, through its "Madam President campaign" initiative.

EMILY's list chose to focus on raising money early for women in politics because women were not getting money from the Democratic party and that hindered them from winning political races despite that they were qualified. The money raised prior to campaigns helped authenticate the movement and was crucial to attracting more funding from philanthropists and investors later on.

In Nigeria, the way Feminist Coalition 2020 raised and disbursed money during the #EndSARS protests showed that women over here could deploy the American strategy for female politicians in Nigeria.

This is why we must applaud the ElectHer movement, a progressive women's political advancement organization in Nigeria. In March 2021, ElectHer launched its Agenda35 campaign unveiling its \$10 million campaign fund with \$2 million secured to support 35 women to run for offices in 2023. While this is commendable effort and a great start, we must not rest at this junction.

Infact, to record greater success, aspiring women leaders in Nigeria must prioritise data gathering. People need to know how Nigerians vote, and who they want to vote. It is time to change the narrative. Women must resist being relegated to the back and attain higher political success in the next presidential election.



## THE LAW &amp; YOU

## Plight of victims of wrongful incarceration, miscarriage of justice

By Telesphor Magobe

**Y**OU might have heard of or read about stories of the victims of malicious prosecution and convictions or wrongful imprisonment. Haven't you?

Think of a person facing criminal charges he or she hasn't committed, but evidence is cooked in such a way that it overwhelms him or her and based on such concocted evidence, the court believes it and convicts and sentences him or her to long-term imprisonment.

Then, after serving so many years in prison new exonerating evidence emerges and a higher court finds that he or she was wrongly imprisoned and both the conviction and sentence are quashed and the person is set free. For sure after all this time he or she is disoriented and if anything he or she has to start civilian life again from scratch.

Think of the untold agony of the person and the losses he or she might have incurred for being wrongly imprisoned for a long time. Think too of the situation of his or her family - spouse, children and other dependants - and perhaps his or her marriage has even broken down.

Actually, imprisonment of the respondent for life or for not less

than five years (regard being both to the length of the sentence and to the nature of the offence for which it was imposed) is evidence that the marriage has broken down and a spouse may apply for divorce [Section 107(2)(g) of the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 (R.E. 2019)]. Will the victim of wrongful imprisonment be adequately and effectively compensated? I don't think so.

Every jurisdiction in the criminal justice system has its own compensation procedure. Some jurisdictions consider the situation in which the victim of a miscarriage of justice has undergone and have established a workable restitution procedure. Others may have such a procedure on paper, but how far it is implemented is wanting.

In Tanzania, the Criminal Procedure Act, 1985 (R.E 2019) prohibits frivolous or vexatious extension of the basic period (four hours from the time a person is incarcerated) for interrogation in respect of an offence he or she is suspected of, but has not been charged with it.

Where the interrogation period is frivolously or vexatiously extended, an aggrieved person may petition for damages or compensation, the burden of proof of which shall lie upon him (Section 51) to establish both malice and



lack of probable and reasonable cause, which is in most cases if not almost always difficult to establish or prove.

As established in *Yonah Ngassa v Makoye Ngassa* [2006], a person suing for malicious prosecution must prove the following four ingredients: that proceedings were instituted or continued by the defendant, the defendant acted without reasonable and probable cause, the defendant acted maliciously and the proceedings terminated in the plaintiff's favour.

When a person is convicted on a

mistaken identification as a result of which he or she is prosecuted, punished or he or she suffers any loss or injury, that person or his or her legal representative if that person dies, shall be entitled to such reasonable compensation as if he or she were a victim of crime [Section 61(1) of the Criminal Procedure Act].

When an accused person is acquitted and the court finds that the charge was frivolous or vexatious, it may order reasonable compensation for the trouble and expense to which he or she may have been

put by such a charge, in addition to his or her costs (Section 347).

Legal research has established the following causes of wrongful conviction: eyewitness misidentification, faulty forensic analysis (where this applies), false confessions, perjury and lies stated by witnesses, misconduct by police, prosecutors or judges and/or ineffective assistance of the defence counsel.

Although it is impossible to prevent all flaws and make our criminal justice system always perfect, wrongful convictions can be minimised if the police adhere to professional integrity and judges and magistrates adhere to judicial independence, impartiality and integrity with the utmost degree of propriety.

This means it remains a responsible choice not to compromise the dispensation of justice for personal interests - that is a judge or magistrate must always dispense justice without fear or favour. As quoted from time to time in legal documents "Judges, like Caesar's wife, must be beyond suspicion".

It must come a time when the innocent are not made the guilty and the guilty are not made the innocent. This can be possible if the rule of law also means fairness of the government and its institutions.

As Justice James Mwalusanya once put it "our courts must be courts of justice, not merely courts of law." He is quoted to have commented: "It has also been observed that judges in Tanzania even the best of them tend to argue, reason and judge in terms of what the rulers of the day would like to hear - rather than giving the law the kind of integrity it deserves."

His observation is also shared by some critics of the judiciary of Tanzania. With this in mind, there is a need to make Tanzania's judiciary truly independent, impartial and one that adheres to professional integrity and that commands public trust as this makes the justice system more equitable.

As a report entitled 'Making Up For Lost Time: What the Wrongfully Convicted Endure and How to Provide Fair Compensation' recommends "Exonerates and their families cannot be expected to bear the loss alone. After so many years of [incarceration], of losing homes, job opportunities, loved ones and precious freedom, they are owed fair compensation that only statutes can provide."

Today's legal maxim: "Necessity induces or gives a privilege as to private rights."

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

## China-Laos railway carries dreams, brings hearts closer

VIENTIANE

**T**HE sunshine is still burning in a railing base in the northern outskirts of Lao capital Vientiane, but what Sida Phengphongsawanh, a trainee for China-Laos railway train driver, cares, is the jingle of the train maintenance which sounds like music.

The crisp sound in the China Railway No. 2 Engineering Group (CREC-2) of the China-Laos railway seems to celebrate her for one more step closer to fulfill her wish.

The 22-year-old looks gentle while holding a determined "steel locomotive dream": being a train driver. To this end, as soon as she heard that the China-Laos railway was to be built, she thought about working on it in the future.

The China-Laos Railway, which connects Kunming in China's Yunnan Province with Lao capital Vientiane, is the first railway project built with Chinese investment, jointly operated by China and Laos and directly connected to China's railway network. As the project enters the completion acceptance phase, Sida is getting more and more excited and earnest.

"I heard about the Laos-China railway for the first time in 2015. In 2016, I went to Kunming to study the knowledge of railways. After returning home, I went straight to the Laos-China Railway Co., Ltd. to apply for a position. I hope to be an excellent female driver on the Laos-China railway," Sida told Xinhua recently.

Born in the hilly town in northern Laos of Muangxay, Sida came up with the idea of becoming a train driver at an early age. Her hometown is only about 100 km from Laos-China border gate, where the surrounding mountains block the way to China. Sida, who has hardly ever been out of the mountains, had always wanted to see what it looks like across the mountain.

It is also the common wish of Lao people. The country is known as the "roof of the Indochinese Peninsula" and the only landlocked ASEAN member with mountains and plateaus that account for about 80 percent of the land area. Breaking through the blockade of the mountains and converting it from a landlocked country to a land-linked hub are the wishes of Lao people.

"Because of the mountains in northern Laos, the roads connecting the towns are winding and unsafe. Many old people have never walked out of the mountains where they were born," Khamsai Phimvongsa, a farmer in Vientiane



**Sida Phengphongsawanh (C) learns hand gestures of train driving from a Chinese instructor at the China Railway No. 2 Engineering Group (CREC-2) railing base for the China-Laos railway, on the northern outskirts of Vientiane, capital of Laos, Sept. 12, 2021. File photo**

told Xinhua.

In 2015, the Chinese and Lao governments signed an intergovernmental railway cooperation agreement, marking the official entry of the China-Laos railway into the implementation phase, which has become an opportunity to realize the aspirations of the Lao people.

The China-Laos railway, as an important part of the trans-Asian railway network, is of great strategic and practical significance to Laos, according to a signed article entitled "Jointly build a community of shared future with strategic significance between China and Laos."

The two sides should strengthen overall coordination and strive for the early completion of the opening of the railway, so that Laos and neighboring countries and the world can be better connected.

The Belt and Road Initiative "is an opportunity, through economic infrastructure, trade, investment and people-to-people's connectivity to deepen the mutual trust and help between China and Belt and Road Initiative countries. Thus, we have the landed project, Laos-China railway project," Lao Prime Minister Phankham Viphavanh said when interviewed with Xinhua in August.

The railway, hence, carried hopes and expectations of many Lao people.

"Personally, the Laos-China railway has given me a stable job, and at the national level, the Laos-China railway can drive the multi-level and all-round development of Laos. In particular, my hometown of Muangxay has a long history of importing from (China). The opening of the Laos-China railway, will facilitate the importation for Muangxay," Sida said.

Khamsai, the 60-year-old Lao farmer, said he hopes to sell local fruits and vegetables to China to improve the rural life in Laos. A middle-aged official in Xaythany District of Vientiane said, "I hope the railway will extend to Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, etc., to bring the neighbors to do business, invest and travel."

The 1,013-km China-Laos Railway consists of two sections, the Chinese section and the Lao section. Along the way are mountains and deep valleys with complex geological situation.

Bridge and tunnel ratio is quite high with that in Chinese section up to 87 percent and Lao section up to 63 percent, including the 1,651-meter Ban Ladhan Mekong Bridge,

1,459-meter Luang Prabang Mekong Bridge, 9,384-meter Ban Sen No. 2 Tunnel, 9,296-meter Ban Nakok Tunnel. It is said that the China-Laos railway was not paved out, but erected and drilled through with numerous difficulties.

"I have found that the Chinese engineers are so wonderful. Confronting the complex terrain in the mountains plateaus, they can always use advanced technology to drill through every tunnel," Thonglien Outhayod, a Lao employee in China Railway No.2 Engineering Group (CREC-2) Vientiane railing base told Xinhua in October.

Sida also noticed, "On the construction site, the busy Chinese engineers can always be seen 24 hours a day. The heat in Laos added difficulties to tunnel building, while the temperature in the tunnel is much higher than outside. Working in a tunnel needs great patience and perseverance."

While building the railway, the Laos-China Railway Co., Ltd. has opened training course for around 600 Lao trainees to learn train driving, scheduling and maintenance. Sida is one of them.

The China-Laos Railway also carries the wishes and dreams of Chinese engineers.

Hu Bin, the project manager of the CREC-2 China-Laos railway railing base in Vientiane, has been working in Laos for four years. His team undertook the tasks of building bridges and laying rails for the whole Lao section, taking the lead in building the first overseas Chinese standard railway beam yard, and realizing the first bridge beam production and installation in a Belt and Road country with Chinese standard.

"I'm very proud to be able to join the Belt and Road project," he told reporters. "We feel very proud to build a railways with Chinese standards and Chinese technology in a foreign country."

Lei Chao, the CREC-2 Vientiane railing base executive manager, said "We feel much pleasure to see that the Lao trainees can grow up in the construction sites of the China-Laos railway, and then have their own stable jobs with full expectation for their future."

The China-Laos railway will bring great convenience to trade and travel between the two countries and become an important part of the north-south artery of the Indochinese Peninsulas in overcoming land transportation difficulties and developing its economy.

# Why lucrative export market remains elusive to smallholder producers

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

VARIOUS studies show that Tanzania's agricultural export is way below its potential and the reason for this is traceable to measure productivity of the dominant player—smallholder producers.

The bottlenecks hindering smallholders emanate from prohibitive policies and regulations that stakeholders now want to be reviewed to ease marketing and trading. Both tariff and non-tariff barriers like taxes and levies are said to be culprits.

Also, there is a need to reduce bureaucratic procedures so as to make smallholder producers produce more competitively both for domestic and export markets. Public-private sector partnership should be encouraged to increase investments.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently during Policy Forum's breakfast debate focusing on domestic and export markets entitled 'What are the challenges facing smallholder producers (SHPs)?', Executive Director, Agricultural Non State Actors' Forum (ANSAF), Audax Rukonge said that smallholder producers are central to an inclusive development process and key for two pivotal reasons: as producers of food contributing to the national food security and income generation.

Smallholder producers include crop farmers, livestock keepers, beekeepers, hunters and gatherers, and fishers. They are all characterized by small production volumes of variable quality.

"Increasingly, SHPs are becoming surplus producers of the main food staples and there are increasing trends in the production of cash earning crops like horticulture," he said.

However, Rukonge said that although SHPs produce over 80 per cent of food consumed locally, their participation, particularly women and young people in local, national and global markets have been dismal mainly because they are not well organised for collective actions.

"Higher quality standards, higher value products, traceability and contracts are all becoming part of the game in domestic and international markets," he said.

"Smallholder producers are not homogenous hence they face different sets of constraints to their participation in the markets."

According to Rukonge, other challenges facing SHPs on meeting the external markets include unpredictability of policy decisions which sometimes change within a year.

He also listed limited knowledge and skills in good



Chairperson of the Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT) Julius Wambura makes a point during a recent breakfast debate on the plight of smallholder farmer organized by Policy Forum. Photo/ Daniel Semberya

agricultural practices, small tradable volumes of low quality, crop and animal risks and market price volatility as additional bottlenecks.

Others include poor infrastructure, inadequate transportation facilities, and electricity supply as well as limited support services in research, extension, financial and insurance services.

Unstructured marketing systems, limited market information and ICT applications and dominance of intermediaries or middlemen also featured on the long list of challenges.

He said high tariffs and non-tariff barriers and prolonged bureaucratic procedures increase transaction costs and reduce SHPs incomes. Access to financial services and insurance namely lending portfolio

production against process and retail market hence higher interest rates.

Chairperson of the Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT) Julius Wambura commended the government for bringing together the different groups of smallholder producers under the umbrella of the agricultural marketing co-operative societies (AMCOS).

Wambura said Tanzanian smallholder producers fail to meet the requirements of international markets because they are fragmented.

"Very structured markets need homogeneity and uniformity," he said.

He said that the private sector has a role to play by creating green handlers whose main role is to invest in silos to keep produce of smallholders to make it

easy for exporters to get well stored crops for export. "We really miss these green handlers in the market supply chain. Their presence will help to deliver the needed crops to the international markets on time," he said.

Wambura urged the private sector to work closely with the government to promote oriented enterprises. These will assist to understand the environment and requirements of the external market trends.

He said that it was time Tanzania as a country branded its crops for export. If it is rice, for example, he suggested that one variety should be chosen and branded for export instead of mixing different varieties which ultimately fail in the international market.

"We can't penetrate in the international markets because we produce what is not demanded out there," he said.

He suggested that Tanzania can promote a rice variety known as SARO 5, or TXD306 which he said gives a lot of yields compared to other varieties. The variety is grown in Morogoro and the Southern Highlands regions of Iringa, Mbeya and Songwe.

"The external markets don't require mixed varieties of rice; so, we need to have one variety as a brand from Tanzania for export. This can also be done with other crops," he said.

Africa, including Tanzania, has a food deficit. According to data from the Coalition for Africa Rice Development of 2020, Africa imported rice worth USD 6.4 billion. So, with this data, the market for rice is huge, what is required is the brand and quality of that product.

Recently, the National Assembly ratified the African Continental Free Trade Areas targeting the African population of about 1.3 billion people. Through this market, African countries will be able to accumulate around USD 3.4 trillion.

Marceline Kibena, a farmer from Morogoro Region urged the government to adhere to the Maputo Declaration which it ratified by allocating more funds to agriculture.

"And the parliament should ensure that the allocated funds are actually disbursed and reach targeted areas," he said.

Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security was officially adopted by the African Union (AU) heads of state and government in the 2003 with two main targets: achieving a 6 per cent annual agricultural growth rate at the national level and allocating 10 per cent of national budgets to the agriculture sector.

# Act to save children leading precarious lives in Cameroon's forgotten and neglected conflict

Cameroon

Education is under attack in Cameroon. As one of the most complex humanitarian crises in the world unfolds, Education Cannot Wait's director Yasmine Sherif and the Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Jan Egeland, say the children are pawns for grown men in a political conflict.

In an exclusive interview with IPS from Cameroon, where Sherif and Egeland are on a four-day visit, they told of the impact of this ongoing conflict between armed groups and government forces in this central African country.

"The situation in Cameroon is devastating, and education is under attack. Only last week, an attack in a school killed four children and one teacher. A girl had their fingers chopped off for attending school. The result is fear. Fear of going to school," says Sherif.

Egeland agrees that children are the victims of violence that has nothing to do with them.

"Conflict between grown-ups on political, cultural, and governance issues that are very real and very important to settle are not being settled in negotiations. They are

being settled by armed violence against children and life-threatening attacks on their places of learning," he says.

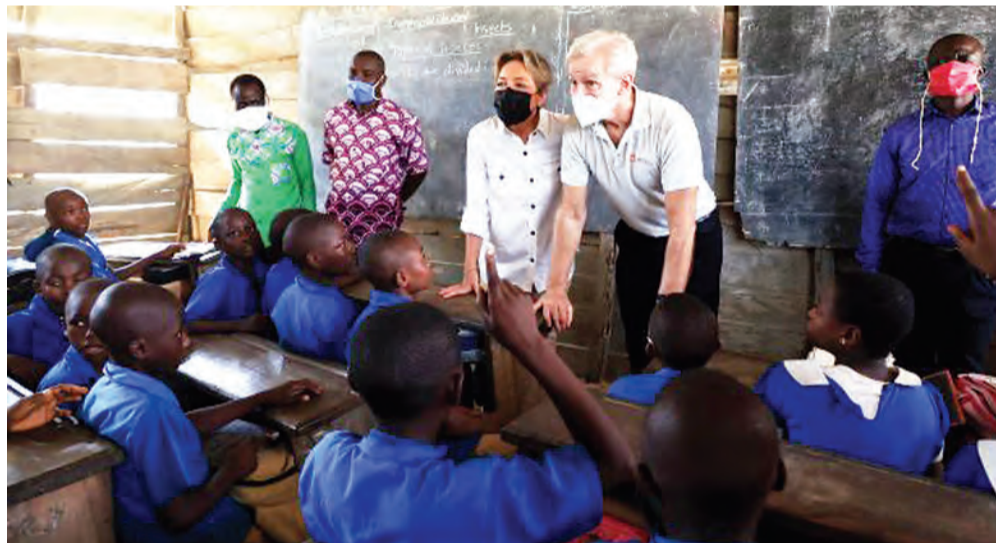
In the face of threats, harassment, violence, kidnapping, and death targeted at teachers and school-going children, two out of three schools are closed in the North-West and South-West regions, the epicenter of the ongoing conflict between armed groups and government forces in this Central African country.

There is heightened alarm that the situation has placed an entire generation of children in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions at risk of losing lifelong learning opportunities.

Sherif, who heads ECW, the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, and Egeland have urged all involved to end violence against children.

Hundreds of civilians, including children, have been killed since January 2020 in the North-West and South-West regions. Armed groups and government forces are in violent conflict, and the risks and needs of children impacted by the conflict have increased.

"This is among the most complex humanitarian crises in the



Yasmine Sherif, Director of Education Cannot Wait and Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council meet students at the Souza Gare school in the Littoral region, Cameroon. The school hosts displaced children who have fled the violence in the North-West and South-West regions.

world today. Children and youth are having to flee their homes and schools, are threatened with violence and kidnapping, and are being forced into early childhood marriage and recruited into armed groups," says Sherif.

"We call for urgent support from donors to respond to this forgotten crisis. We call for the respect of human

rights and adherence to the principles of international humanitarian law and the Safe Schools Declaration - and for partners to redouble efforts so all children and adolescents can get back to the safety, protection, and hope that quality learning environments provide."

Sherif says nine out of 10 regions of Cameroon continue to be impacted by one

of three complex humanitarian crises, including the North-West and South-West crisis, conflict in the Far North, and a refugee crisis of those fleeing Cameroon.

Children are devastatingly affected as over one million children need urgent education support. While impressed by their resilience, courage, and hunger for education, Sherif says this is

not enough to keep them in school.

"The children will need protection, school meals, health and psychosocial support, and tools for teachers to do their job," she says.

To address these multiple emergencies, made worse by COVID-19 and climate change, Sherif says ECW is working hand-in-hand with organizations in Cameroon, the Ministry of Basic Education, Ministry of Secondary Education and UN agencies, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and civil society education partners to build a multi-year resilience programme in Cameroon.

Egeland tells IPS that the partnerships are timely and critical because what is happening in North-West and South-West regions in Cameroon deserves international outrage.

He says more than 700,000 children in Cameroon are "either completely out of school because they lost their school at gunpoint or because they ended up with 90 others in cramped classrooms in the few remaining schools. Children should never be pawns for grown men in political conflict."

Sherif fears that even more children will exit the education system and not return.

"I feel very strongly about improving and reinforcing the education rights of all children in Cameroon. Just because you live in Cameroon does not mean that you cannot go to school. Legal provisions for children impacted by conflict must be activated," she says.

With many schools remaining closed or non-operational, Sherif says there is cause for worry. In the absence of urgent, timely, and practical risk management interventions such as building walls around schools and reinforcing on-school security, an entire generation of children in Cameroon could become illiterate

IPS

## RADIO

## JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# \$1.5 bn Congo Basin pledge a good start but not enough, experts say

By Jim Tan

ON Thursday, a group of 12 donors, including the European Commission, United Kingdom, United States and the Bezos Earth Fund, collectively pledged at least \$1.5 billion in financing toward protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests over the next four years. The pledge is part of a broader \$12 billion commitment agreed at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, by 100 leaders to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, and has received a mixed response from regional experts.

The news of the declaration is “very, very positive,” said Patrick Saidi, national coordinator of *Dynamique des Groupes des Peuples Autochtones (DGPA)*, a network based in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), of organizations working to secure the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Saidi said DGPA has been fighting for years for recognition of the conservation practices of Indigenous and forest-dependent peoples, and for measures to be put in place to support these practices.

“It is a significant effort,” said Alain Karsenty, an economist and senior researcher at CIRAD, the French government’s agricultural research center for international development. “Given the enormous needs, it is certainly not enough.”

The pledge comes at a critical time. According to recent research, the degradation of tropical forests in Amazonia and Southeast Asia may soon make them net emitters of carbon, leaving the Congo Basin as possibly the last significant land-based tropical carbon sink. At the same time, the governments of the six Congo Basin countries – Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the DRC, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon – are looking to develop their economies through infrastructure projects and resource extraction, all of which risk exacerbating deforestation if not managed correctly.

“What we should understand is that there is no other way out of the climate and biodiversity crisis ... without the Congo Basin forests,” said Armstrong Mba, sustainable business adviser for the Zoological Society of London’s Sustainability Policy Transparency Toolkit program and based in Cameroon.

The joint donor statement says they recognize the value of the Congo Basin forests, welcome leadership from Central African countries on forest management, and acknowledge that sustainable management and restoration will require significant funding. At this stage the finer details of the pledge are not known, leaving commentators to



assess its potential impact based on the current situation and past performance.

While both Mba and Karsenty said they welcome the pledge, they made clear that it’s nowhere near enough, given the importance of the Congo Basin in the fight against climate change.

“Though a great step, the \$1.5 billion remains insignificant compared to what these same pledgers pay as subsidies to the fossil fuel industry each year,” Mba said. “Have we really grasped the danger we all face as a species?”

Small-scale agriculture is the most significant driver of deforestation in the region, and an issue that Karsenty said can only be resolved with an evolution in agricultural systems. Instituting new farming practices, particularly in rural areas with endemic poverty, is no easy task and will take time for Congo Basin governments to achieve.

Saidi said it’s crucial that communities living in forested areas are at the center of any plans and policies. They must be “beneficiaries of these funds, but also – and this is the most important element – actors of these funds,” he said.

Improvements in forest governance, land tenure rights

and access to clean alternative fuel sources to charcoal are also key issues that will need to be addressed, all of which will require significant will from Congo Basin governments. President Félix Tshisekedi of the DRC pledged to fight deforestation and protect Indigenous rights in his speech at COP26. However, Irene Wabiwa, international project leader for Greenpeace Africa’s Congo Basin forest campaign, questioned the intent of both the donors and the DRC government.

“[The pledge is] a complete joke,” she said. “Coming as it does just as most of these same donors have green lighted DRC’s plan to lift its 2002 moratorium on new logging titles as early as a year from now.”

In June this year, the DRC government approved a new plan for its rainforest management, which controversially included the lifting of a 20-year moratorium on new logging concessions. In an interview with National Geographic, the country’s environment minister, Ève Bazaiba Masudi, said that while the government could now grant new logging concessions, that didn’t mean it would. With two-thirds of the Congo Basin forests lying within the DRC,

the move has alarmed environmental groups such as Greenpeace Africa.

One of the key concerns of environmental groups is that, even if the political will exists, many of the Congo Basin countries struggle with weak and opaque institutions that are a relic of colonial rule.

“The lack of efficient public services and administrations, the limited skilled human resources, the widespread corruption and hidden agendas of some politicians will make disbursements and effective use of this money difficult,” Karsenty said.

There have already been two major initiatives in the region aimed at reducing deforestation. The first of these, the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), was planned to run from 2008-2018 but was cancelled in 2014 before all funds had been disbursed, after an assessment by the U.K. government raised questions over the fund’s governance. The CBFF was replaced by the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) in 2015, to which donor countries have so far committed \$500 million to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. To date, less than half the committed amount has been disbursed, with significant challenges in agreeing on parameters for performance-based payments and in finding suitable initiatives with robust governance in place.

“We are tired of promises,” Saidi said. “This is not the first time that there have been promises like this, it is not the first time decisions like this have been made in these big climate meetings.”

With deforestation deeply interrelated with poverty, development, governance and politics, the Congo Basin countries require interrelated cross-sectoral solutions, the advocates say – something that may be currently beyond the grasp of some of the Congo Basin states even if additional funding does come through.

“The idea that a country could decide to stop deforestation in the same way that it could close down coal-fired power stations is an illusion,” Karsenty said. “Much deforestation, especially in these Congo Basin countries, is – at least for the time being – beyond the reach of governments.”

The challenge of reducing deforestation in the Congo Basin is significant, as are the local and global consequences if the Congo Basin countries are unable to do so.

While the Congo Basin pledge can be seen as a step in the right direction, all commentators said it’s clear that this is a long road with no easy fixes, and that the Congo Basin countries will need willing international partners if they are to achieve equitable development without sacrificing their forests.

## ‘Sustaining economic growth pivotal for Tanzania to realise middle-income status’

By Guardian Reporter

FOR Tanzania to sustain the economic growth and improve from the low middle-income status to upper middle-income status, productivity growth, transparency and accountability has to be on the government’s top agenda.

This is part of the Country’s Annual State of Financial Accountability (CASFAR 2019/20) report’s recommendations availed by WAJIBU – Institute of Public Accountability Chairman of the Board of Directors, Yona Killagane, when speaking at the just-concluded the International Transparency and Accountability Conference (ITAC 2021).

ITAC 2021 is a brainchild of WAJIBU designed for people to meet and discuss on transparency and accountability trends, sharing of best practices, successes and challenges in order to promote an interdisciplinary learning environment. The objective being to hasten the transformation process in promoting the culture of total transparency and accountability in the country and across the African continent.

The theme of this conference (ITAC 2021) is “Transformation into a Culture of Total Transparency and Accountability”.

Killagane said recently WAJIBU launched its report on CASFAR 2019/20, whereby Tanzania scored an overall grade of a C+ equivalent to 50% for the year 2019/20.

“This means the progress made still needs an improvement. Based on the report, in order to improve the status of financial accountability in the country,” he said.

Among the recommendations emanated from the CASFAR report include supporting the economic recovery, whereby Killagane said: “Despite challenges brought by COVID-19 pandemic, Tanzania had a positive economic growth of 4.8% in 2020 while Rwanda and Uganda had negative growth as a result of measures that these countries took in the fight against Covid-19.”

Other African countries such as South Africa and Botswana recorded negative growth of 6.9% and 12.7% respectively. The growth of the economy in Tanzania in 2019/20 was underpinned by strong performance in construc-

tion, agriculture, mining and quarrying, and transport and storage activities.

He also said that in maintaining debt sustainability will require keeping debt financing costs low, increasing exports, and improving domestic resource mobilization to substitute for expensive commercial debts.

“Therefore, it is recommended that the government can benefit from innovative development financing mechanisms such as equity financing of public investments and increased use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in financing the country’s development projects.”

The report according to Killagane, recommended that in improving budget reliability, the expenditures financed externally by loans or grants should be included in the national budget and be reported in the consolidated financial statements, along with the contingency vote(s) and interest on debt.

Secondly, he said: “The actual expenditure outturns can deviate from the originally approved budget for reasons unrelated to the accuracy of forecasts – for example, as a result of a major macroeconomic shock such as COVID-19 pandemic. Where such is the case, then the reasons should explicitly be established and the extent of the impact be assessed.”

On transparency of public finances; ministries, department and agencies, regions and local government authorities should reflect the same information at the Service Delivery Units level.

“Therefore, it is recommended that the information on the budget performance should be included in quarterly and annual reports, linking resource planning in the most appropriate manner for better service delivery to facilitate and augment transparency of public finances at all levels.”

On improving public investment management, the report recommended the need for Public Project Monitoring – the monitoring system should maintain records on both physical and financial progress, and should produce periodic project monitoring reports, in particular for major projects.



The MTEF documents and the corresponding annual reports on progress with major investment projects should be made public. For effective public project monitoring the information on major projects should be annually reported separately and presented in a clear report.

On investment project costing: It is recommended to improve the country’s PFM system capacity to deliver infrastructure outcomes by harmonizing the selection, implementation and monitoring of capital expenditure with formal guidelines and oversight, efficient management of public assets, as well as consolidation and monitoring of public procurement operations.

On adoption of International Standards for Public Assets Management (PAM) – ISO55000: The primary purpose of the adoption ISO55000 standards is to promote an integrated PAM system that enhances value for money, environmental consideration, service delivery, accountability & responsibility, probity and ethical behaviors.

According to Killagane, WAJIBU underscores that Tanzania invests vastly in the acquisition of public assets hence necessitating a need for a standardized management model. In pursuit of this vision, the Government of Tanzania had

already adopted IPSAS-Accrual accounting system in its efforts to bolster accounting and reporting practice of public assets in the financial statements of the government accounting system.

Consequently, in 2019/20 financial year the government through the MoFP commissioned a Situational Analysis consultancy of the current practice of PAM in Tanzania with a view to developing an Action Plan for the Adoption of the International Standards ISO 55000.

He also stated: “It is recommended that the Ministry of Finance and Planning should adopt the international standards for PAM by becoming ISO55000 Certified which will expedite alignment with internationally acceptable best practices of public financial accountability.”

On improving foreign direct investment in the country; It is recommended that the government intervenes to find a solution on the declining number of new investments and all relevant Authorities supporting investments in time and that stringent measures are taken against those staff who delay in provision of services for supporting the investment.

It’s also recommended that the government amend all laws regarding the investment climate

in the country including the Investment Act of 1997 (as amended in 2015) to ensure that all matters impacting investments are harmonized.

On policy-based fiscal strategy and budgeting, Killagane said: “This is required to be improved in two aspects: the fiscal strategy; and in the medium-term perspective in expenditure budgeting. Firstly, details of the anticipated fiscal impacts should be included for expenditure measures along with the presentation of the anticipated fiscal impacts for the subsequent two fiscal years of revenue or expenditure policy measures.”

“Secondly, as a basic benchmark, the annual budget should present estimates of expenditure for the budget year and the two following fiscal years allocated into administrative or economic classification.

Thirdly, on the medium-term expenditure ceilings, budget ceilings should be issued to ministries before the distribution of the first budget circular at the commencement of the annual budget preparation cycle. Most importantly, it is recommended that the ceilings issued should cover for the budget year and the two following fiscal years. Approval by the government must be sought before the first circular is issued.”

The apparent false start of Africa's free trade deal may be the first of several to come

By Peter Fabricius

A year ago, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, wearing his African Union (AU) chairperson hat, convened a special AU summit to launch the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA aims to liberalise 97% of intra-African trade. The leaders agreed, with considerable fanfare, that trading would start on 1 January 2021.

Yet almost 12 months later, apparently, not a single widget has crossed an African border under the agreement's duty and quota-free terms, and it's not clear when one will. Why the delay and is it a problem?

Wamkele Mene, the South African Secretary-General of AfCFTA, would say no. He's on record saying that all free trade areas take a long time to implement, and this is a particularly ambitious one.

Last week, Mene explained at a Chatham House webinar that 87.6% of the vital rules of origin for the agreement had already been negotiated – leaving mainly only those covering autos, sugar, textile, and clothing. This was a 'remarkable' achievement, given that there were over 8,000 products in a typical harmonised system.

Meanwhile, Egypt, Kenya and he thought South Africa had already gazetted their reduced import tariffs while others were still negotiating among themselves, which is how the import tariffs work, rather than multilaterally.

Mene outlined various helpful

measures his AfCFTA secretariat was launching to accelerate the deal's implementation. These include an adjustment fund to help countries adapt to the loss of import revenues. There's also a pan-African payment and settlement system that would enable AfCFTA transactions to be conducted in African currencies rather than external hard currencies such as the US dollar.

Another measure is a digital platform that would provide information on all the rules of origin and the customs terms and procedures. This would especially help small and medium enterprises – the main aim of the AfCFTA, he said.

Mene predicted that trading under the AfCFTA would begin early next year. He noted that countries could have begun trading in the products for which rules of origin had already been agreed upon.

So why haven't they? In a blog on the TradeExpert website, Catherine Grant Makokera, Head of Tutwa Consulting, says considerable tensions between the free-market vision of the AfCFTA and the national economic development priorities of the participating countries are one of the main causes of delay.

This isn't unique to the AfCFTA but is particularly acute here because relatively few specifics were included in the framework agreement (probably because of the rush to get it done, one would think). So in the current negotiations between countries, they have to start by identifying the 3% of goods that they exclude from AfCFTA tariff reduc-



Pre-existing inequalities mean that more advanced countries, cities, manufacturing firms and the African economic elite could benefit the most from the AfCFTA trade increase.

tions before making their tariff offers on the rest.

"In those African countries that rely on tariff revenue as a key part of domestic resource mobilisation or that use tariffs as a tool of industrial policy, this could involve some difficult choices – a situation that is further complicated by an increasing focus on local content requirements and import substitution by African policymakers," she says.

Indeed one hears that for several countries with significant industrial bases – like South Africa – trying to squeeze all the products it wants to protect into that 3% exclusion box is

proving difficult.

Grant Makokera also says the concession that least developed countries (LDCs) will have longer (10-13 years) to implement tariff reductions is being eroded by more developed states' claiming the same preference via their membership of customs unions, which include LDCs.

She also notes that the AfCFTA won't replace existing regional free trade areas but will complement them, so that countries need only resort to it where they don't already have free trade. But super-imposing the AfCFTA on the other free trade areas will create additional complexity for dealers who

will have to navigate a complex mix of rules and duties.

Overall, Grant Makokera notes another tension between the political ambition to get the AfCFTA up and running as soon as possible and the technical process of negotiating complex rules. Negotiators, she fears, could cut corners to meet – or perhaps not too badly exceed – political deadlines. These cut corners could hamper smooth implementation.

And she notes that political leaders announcing the start of trading on 1 January 2021 – yet negotiations are still dragging on – is confusing traders. "The advice to under-promise and

over-deliver comes to mind," Grant Makokera notes dryly.

Teniola Tayo, a Researcher with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Dakar, believes the decision to launch trade on 1 January lent valuable urgency to negotiations. She also points out that the politics behind tariff agreements in individual countries can be difficult, as they have been in Nigeria, a key player in AfCFTA. Tayo agrees that a lot of painful reconfiguration is going on to reconcile the ideals of continental free trade with national industrial policies. And Jakkie Cilliers, Head of African Futures and Innovation at the ISS, agrees with Tayo that "the limited progress in negotiations does not in any way cast doubt on the viability of AfCFTA. The 97% goal is to be achieved by 2034, for example."

"The road to the AfCFTA is a long one and the 1 January 2021 trading start date is generally seen for what it was, a symbolic gesture. There are going to be many more delays and false starts. I think the question is rather how AfCFTA will work if sub-regional arrangements have not."

Complex trade negotiations no doubt take time. But by firing the starting gun almost a year ago when no runners were out of the starting blocks, African leaders have created confusion, especially among traders.

Maybe the early start date was needed to drive negotiations. But to sustain momentum, the AfCFTA secretariat and participating states should do a better job of keeping traders in the loop about why implementation is taking so long. **DM**

China's ice and snow sports equipment industry enters fast track of development

By Fan Jiayuan, Ji Fang

CHINA'S ice and snow sports equipment industry has overcome technology bottlenecks and embraced leapfrog development since the preparations for the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

While venues empowered by sci-tech innovations for the Beijing 2022 have been constructed one after the other, the country's first homemade snowcat and snowboard waxing vehicle have come into being. Chinese-made snowmakers, smart ski simulators, and ropeways have been widely

used at ski resorts across the country.

The country's first homemade snowcat SG400, developed by Hebei Xuanhua Construction Machinery Co., Ltd., has been employed at the Wanglongjiu resort in Chongli district, Zhangjiakou city, north China's Hebei province.

At present, the world's snowcat market is dominated by a German manufacturer and an Italian company. Against such a backdrop, Hebei Xuanhua Construction Machinery Co., Ltd., taking the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games as an opportunity to make innovations, started to develop snowcats independently with its rich experience in track-laying vehicle R&D and manufacturing.

Representing the first batch of high-end and high-horsepower snowcats in China, the SG400 snowcat has filled a gap in the field of the country, according to Wen Xiaoxuan, chief designer of the equipment, adding that the company owns independent intellectual property rights to key and core technologies involved in the production of the snowcat, including chassis suspension, electronic control system and hydraulic transmission.

At a cross-country skiing resort in Wenquan county, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, a snowboard waxing vehicle, the country's first homemade vehicle of the kind, has been used for the training of the national cross-country skiing team of China.

Inside the vehicle developed by several companies from east China's Shandong province, six snowboard waxers worked at workbenches equipped with ventilators. About one hour later, freshly waxed snowboards were handed to skiers of the team.

In the past, Chinese skiing teams had

their snowboards waxed before competitions at waxing tables beside the venue or in temporary tents. The newly developed snowboard waxing vehicle has not only made the procedure efficient, but can provide a variety of other services for athletes, including helping with warm-ups and offering devices for watching live matches.

The vehicle integrates solar photovoltaic power generation, energy storage, 5G industrial Internet, big data, and AI, said An Zetao, head of the vehicle's crew, adding that 66 patents were applied for during its designing and R&D.

China's first homemade snowcat and snowboard waxing vehicle, while signaling the country's technological advances, mirrors the efforts of its ice and snow sports equipment industry to break away from dependence upon imports.

Encouraged by a whole package of measures rolled out by the government, Chinese manufacturers of ice and snow sports equipment have intensified efforts to promote R&D, continuously increasing the substitution of imports with domestic ice and snow sports equipment as well as the market shares of homemade products.

As China steps forward toward the goal of "get 300 million people involved in winter sports", its ice and snow sports equipment industry has without doubt gotten on an express train.

In 2019, the number of newly-adopted homemade snowmaking machines

in China's ski resorts rose to 467, compared with 50 in 2015, and the gap between newly-employed homemade snowmakers and imported ones was further narrowed, according to a white paper on China's skiing industry.

As Chinese consumers' demands for ice and snow sports surge, enterprises have increased input into the ice and snow sports equipment market, which is bound to drive the explosive growth of ice and snow sports equipment manufacturing, industry insiders pointed out.

The environment for the development of the industry has also been constantly improved in China.

Zhangjiakou has planned and constructed two large-scale ice and snow sports equipment R&D and manufacturing clusters, i.e., a winter sports equipment industrial park in Zhangjiakou High-tech Industrial Development Zone and another in its Xuanhua district, striving for building a national winter sports equipment manufacturing base and forming an industrial base integrating the R&D, design, manufacturing, testing, circulation, and storage of ice and snow sports equipment.

Data suggest that as of the beginning of 2021, Zhangjiakou had signed 81 ice and snow industry-related projects, among which 69 had been implemented, with a total investment of over 33.4 billion yuan (\$5.23 billion). Thirty-one of these projects had been put into operation, creating an output value of more than 2.4 billion yuan.

People's Daily

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Includes sections for 'THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT' and 'THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD -00 174 00-'. Clues include: 1. maize with high sugar content; 2. flat, level; 3. kind of rocks which metals are found; 4. a person's head; 5. an act that harms someone; 6. fierce anger that continues with great force; 7. strict in judgment; 8. annoying; 9. shouting; 10. grasses growing in water; 11. indicating that a voice or instrument is silent; 12. United Arab Emirates; 13. Latin word for "deity".

RADIO One RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Program schedule for Monday through Sunday, listing various shows and their broadcast times (e.g., 05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA, 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC, 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN, etc.).

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One [Instagram, Facebook, Twitter icons] Radio One

## DIVESTITURE

# Yes, Savannah Resources now pulling out of Mozambique

MAPUTO

The London-based mining company Savannah Resources on Wednesday announced that it is pulling out of Mozambique and transferring its share of the Mutamba heavy mineral sands project, in the southern province of Inhambane, to its partner Rio Tinto in return for 9.5 million US dollars.

The Mutamba concession was awarded to the joint venture between Savannah and Rio Tinto in November 2019. Back then, Savannah Resources stated that the Mutamba project was "one of the most significant undeveloped heavy mineral sands deposits in the world", containing "an indicated and inferred mineral resource of 4.4 billion tonnes at 3.9 per cent total heavy minerals".

According to a statement from Savannah Resources, its staff in Mozambique will be transferred to Rio Tinto. Savannah Resources added that it will immediately begin divesting its residual interests in Mozambique, in particular the mining concession at Matilda which borders Mutamba.

The company states that it intends to focus on developing its Barroso Lithium Project in Portugal. Chief executive officer David Archer commented, "with the company's focus moving to the further development and commercialisation of the Barroso Lithium Project, Mutamba has become non-core to Savannah and an

exit from Mutamba has been agreed with our partner, Rio Tinto. The transaction allows us to concentrate both management resources and our increased cash reserves exclusively to lithium in the Iberian Peninsula."

He added, "Savannah is also particularly proud of the extensive community engagement programmes it has undertaken, which covered infrastructure, agriculture, trade, education and public health. Our enduring legacies include the establishment of infrastructure that continues to provide clean drinking water for around 1,200 families and off-grid solar power for 5,300 families; over 600 local farmers deriving higher income from the sale of donated crops; and the 430 graduates that have benefited from the vocational training centres established in Jangamo and Inhambane, the majority of whom quickly found employment related to their training."

Heavy mineral sands typically contain the ores ilmenite (iron titanium oxide), rutile (titanium dioxide) and zircon (zirconium silicate). Titanium dioxide is used in the manufacture of white pigments used in products such as paper, paint, plastics, and toothpaste. Titanium can be alloyed with iron, aluminium, and other metals to produce lightweight alloys for the aerospace industry and many other applications. Zircon (zirconium silicate) is used in ceramics, water and air purification systems, nuclear fuel rods and catalytic fuel converters.

## ENTERPRISING

# Young Tanzania fashion star set to go global with his GJ Bespoke Company

By Guardian Reporter

**T**O practice menswear designing as a talent and business, was not easy for Geoffrey Jonathan, a 24 year old Tanzanian whose dream was to become a successful menswear designer and entrepreneur his days at secondary school.

Jonathan has faced a number of challenges and rejections from various people on his journey to become a competent entrepreneur. "A lot of doors have been shut in my face. I faced massive rejection in the days where I introduced my idea that I want to become an entrepreneur for menswear. I got rebuff from my family, relatives and friends with some of them saying may be I was 'insane,'" said Jonathan.

He is currently a charismatic businessman, and the visionary founder and creative director of fashion brand, GJ Bespoke Company. A luxury craftsmanship atelier that creates bespoke garments and curated experiences. The dynamic brand is also known for its stylish approach to traditional Tanzanian wear.

Jonathan, who started with a mere capital of 1m/- in 2019, now own a company with total capital of over 30m/-. In an interview with The Guardian recently, he narrated his journey that begun when he completed his degree studies at University Of Dodoma (UDOM) in 2018.

"I had no showroom or an office and had to transact my business from suitcases and trunks of rented cars. I nearly went out of business at one point because I had placed orders for some suits and had no money to pay for them," said the young man who has managed to overcome barriers to success.

"I realized that not everyone understood the GJ Bespoke brand but the few people who did stand by me and today, the rest is history," he noted while adding that he has since managed to create a high profile brand which produces suits of great quality in the local market.

Few years after completing his degree, he worked on market research, sales and distribution, innovation, projects and brand management with one of the private companies in Tanzania where he later left to pursue his love for fashion.

Jonathan is passionate about har-



Fashion egghead, Geoffrey Jonathan (R) attends to a client at his office in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

nessing fashion as a vehicle for development by connecting people at every step of the fashion value chain. "When I joined my degree studies at University of Dodoma in 2015, my talent continued to grow in my heart and as a result I always thought of completing my studies so that I can focus on cloth designing," he noted.

He explained that: "In my first year at the university, during class presentations, most of my colleagues used to borrow clothes from me, they were telling me that I am good at choosing clothes and designing."

The young Tanzanian fashion designer and entrepreneur, said that in his final year at Udom, he was nominated and got an award on fashion issues, and also got recognition from Swahili Fashion Week in 2018. "From there, I started to push myself, though I had no capital and it was hard to borrow money from

my parents because they were against this," Jonathan recalled.

He remembers when he quit his job and decided to sell his laptop and iPad just to get some money to initiate the menswear office designed clothes that he dreamt of. "I am now doing businesses with high-level people as well as serving ambassadors, I feel so honoured with the level that I have attained but still need to penetrate more of the local and international markets," he explained.

According to him, proper use of digital platforms to market products is one of the factors that has helped him grow and brand his business. "I believe that digital platforms are so powerful and can transform businesses if well used, so I utilized them a lot and I'm still doing so even now to ensure that more people know what I am doing," Jonathan stated.

He registered his businesses in

2019 and from there he has been getting a lot of big tenders. "My ambition is to continue growing. I currently serve various groups including corporates, weddings, formal events, graduations, and anyone who seeks for our service," he adds.

Advice to fellow young people He said trust is a very important thing for a person who mulls to succeed in his ambition. "As a young person with a big vision, I always maintained trust in customers, doing this will retain them and even attract more customers as they spread the word voluntarily," he counselled.

Jonathan further noted that young people need to understand that nothing is easy hence they need to work hard, push themselves to attain their goals because success has a price to pay. "Start where you are and what you have," he advised those making excuses of lack of capital to start a business.

## BEAUTY

# How eyelashes became big business in Nairobi

NAIROBI

In downtown Dubois Road in Nairobi, a new kind of business is booming. Fake eyelashes, also known as falsies. Tens of shops on this small stretch of road, which has turned into a one-stop shop for beauty products, restock fake eyelashes on almost a monthly basis.

"Eyelash extensions are big business. I sell up to 100 pairs of lashes every day, to both retailers and wholesalers," says one shop owner. "The uptake has been so high, the trend ever-evolving that sometimes, it's the clients who inform us on the new eyelashes that we need to import," says another seller.

A step away, a young woman is buying three boxes of falsies from the next shop. Then there is a middle-aged woman buying magnetic ones in yet another shop, and another requesting for the reusable eyelashes which are out of stock.

A few years ago, the buying, selling, and fixing of eyelashes was not a downtown affair. Falsies were rare and a preserve of the wealthy women. Now, it seems, they know no social class, age or cultural limit and the increasing fixation with false lashes is earning beauty entrepreneurs tidy profits. Njanja Kimani, the co-founder of N&K Lashes, is among the lashes entrepreneurs and users.

"There's a point where make-

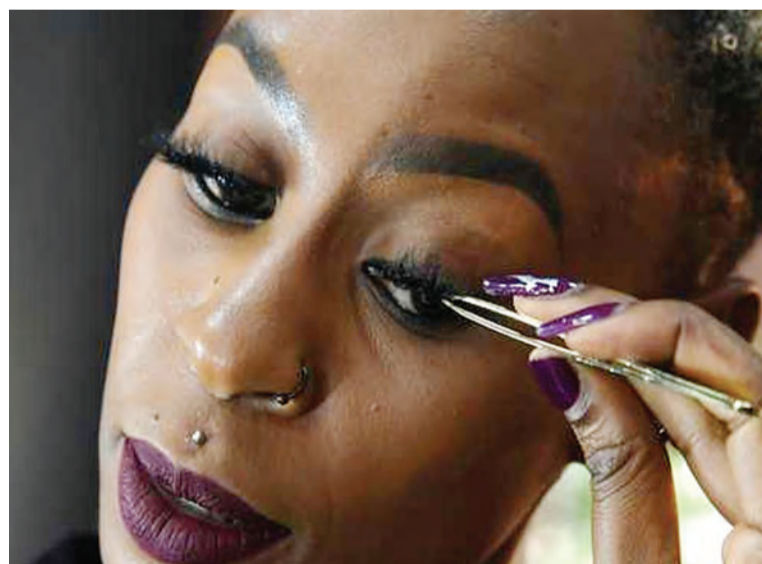
up reaches and fails to deliver. A pair of high-quality falsies will drastically transform your appearance from fabulous to striking," she says, adding that even with minimal makeup, lash extensions lend character effortlessly.

The lash extensions in the market come packaged in three forms: strips, clusters, or individuals, made from materials such as mink, faux mink and synthetic. Synthetic lashes are made from silk fibres and are thicker, curlier, fuller in appearance, affordable and dramatic. Mink lashes are made from mink fur, which is more natural-looking.

Ms Kimani began wearing lashes because her profession as a makeup artist demanded that she looks the part. Unfortunately, she was unable to secure high-quality lashes for her use. Sensing a gap in the market, she began importing and selling mink strip lash extensions at Sh1,500 per kit that also contains glue, scissors, tweezers, a lash applicator, and curler.

Just as the name suggests, strip lashes are individual lashes put together into a band that is applied using a removable adhesive. "They're lightweight and blend into your normal hair. They're also reusable. The flexible band makes it suitable for all eye shapes," she explains.

Her clients are women from all walks of life from college students, corporate women, to



Njanja Kimani of N&K Lashes during the interview at her Westlands studio on November 19, 2021.

brides and party attendees. Strip lashes must be worn and removed daily. The wearer must therefore master the art of putting them on and removing them to prevent damage to both their real and bought lashes.

Most of Ms Kimani's clients come already aware of the process, thanks to YouTube tutorials. For those who may not have the time, applying individual lashes are a welcome alternative. Cindy Njoroge, founder of Karey Lashes Kenya fixes individual lashes.

"Individual lashes result in a classier and more natural look than strip lashes. With these extensions, each lash (silk, semi-human, or mink) is attached to the lash line using semi-permanent and water-

proof glue. The process normally takes two hours and the results last four weeks," Ms Njoroge, a beautician for six years says, adding that a touch-up is required every four weeks to maintain the look.

Lashes were not so common six years ago when she started. She had to "do a thorough job of advertising" just to get one client. Ms Njoroge's business grew during Covid-19, not only because it is a mobile salon service where she goes to a client's home, but the wearing of masks made the eyes the focal point of the face.

Extending one's eyelashes by fixing fake ones is not a new thing. The beauty trend dates to the Hollywood glamour of the 1930s and 1940s, is making a comeback. There

was a lull period when women considered a natural look as sexier but now very few women walk into dinners or parties without falsies. For two years, Tracy Obinju has been wearing falsies having discovered them through YouTube. She uses eyelash extensions to add volume and length to her short lashes, she says.

"It was the next natural thing to do. Lashes are the icing on the cake; the bridge from a great to mind-blowing look," she says. Depending on the look desired, there are many factors to consider when choosing the correct ones. Curl, volume, length, and re-usability.

Volume ranges from minimal to mega and is defined by the number of individual lash extensions clustered together. The larger the cluster, the more volume there is, which varies from 5 millimetres to 18 millimetres.

The beauty industry has contributed immensely to Kenya's growth. Globally, the false eyelashes market was valued at \$ 1.4 million (Sh157 million) in 2021 and is projected to reach \$ 2 million (Sh225 million) by 2028.

Ms Kimani sells an aver-

age of four pairs of lashes daily while Ms Njoroge works with an appointment, seeing up to 14 clients a week, charging between Sh5,000 to Sh7,000 for the initial sessions and half-price for the follow-up touch-ups. Also, the demand for lashes has spun off related industries such as lash brushes and cleansers, eye-sensitive adhesives, eye-liners, and mascaras for use of falsies.

What is behind this growing acceptance of this beauty product? Ms Njoroge points to women empowerment. That unlike before where modesty meant walking around with zero makeup and unflattering attire, today women want to look good, more feminine, resulting in them making investing in things that support the achievement of these goals.

This has been proliferated by increased awareness, ease of accessibility, and general reception of these beauty trends, making them a lifestyle. One of Ms Njoroge's clients is Shiku Gachengo, a gospel artist, who spends Sh4,000 monthly on lashes.

"I've had scattered lashes my entire life. Seven months ago, I stumbled

upon falsies. Until I discovered them, I didn't know I needed them. Now they are just part of me, an item that I need," she says. For older women, eyelash extensions wipe away the effects caused by the unrelenting passing sands of time.

"They make one look younger since they add volume and length to one's natural eyelashes and are discreet," Ms Njoroge adds. For the young women looking for bold, dramatic looks, they can create such by putting the lashes.

This is the kind of expression that Sheila Kaberi goes for when wearing lashes. In her collection, she has the 3D, 6D and 8D strip lashes costing between Sh200 and Sh1,500. Everything she knows about lashes was learned from YouTube videos.

"They aren't heavy as people think nor do they obstruct my vision," Ms Kaberi, a student and makeup artist says, even though fixing them was "messy and sticky" in the beginning. "Without them, I feel like something is missing." For busy women, lash extensions considerably reduce the amount of time spent on applying makeup.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# City gardener growing all her veggies, herbs

NAIROBI

If Reshma Khan wants to make her favourite dish – Thai curry or anything Thai – all she has to do is arm herself with a food basket and saunter around her garden outside her colonial-style house.

By the time she is back, her basket is packed with everything she needs to whip up not only Thai dish but also Indian curries, salads, and even authentic guacamole. You would be forgiven if you thought that this food garden that is awash with fresh, organic produce is in a place far away from the busy, fast-paced, highly-polluted, sprawling-with-cement city of Nairobi. It is right in the heart of it. In Westlands.

"I honestly don't recall the last time I purchased herbs and vegetables from a supermarket or food market. I did buy an avocado recently but only because a visiting friend wanted to eat guacamole and our avocados aren't ready yet," Ms Khan says, pointing at two well-endowed avocado trees. From where I stand, the growing green fruits, in their hundreds, are weighing down their host.

Ms Khan's food garden is ever-giving yet it's not huge. Our mid-morning stroll through it begins at their "small portable garden." Planted in 20-litre plastic water bottles (because Ms Khan and her family are environmentally conscious) are a huge variety of herbs and vegetables among them different kinds of lime – Florida, Thai and the rare and expensive Australian finger.

Several types of mints and thyme as well as the brightly



Reshma Khan (L) and Sheena Shah sit down at a bench, as found in Peshan's home garden along Peponi Road on November 16, 2021.

coloured goji berries, marjoram, sorrel, gooseberries, purple jalapeno, rosemary, Japanese mitsuba parsley are also part of the foods grown here. I taste some as I go along.

Many moons ago across this portable herb garden was a slope with green grass. Wanting to grow her food, Ms Khan was dismayed at the lack of space. Her expansive backyard adorned with trees and the unmissable African lilies, thanks to their spectacularly purple flower blooms, was not receiving adequate sunlight. But there was space. All she needed was a knowledgeable set of eyes.

## Meet the experts

She found them in Sheena Shah and Daniel Kathendu, permaculture experts at Harvesting for Good East Africa, who work to turn seemingly unproductive

spaces in urban areas into food orchards through permaculture design and principles. According to Ms Shah, the majority of city dwellers who approach Harvesting for Good East Africa want to grow their food but have no idea how to start because of limited space.

"People are amazed when they find out that any piece of bare land or spaces left exposed where you can see the soil, can be utilised. Applying permaculture principles can help turn average yards, and small city spaces like Reshma's, into functional areas that are also appealing to the eye," Ms Shah, the founder of Harvesting for Good EA, says.

Such principles include promoting biodiversity, where whatever is planted is one in nature; observing and interacting is growing plants specifically for the landscape and those that

keep pests at bay and obtain a yield is ensuring that the harvest is abundant, among others. "If we utilise some of these principles, we'll see a lot more fruitful spaces come up," she adds. How do they go about turning people's average and bare plots into permaculture blisses like Ms Khan's? I ask.

"We do a client site visit not only to assess the site but also to find out what they're hoping to achieve," the lead permaculture educator shares. Some want more food than flowers, others more flowers than food. This means that no design is the same. With this information, they create a garden design and implement it together with the client.

Knowing where the direct sunlight and light fall is a fundamental aspect. Once you have figured this out, then it is all about choosing the right plants

and working the soil with compost making it alive. Selecting annuals and perennials plants keeps the space looking productive and vibrant all year long, not forgetting adequate watering and mulching, the keys to a successful harvest.

"We finally train the garden owners and their staff on how to manage for it before handing it over for them to start reaping from it. We encourage starting small and steady so that you can watch the growth, and then start to add more plants along the way rather than adding too many varieties on the land," Mr Kathendu says.

## 20+ varieties of plants

Ms Khan's food garden was created using a permaculture technique known as sheet mulching. This is a no-dig garden method used to keep grass from growing back up. The technique was chosen because the soil had been dug up too much already.

"We layered cardboard over the grass, added a good layer of mixed compost, manure, and soil and made a raised garden. We then planted the crops," Ms Shah explains. They also created swales where water is held and gradually filtered through the plants allowing for better water retention and absorptions.

On the patch, they've planted 20+ varieties of plants including a Peruvian chilli, lemongrass, holy basil, sweet-scented geranium, and fruit trees namely orange and mango, having harvested cabbages, and tree tomatoes previously.

It is also a place of serenity. Ms Khan works as a full-time leadership coach in the social impact sector. In the thick of the pandemic, the garden was a source of refuge and comfort. Spending time in the garden and eating everything from it is probably what saved her mental health, she says.

Is it expensive to develop a permaculture haven? Ms Shah says it depends on the work required. "But in the end, the return on investment is innumerable. The health benefits and memories made are worth any costs incurred," Ms Khan says.



South African engineer Athenkosi Gexa who is now doing fashion.

## From overalls to the runway is an engineer following his dream into the fashion world

CAPE TOWN

A qualified electrical engineer from Philippi, Cape Town, has hung up his helmet and traded in his dusty boots for a sewing machine because the career he studied for has not worked out for him.

According to Athenkosi Gexa, 27, he is finally doing what he loves – designing quality local streetwear. He told News24 he started studying electrical heavy current engineering at Northlink College in 2015 and graduated three years later, with the hope that he would flourish in his chosen career.

"Working in various engineering companies to make a living so that I could afford to put food on the table for my family was the main priority. Life becomes very challenging when you become the only breadwinner in the house," he said.

Gexa said at his former workplace, he felt an overwhelming "sense of dislike" for the industry. I was stressed, depressed, hurt and lost hope that I would make something of myself in the engineering world. I just knew I had to make a change in my life.

The bubbly entrepreneur said he decided to quit the industry and venture into his first love – fashion designing. And he hasn't looked back. "The one positive thing Covid-19 brought about was the willingness to put everything I had into making a success of life. I've always loved making clothes, from a young age. People are always surprised that I know my way around a sewing machine," giggled Gexa.

He said he had asked a friend who was a qualified fashion designer to teach him how to sew using an industrial sewing machine. According to him, he has also been "stealing with the eye" ever since.

"I am in front of my sewing machine all day, every day. I firmly believe that if you want success, you have to put in the hard work and long hours. It helps that my bed is walking distance from my workspace," he said.

According to the designer, seeing customers wearing his clothes is one of the many pleasures he gets from his job. With his business kicking off just over a year ago, Gexa has already made his mark in the fashion industry in South Africa.

He recently won a R10 000 cash prize from DoDigi for best business pitch, which he described as "mind-blowing stuff." "DoDigi is an online learning programme, offered by Dream Factory Foundation, teaching small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) how to run a sustainable business. My sister had told me about the opportunity and gave me the line, and I applied immediately," he added.

## FALLOUT

# Shell can proceed with seismic survey after environmental groups lose urgent court bid

CAPE TOWN

A South African high court has dismissed an urgent application to block Shell from proceeding with a seismic survey off the Eastern Cape coast.

The ruling was delivered by Judge Avinash Govindjee at the Eastern Cape Division of the Makhanda High Court on Wednesday. Earlier this week, four environmental and human rights organisations – Greenpeace Africa, Natural Justice, the Border Deep Sea Angling Association, and the Kei Mouth Ski Boat Club – filed an urgent application to block the seismic survey, given the alleged harm it would cause to the environment and marine life.

The applicants wanted the seismic survey – which will take place off the coast between Morgans Bay and Port St Johns – to be halted until a judicial review of Shell's environmental authorisation is complete.

Shell and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy – the respondents in the matter – both argued that the applicants failed to demonstrate urgency. Shell's legal counsel Adrian Friedman even suggested that the urgency was "self-

created" by the applicants by only filing their court papers this week, days before the seismic survey was due to start.

In his ruling, Govindjee said that he was satisfied that there was no "undue delay" in bringing the application – as the applicants were only made aware of it on 29 October. The applicants had also challenged the public participation process, claiming that not all interested and affected parties were notified about the exploration right granted to Shell, nor of the two subsequent renewals that followed.

Shell, on the other hand, filed supplementary affidavits on Thursday indicating that "hundreds" of interested and affected parties were notified, including two applicants: Border Deep Angling Association and the Kei Mouth Ski Boat Club.

Environmental harm In his ruling, Govindjee said that Shell has provided details on compliance with its Environmental Management Programme and the mitigation measures that would be in place for the survey. "Given the paucity of information as to the likelihood of environmental harm, the balance of convenience

favours Shell," he said. The applicants "failed" to convince the judge that there is a "well-rounded apprehension of irreparable harm" if the interim relief or interdict is not granted.

"Upon consideration of the affidavits as a whole according to facts and probabilities, the outcomes are the same and I must exercise discretion to reject the application," Govindjee said. "The question is whether the seismic survey to be undertaken should be interdicted ending final determination of a separate review application. That question has been answered [in the] negative."

The application was dismissed with costs. In response to questions from Fin24, Shell said that it welcomed the court decision, which will help move the seismic survey forward, in accordance with its regulatory approval and permitting.

The oil and gas giant emphasised that it has had a long experience collecting offshore seismic data and took great care in preventing or minimising potential impacts on fish, marine mammals and other wildlife.

"We have conducted an environmental [impact]



Protesters at the V&A Waterfront this 21 November.

study in line with regulatory requirements and obtained legal permits to carry out the activity," said spokesperson Pam Ntaka. Ntaka added that if resources were detected offshore, it could help the country's energy security and government's economic development programmes.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Wild Coast communities lodged an application for an urgent interdict against Shell's exploration – also pending a judicial review of Shell's environmental authorisation. The communities are represented by the Legal Resources Centre and Richard Spoor Attorneys

and are joined by two civil society organisations that work in the area – Sustaining the Wild Coast and All Rise Attorneys for Climate and the Environment.

"Small-scale fishers from the Amadiba, Cwebe, Hobeni, Port Saint Johns and Kei Mouth communities say that Shell is not entitled to commence the surveys without getting an environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act," a statement from the Legal Resources Centre read. According to these applicants, Shell's Environmental Management Pro-

gramme, which was approved under the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, is "plainly insufficient."

The applicants also indicated that they only learnt of Shell's planned seismic survey in the past three weeks, as petitions and information started circulating on social media. According to the Legal Resources Centre, Shell consulted stakeholders in the commercial and recreational fishing sectors, but ignored small-scale fishing communities. Shell has confirmed that it received this application and is currently reviewing it.



## WORLD

## WHO urges Asia-Pacific to ready for Omicron surge

MANILA

THE World Health Organization warned Asia-Pacific countries yesterday to boost healthcare capacity and fully vaccinate their people to prepare for a surge in COVID-19 cases as the Omicron variant spreads globally despite travel curbs.

Despite shutting its borders to travel from high-risk southern African countries, Australia became the latest country to report community transmission of the new variant, a day after it was found locally in five US states.

Omicron started gaining a foothold in Asia this week, with cases reported in India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea.

Many governments have tightened travel rules to keep the new variant out, but the WHO's warning to the Asia-Pacific, a region of about 650 million people, stressed that border controls could only buy them time.

"People should not only rely on border measures," Takeshi Kasai, WHO regional director for the western Pacific, told a

virtual media briefing.

"What is most important is to prepare for these variants with potential high transmissibility. So far the information available suggests we don't have to change our approach."

Vaccination rates vary from country to country in the Asia-Pacific but there are worrying gaps. Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country and once Asia's COVID-19 epicenter, has fully inoculated only about 35 percent of its population of 270 million people.

Australia's chief medical officer said Omicron was likely to become the dominant variant globally within months, but at this stage there was no evidence it was any more dangerous than Delta which swept the world earlier this year.

"I suspect within the (next few) months, Omicron will be the new virus in the world," Paul Kelly, the top medical advisor to the Australian government, told reporters.

In the United States, the Biden administration unveiled a suite of measures to guard against the virus spreading. From 12:01 am ET (0501 GMT) on Mon-



A traveler arrives at a COVID-19 testing center at the Incheon International Airport in Incheon, South Korea, on Wednesday. AP

day, international air travelers arriving in the United States will have to obtain a negative COVID-19 test within one day of travel.

"We're going to fight this variant with science and speed, not chaos and confusion," President Joe Biden said on Thursday as he told Americans to prepare for a rise in infections during winter.

Less than 60 percent of the US population, or 196 million people, have been fully vaccinated, one of the lowest rates among wealthy nations.

## INFLATION FEARS

Global travel curbs have accelerated with Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Norway and Russia, among others, announcing fresh measures on Thursday. Malaysia said yesterday that it would tighten restrictions further.

Aside from wreaking havoc in the travel industry, the clamp-down has pounded financial markets and undermined major economies just as they were beginning to recover from the lockdowns triggered by

Delta.

Shares in India, Japan, and South Korea fell on Friday after overnight losses on Wall Street, but traders will need to wait at least another week or so for answers from global health authorities on the variant's virulence or vaccine resistance.

Oil prices climbed although they were still on course for a sixth week of declines amid concerns that demand could fall due to measures to contain Omicron.

The variant threatened to fuel soaring inflation in the United States by further pressuring supply chains and worsening worker shortages, Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank President Loretta Mester told the Financial Times.

Europe's biggest economy, Germany, said it would bar the unvaccinated from all but essential businesses, and legislation to make vaccination mandatory would be drafted for early next year.

## Austria set for third chancellor in months on Kurz's final exit

VIENNA

AUSTRIA was slated to appoint its third chancellor in as many months after Sebastian Kurz said he will quit as party chief amid a corruption investigation, opening the way for a potential government reshuffle.

Interior Minister Karl Nehammer may take over as chairman of the People's Party, becoming a likely candidate to also become chancellor, according to a person familiar with the discussions. The 49-year-old would unseat Alexander Schallenberg, just two months after he was hand-picked by Kurz as his successor.

A career politician and former communications trainer, Nehammer has made a name for himself for shutting borders during the pandemic and promoting a hard line on immigration.

His ministry was criticized for botching the surveillance of a radical Islamist who killed four in a Vienna terror shooting last year.

Kurz will formally hand in his resignation at a meeting of party leaders on Friday, he told reporters in Vienna, adding that his passion for politics had waned with the birth of his first child.

His departure completes the downfall of a tumultuous career that saw the erstwhile conservative prodigy become the youngest political leader in Europe and a standard-bearer for the center-right with his brand of polite populism.

The 35-year-old had moved to a position in parliament, maintaining his role as party chief, after being forced to resign as chancellor in October. That move was triggered by prosecutors raiding the offices of several close associates.

Kurz faces multiple investigations from state prosecutors, including allegations of false statements made to lawmakers and using public funds to plant forged opinion polls in newspapers to help him rise to power in 2017. He has denied wrongdoing.

"I look forward to the day when I can prove the allegations against me are false," Kurz said in a press statement on Thursday, repeating claims of a climate of political witch-hunting.

His exit may allow the People's Party to open a new chapter after the corruption probe dented its popularity. It has lost about 10 percentage points of public backing and was overtaken by the Socialists for the first time since 2017.

Kurz will still have close allies in his party, but other conservative leaders have failed to match his talent for dominating the domestic political scene.

The corruption probe continues to reverberate in Austria with prosecutors still investigating thousands of text messages exchanged within his political entourage.

## France rejects joint border patrol in Channel with UK

PARIS

FRENCH Prime Minister Jean Castex told his British counterpart, Boris Johnson, that he rejected the idea of a joint British-French patrol in the English Channel to fight clandestine migration to Britain, a letter obtained by Reuters showed on Thursday.

"France is ready to pursue our operational cooperation with the United Kingdom", the letter said, but added: "We cannot accept ... British police or military patrol on our coast. It's a matter of our sovereignty."

Johnson last week suggested a joint coast patrol in a letter he sent to French President Emmanuel Macron - and later published on Twitter - after 27 migrants lost their lives in the Channel as they tried to reach British shores.

Johnson's tweet caused outrage in France, leading to Macron telling London to "get serious."

"I'm surprised when things are not done seriously. We don't communicate between leaders via tweets or published letters, we are not whistle-blowers. Come on. Come on," Macron later told a news conference in Rome.

Relations between the traditional allies are already strained, including by a recent submarine deal with Australia which replaced one it had with France, and a conflict about post-Brexit fishing licenses.

In Thursday's letter, Castex reiterated that it was up to Britain to resolve the ongoing crisis.

"A large part of the solution does not lie in France, but in the United Kingdom. In fact, you can deter the migrants who are not destined to settle (in Britain) from coming to your territory by conducting a more effective return policy."

Agencies

## WHO calls for greater vigilance amid fast-spreading Omicron variant

MANILA

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) regional director for the Western Pacific Takeshi Kasai yesterday urged people to remain vigilant against the spread of the potentially more transmissible Omicron coronavirus variant.

The Manila-based WHO regional office said many countries are reporting detection of Omicron increasing daily. "Geographic distribution is likely already wider than currently reported," warned the agency.

At a virtual press conference, Kasai stressed the need to prepare for new surges of COVID-19 infections driven by the Omicron variant, adding that information suggests that Omicron "may be more transmissible than other variants."

Several countries, including the Philippines, have imposed travel restrictions to keep the Omicron variant out of their shores. However, Kasai warned that "blanket travel bans can delay entry of the Omicron variant but will not prevent entry."

"Border controls can delay the virus coming in and buy time, but every country and every community must prepare for new surges in cases," Kasai told a virtual news conference.

"It is clear that this pandemic is far from over, and we can adapt the way we manage this virus to better cope



A boy is inoculated with a COVID-19 vaccine at a sports complex in Marikina City, the Philippines on Nov. 29, 2021. The Philippines on Monday started a three-day vaccination campaign to speed up the immunization of the country's population against COVID-19 and its Omicron variant. Xinhua

with the future surges and reduce their health, social and economic impacts," he added.

Kasai outlined calibrated response measures that countries can implement to avoid the "red line" or the situation where the number of critical cases exceeds the hospital and intensive care unit capacity.

He said the region can avoid the "red line" and continue to open societies and economies by vaccinating more people, maintaining the right mix of

public health and social measures, and ensuring hospital beds are available for those who need them.

"With a sustainable approach to protective measures, calibrated to each context, we can avoid swinging back and forth between opening up and going back into strict lockdowns," he added.

Kasai said the set of measures he outlined "is all about adapting so that we can learn to 'live with' the virus over the long term, even when we have new

surges in the future."

He clarified that the measures are not meant to give up on controlling COVID-19. "Instead, it means continuously calibrating a combination of tools and actions based on the risks in each local setting, as they evolve over time."

"This is what we need to be doing in response to Omicron, based on what we know now, and adapting our response if needed as we learn more about its transmissibility, severity and impact," he said.

"We can adapt so that COVID-19 has less impact on our lives in 2022, and we can start to regain - and hopefully retain - a sense of normality," he said.

While a few countries are still facing surges, he said the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths has now decreased and plateaued in many countries of the Western Pacific.

Kasai said that more and more people are getting vaccinated, and pressure on hospitals and health systems in many places has eased. In most parts of the region, he added, "things are trending in the right direction."

"But in addition to those currently dealing with surges, even in countries which have successfully suppressed the virus, and those which have managed to record zero cases to date - including several Pacific island countries - we cannot be complacent," he added.

Xinhua

## Russia calls for agreements preventing NATO's eastward expansion, diplomat says

MOSCOW

THE only way to resolve Europe's deplorable security situation is for Moscow and NATO to develop long-term agreements preventing the alliance's eastward expansion, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

"Since the end of the Cold War, Russia has repeatedly received assurances that NATO's jurisdiction and troops will

not move an inch eastward. All these promises were forgotten and left unfulfilled.

The current deplorable security situation in Europe is the result. We are confident that the only way to resolve the situation is to jointly develop long-term agreements that would prevent NATO's further expansion to the east and the deployment of weapons systems that threaten us in the immediate vicinity of Russia's borders," the

statement reads.

Zakharova pointed out that a recent meeting of NATO foreign ministers, which took place in Latvia's capital of Riga on November 30 to December 1, once again showed "the alliance's obsession with the fight against imaginary threats" instead of cooperating with others in combating real challenges. "One of the focuses once again was Russia and its 'possible aggression' against Ukraine.

Our country was blamed for allegedly doing something near NATO's borders, threatening the alliance by moving its troops on its own territory. Still, if we look at things as they are, it was NATO that moved close to our borders.

NATO's military build-up and large-scale drills are taking place near our borders," the Russian diplomat added.

"Ukraine's accession to NATO is a red line for us, and we have

been talking about it for a long time. The ongoing policy aimed at dragging Kiev into the alliance's orbit and NATO's actual move to use Ukraine's military infrastructure and attempts to turn Ukraine into a foothold in a standoff with Russia may lead to serious negative consequences and exacerbate the military and political situation in Europe," Zakharova concluded.

Agencies

## China's ice and snow sports equipment industry enters fast track of development

CHINA'S ice and snow sports equipment industry has overcome technology bottlenecks and embraced leapfrog development since the preparations for the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

While venues empowered by sci-tech innovations for the Beijing 2022 have been constructed one after the other, the country's first homemade snowcat and snowboard waxing vehicle have come into being. Chinese-made snowmakers, smart ski simulators, and ropeways have been widely used at ski resorts across the country.

The country's first homemade snowcat SG400, developed by Hebei Xuanhua Construction Machinery Co., Ltd., has been employed at the Wanlong ski resort in Chongli district, Zhangjiakou city, north China's Hebei province.

At present, the world's snowcat market is dominated by a German manufacturer and an Italian company. Against such a backdrop, Hebei Xuanhua Construction Machinery Co., Ltd., taking the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games as an opportunity to make innovations, started to develop snowcats independently with its rich experience in

track-laying vehicle R&D and manufacturing.

Representing the first batch of high-end and high-horsepower snowcats in China, the SG400 snowcat has filled a gap in the field of the country, according to Wen Xiaoxuan, chief designer of the equipment, adding that the company owns independent intellectual property rights to key and core technologies involved in the production of the snowcat, including chassis suspension, electronic control system and hydraulic transmission.

At a cross-country skiing resort in Wenquan county, northwest China's

Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, a snowboard waxing vehicle, the country's first homemade vehicle of the kind, has been used for the training of the national cross-country skiing team of China.

Inside the vehicle developed by several companies from east China's Shandong province, six snowboard waxers worked at workbenches equipped with ventilators. About one hour later, freshly waxed snowboards were handed to skiers of the team.

In the past, Chinese skiing teams had their snowboards waxed before competitions at waxing tables

beside the venue or in temporary tents.

The newly developed snowboard waxing vehicle has not only made the procedure efficient, but can provide a variety of other services for athletes, including helping with warm-ups and offering devices for watching live matches.

The vehicle integrates solar photovoltaic power generation, energy storage, 5G industrial Internet, big data, and AI, said An Zetao, head of the vehicle's crew, adding that 66 patents were applied for during its designing and R&D.

China's first homemade snowcat

and snowboard waxing vehicle, while signaling the country's technological advances, mirrors the efforts of its ice and snow sports equipment industry to break away from dependence upon imports.

Encouraged by a whole package of measures rolled out by the government, Chinese manufacturers of ice and snow sports equipment have intensified efforts to promote R&D, continuously increasing the substitution of imports with domestic ice and snow sports equipment as well as the market shares of homemade products.

People's Daily



## UN warns of bleak prospects in 2022 unless world takes immediate action

GENEVA

"WITHOUT sustained and immediate action, 2022 could be catastrophic," the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in its "Global Humanitarian Overview 2022" published on Thursday.

"In Afghanistan, more than 24 million people require life-saving assistance to prevent catastrophe" caused by "repeated economic shocks, political tumult and the severe food insecurity caused by the worst drought in 27 years."

According to the report, basic service delivery in Syria is "vastly inadequate and hampered by damaged infrastructure, lack of critical supplies and, increasingly, financial unaffordability."

Average household expenditure now exceeds available income by 50 percent compared to 20 percent in August 2020." **Xinhua**

## East Africa bloc launches platform to manage desert locusts, trans-boundary pests

NAIROBI

EAST African bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), on Thursday launched an inter-regional platform for the sustainable management of desert locusts and other transboundary pests.

IGAD said the platform, developed to contain the desert locusts, aims to strengthen synergies, sustain management and control of desert locusts and other transboundary pests in the infested areas.

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center director Guleid Artan called for concerted efforts in managing the desert locusts across the region.

"The effective control and management of desert locust and other transboundary pests in the IGAD region and surrounding areas require a dedicated and sustained involvement of all the affected countries, international community, private sector and with all state and non-state stakeholders acting in a coordinated manner," Artan said in a statement issued after the virtual launch.

He said the platform will also provide an effective and well-coordinated early warning system for continuous intensive surveillance and monitoring of desert locusts.

Keith Cressman, Senior Locust Forecasting Officer with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations emphasized the need to control the destructive pests in order to safeguard livelihoods.

"The early warning functions perform extremely well thanks to inputs and efforts by the countries. However, the challenge is turning that early warning into action," said Keith.

The greater Horn of Africa region has been grappling with desert locust invasion since 2019 amid a threat to food security for subsistence farmers and pastoralists.

According to IGAD, the region is facing the threat of recurrent infestation by the pests amid favorable ecological conditions such as regular rainfall and lush vegetation that is ideal for their breeding.

**Xinhua**

## Moscow slams Washington's 'act of expulsion' against Russian diplomats

MOSCOW

MOSCOW regards the departure of Russian diplomats from the United States as an act of expulsion, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday.

"We view the US demand as an act of expulsion and intend to resort to retaliatory measures," she vowed. "Members of the US Embassy in Russia, who have been on their mission here for more than three years, must leave Russia before January 31, 2022."

Zakharova stressed that the United States has no authority of dictating the terms of departure and suspension of missions for Russian diplomats.

"Russia sent them there on their mission based on the staff policy of our ministry and the diplomatic service," she explained. "[Our] American partners devised for us how Russian diplomats should leave the United States by terminating their duties."

"This certainly goes beyond diplomatic norms," she emphasized.

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman provided a scathing description of the US measures, branding them as "an obvious encroachment on a sovereign right of a country, which sends its representatives and diplomats on missions, and defines the terms of their stay in the country of their destination and does it in line with the laws and regulations stipulated by the hosting side."

"I want to emphasize that this was not our choice," Zakharova continued. "Our American partners have forced this sort of game upon us. We have been consistently trying to reason with them for a long time in order to seek a constructive resolution to the issue, but they made their choice."

Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said earlier that 27 Russian diplomats and their families would have to leave the United States on January 30, 2022 and another 27 diplomats will have to depart by June 30, 2020 because their visas have not been extended by the American authorities.

He stressed that the problem of visa issuance for Russian diplomats remained unsolved, and they were being deliberately separated from their families.



# UN plans to expand plastic waste management in India

NEW DELHI

THE United Nations Development Programme aims to almost triple its plastic waste management to 100 cities in India by 2024. A UNDP executive said, to combat the damaging effects of plastic pollution.

Across India's many towns and cities, which are often ranked among the world's most polluted, the absence of an organized management of plastic waste leads to widespread littering and pollution.

The UNDP program, which began in 2018, has so far collected 83,000 metric ton of plastic waste. India generates about 3.4 million tons of plastic waste annually, according to official estimates.

"In India although about 60 percent of plastic is recycled, we are still seeing the damage that plastic pollution is causing," Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India, said in an interview at the Reuters Next conference broadcast on Friday.

The UNDP is working with federal think tank, NITI Aayog and have jointly developed a 'handbook' model for local municipalities as well as the private sector.

"In a country like India with nearly fifth of the world's population, a key challenge is how do we make these models scalable," Rasheed said in an interview recorded on Nov 22.

The government needs stricter enforcement on controls around dumping of plastic waste and has a "long way to go" to raise awareness among households, Rasheed said, adding there was a need for investment into research for alternatives.

The program suffered a setback after the COVID-19 pandemic led to widespread increase in waste, including medical plastic waste, and hit livelihoods of collectors,



In this file photo taken on June 5, 2020, a boy walks on piles of plastic bottles outside a scrap dealer's open store on the United Nations' World Environment Day in New Delhi. AFP

who often work in hazardous conditions.

"There was a real need to expand waste collection efforts and that was coming at the same time as lot of (COVID-19 related) restrictions were disrupting the normal waste collection," Rasheed said.

Plastic pollution is set to triple by 2040, the UN Environment Program has predicted, adding 23-37 million metric tons of waste into the world's oceans each year. India, also the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China

and the United States, has set 2070 as a target to reach net-zero carbon emissions, much later than those set by others and twenty years after the UN's global recommendation.

## Chinese, British parties hold talks to push forward ties

BEIJING

CHINA and Britain on Thursday held a video conference of their political parties' dialogue.

Song Tao, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, attended

and addressed the conference.

Song said that maintaining exchanges and dialogue between Chinese and British political parties is of great significance to enhancing mutual understanding and trust between the two countries and promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields.

ALSO READ: Centennial CPC steers China in tackling global challenges

Noting that the leaders of both countries recently reached an important consensus and mapped out the future development of China-Britain relations, Song said that political parties and politicians of

both countries should earnestly implement the consensus, step up strategic communication, support and contribute to China-Britain friendship and cooperation, and push forward bilateral relations on the right track.

Song briefed the British side on the spirits of the sixth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee.

Song said the CPC will enhance exchanges with political parties around the world including the Conservative Party and the Labor Party of Britain to better safeguard the common interests of all countries.

**Xinhua**

## China's archaeology becomes more and more 'tech-ish'

By He Yang

SHOVELS, brushes and tape measures are probably what one could think of when it comes to the tools of archaeologists. However, it's not a difficult thing to see modern technologies being applied in China's archaeological tasks nowadays.

At the site of archaeological excavation for Wanjiào One, an ancient Chinese merchant ship that sank off the coast of Pingtan county, southeast China's Fujian province, archaeologists were equipped with full-face rebreathers that put them on wireless communication with their colleagues both under and above the water.

In the aquarium that houses the Nanhai No. 1 shipwreck, discovered 25 meters under the South China Sea in 1987 and salvaged 20 years later, remote sensing platforms can obtain data at millimeter level in a contactless, multi-angle and smart manner.

Besides, at the Sanxingdui archaeological site in southwest China's Sichuan province, on-site workshops have been built to better preserve cultural relics.

The application of modern technologies has enriched the philosophy, methods and content of archaeology. It is also making archaeological missions safer, more precise, and more effective, broadening and deepening China's archaeology cause to an unprecedented extent.

The excavations of Sanxingdui have been carried out under the support of multiple disciplines, which mirrors the integration of modern technologies and archaeology. At the excavation site, there are many transparent glass houses that are designed to protect unearthed cultural relics. The temperature and humidity in these houses are fixed, and trusses and lifters are there to move the relics and for archaeologists to clean the relics in a contactless manner.

China's modern archaeology raised its curtain as relics were unearthed in the excavation of the Yangshao site in Chisheng county, central China's Henan province a hundred years ago.

Today, remote sensing, as well as digital and smart technologies are widely applied in archaeological investiga-



Young volunteers ride shared bikes in an activity held to promote low-carbon lifestyle in Zaozhuang city, east China's Shandong province, August 25, 2021. File photo

tions, and new methods are being promoted one after another, such as 3D printing, aerial photography drones and DNA analysis. Be it under the earth or in the water, technologies are playing an increasingly important role in archaeological surveying, excavation, restoration, preservation, and researches.

To trace the origins of cultural relics and civilizations and represent the glorious history is a special mission of archaeology. Today, with radiocarbon dating, we know ages of cultural relics, and with lead isotope geochemistry, we know origins of them. The broad and in-depth sci-tech application is enlarging the space of archaeological studies.

Cultural relics are history in a perceptible form. To enhance people's understanding of history and their respect for civilizations with cultural relics is an important part of the preservation and inheritance of cultural relics.

For instance, the launch of the Digital Dunhuang resource database enables people around the world to enjoy the magnificent views of the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes with just clicks on their mouse, and a mini-program introducing the cultural heritage has

so far received nearly 40 million visits.

Besides, in Fuzhou Museum, Fujian province, a motion sensing system is launched to simulate an underwater archaeological site, so that visitors can have better experiences.

Digital technologies are constantly changing the ways of how cultural relics are displayed, making people's cultural life more splendid and offering a strong support for the protection of cultural relics.

**People's Daily**

**The excavations of Sanxingdui have been carried out under the support of multiple disciplines, which mirrors the integration of modern technologies and archaeology. At the excavation site, there are many transparent glass**

## Kenyan HIV-positive mothers find strength in support networks

NAIROBI

ALICE Atieno's homestead, located at the edge of lush green plains that dot western Kenyan county of Kisumu, has lately become a prized destination for women living with HIV/AIDS keen on free therapeutic sessions.

The 36-year-old mother of four and living with HIV/AIDS in the last six years has earned accolades thanks to her tireless devotion to helping peers overcome stigma through bonding, peer learning and economic empowerment.

Currently in a discordant union since her husband is HIV-negative, Atieno has been a victim of injustices and double standards that are often meted on women living with the virus in a heavily patriarchal society.

As a result, the community mobilizer has resolved to be at the frontline of promoting the plight of HIV-positive mothers through educating them on novel treatment, drugs adherence, savings and emotional health.

"As a founding member of a discordant couple's support group in our locality, I have been encouraging mothers living with HIV/AIDS to seek treatment without fail while ensuring they are economically productive," Atieno said during a recent interview with Xinhua ahead of World AIDS Day to be marked Wednesday.

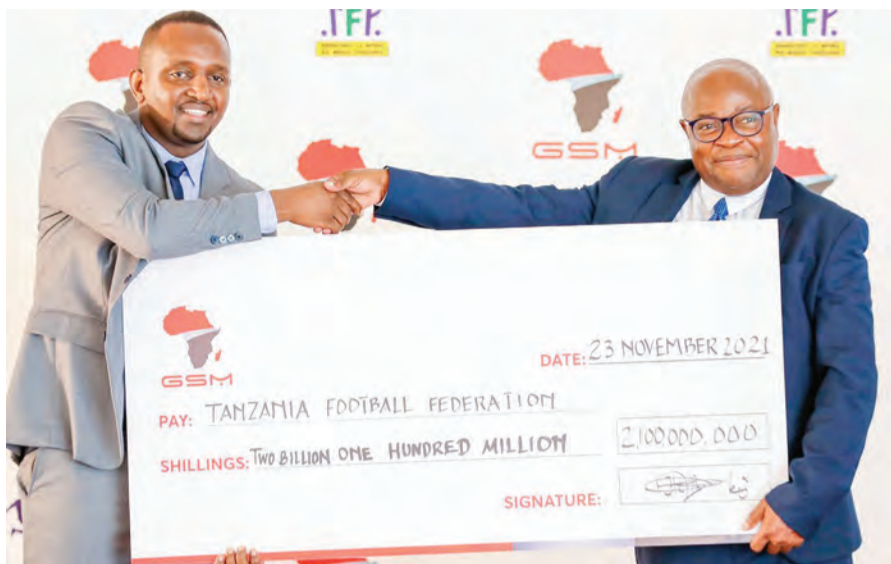
She disclosed that at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when disruptions became the norm, her HIV-positive peers started a savings and lending scheme, locally known as table banking, to tackle financial hardships. According to Atieno, the pandemic's related job and income losses escalated poverty among people living with AIDS, more so for women and youth, thus prompting them to come up with innovative remedies like table banking.

"The idea behind the formation of table banking was to bring HIV-positive mothers together, pull resources and bail each at a time many had lost jobs and their businesses were performing dismally," said Atieno.

During regular meetings at her homestead, the mothers have forged lasting bonds of friendships besides sharing knowledge and experience on managing their condition and improving their economic status. Maurine Achieng, an HIV-positive mother of five, admitted that joining the support network has been transformative as reflected in her improved physical, financial and emotional health.

At the early stages of discovering her positive status, she grappled with denial, self-pity and withdrawal but has gradually regained self-esteem thanks to encouragement from peers. The 40-year-old smallholder farmer singled out table banking for rescuing her from financial ruin at the peak of the pandemic when revenue streams dried up, threatening to reverse gains made in managing her condition.

"It is through bonding that HIV-positive mothers have gained strength required to manage the disease and negative issues associated with it like stigma, rejection and poverty," said Achieng. Carlot Anyango, secretary of a local support group for HIV-positive mothers, said its table banking project that provides loans to its members at a 10 percent repayment fee, has provided respite to their financial challenges.



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) First Vice-President, Athuman Nyamlani (R), and GSM Group Investment Director, Hersi Said, pose for a picture with a dummy cheque once the firm sealed the contract with the federation for sponsoring NBC Premier League in Dar es Salaam recently. The two-year sponsorship is valued at 2.1bn/-. PHOTO: TFF

## FCC to work on complaints about NBC Premier League sponsorship

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE Fair Competition Commission (FCC) has said it has received complaints from some of Tanzania's football stakeholders on GSM Group's sponsorship of the NBC Premier League.

Stakeholders believe the firm's sponsorship will affect football competition in the country, considering the firm is as well sponsoring NBC Premier League outfit, Yanga.

The stakeholders have filed a written complaint early this week, according to FCC Commissioner & Director General, William Erio.

He stated so while announcing the celebration of World Competition Day which is expected to take place on December 6.

The FCC boss revealed the commission will come up with a specific statement on the matter after it is satisfied with its findings.

The complaints were received just days after GSM Group signed a 2.1bn/- contract with the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to sponsor NBC Premier League.

The agreement, signed on November 23, 2021, makes the company a co-sponsor of the NBC Premier League which ranks eighth in Africa in terms of quality.

It has also been revealed that it is only a short time since the company that as well sponsors Yanga had announced its sponsorship of Coastal Union.

"We have already started the process, seeking to know if the sponsorship will not affect the competition in football and the answers to this issue will be provided after we had satisfied ourselves following the rules of the competition and whether it relates to competition," Erio said.

He said in a letter sent to FCC, the complaints sought to clarify whether the sponsorship will not affect the competition and Yanga will not benefit more from the competition because GSM Group is sponsoring other outfits.

"I can't say that at the moment because we are working on it. We are like a court... a person can file a case that does not even have grounds but you cannot tell him it is baseless before going through it, so, it will be assigned to a judge to be heard and later either dismissed or given a decision."

He said he had not yet seen the signed contract but saw the pictures showing the handover of the check.

"Now to achieve this we are asking for some information from various media outlets and we will see if it will affect the competition in any way," Erio disclosed

## Dar bracing for style as fashion clothing stands out more visibly

By Correspondent John Kimbute

CLEARING the streets of hawkers, the petty traders, otherwise known as 'marching guys,' a term synonymous with Machinga youth groups from Lindi, where chroniclers say the Machinga people are a small minority within Kilwa District.

The more famous Machinga Hills are found in far-off Malawi, the southern part of the country, and as Kilwa is far from southern Malawi, it is unclear how they came to bear the same ethnic references if they have language proximity, etc.

But the reign of Machingas not just in Dar es Salaam but also in other African capitals is coming to an end, as administrators look for style.

Clearing out itinerant traders makes an area propitious for formalized trade, becoming a shopping center rather than a vending or hawking space, thus what happened in 2006, breaking up container-dominated trade before houses and shops, is being repeated.

Now it is properly built frames on the side of the street, where walking space and wastewater tunnels are also left free, that the city administrators want, and when top national leaders visit an area say to launch a project, the hawkers clean up is bound to intensify.

So gradually the city becomes clear of hawkers, shifted to empty spaces that many won't go there easily.

What is also likely to happen is a gradual shift to window shopping and putting up intentions of purchasing clothing via seeing and admiring, rather than purchasing from a pile of cheap clothing.

For many city dwellers, that was always the case, that they buy clothing as it reflects a specific taste, not just because it was selling on the roadside at a bus stop or the next street after alighting from a bus.

The issue is how many of those prone to purchasing from the hawkers will be shifting to style purchasing or none.

In terms of consumer behav-



A model showcases a creation in a recent Swahili Fashion Week, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

our, those with little cash and unable to privilege style in their purchases will seek out clothing from hawkers, come rain, come shine, but a stretch of middle-level buyers so to speak will be attracted to window shopping.

Depending on their sourcing of cash for purchasing, they can thus influence expenditure in that direction, or where they earn on their own, make such decisions.

In other words, the class character of cloth purchasing will be expressed rather sharply by hawkers' displacement.

How far this will be a boon to style or a problem to consumers relies on a host of other factors that can't be evaluated just by looking at how the streets are more airy, stylish, and approachable in

comparison with the congestion earlier.

Surprisingly, fifth phase President the late John Magufuli is a hero on both sides of the issue, first for his upgrading of city arteries with well build roads and drainage systems, where the flow of vehicles, parking lots, and exit into the road is much easier, as traffic itself is rationalized when roads are widened and properly surfaced.

So this initiative led to the second, street beauty calling for shop beauty - where hawkers selling all sorts of stuff for poor people are now out of place, nearly everywhere.

There is a shift in the road infrastructure, the explosion of frame space and often in an elegant manner, as well as multiple storey business structures coming up every-

where (not the old hotels and guest houses of past decades).

This signals a change in the consumption style and composition of consumers in the city, where it is difficult to find where 'the common man' actually stands, and indeed there may be differences in how 'common women' see things differently from common men.

Women are more at home with style, not to say addicted to fashion, whereas men tend to be more down to earth, with marginal links to style.

In that sense it isn't far-fetched to say that Dar es Salaam and other cities will now be more of a ladies' city than men, elegant in its window displays and showing style everywhere, exercising a powerful signal that one ought to go shopping there.

Such a person would naturally expect slightly higher prices compared to the highest prices in the hawkers' clothing range, and when they have some cash ability, they won't push themselves to seek out the hawkers.

They will plan efficaciously for purchases, knowing where to go, and, in this manner, it won't just be another cloth being purchased but rather a style wishes finally being fulfilled.

At the same time, this kind of situation reflects a more rationalized economy than in the past, where money is earned differently and is similarly invested differently, and consumers also tend to be different.

While there are plenty of cars in the streets - more than half being of serial D registration, that is, within the fifth and sixth phase periods - overcrowded bars and restaurants, or hotels and guest houses are gone.

Now expenditure is more careful, so cars are on the rise because they are necessary for all those who can spare the cash and wish for personal and family ease, if not status. But meat and beer fail the bar.

## TFF needs to end witchcraft beliefs in football

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IT is alleged that metaphysics is now prominent when it comes to football, alias 'The Beautiful Game', in Africa, but could this be either factual or mere fantasy?

Witchcraft has been a central theme of African history long before colonization as it resonates across all the continent's facets of life, according to historians.

Even at this, witchcraft or sorcery remains a nebulous concept to define because its meaning differs from one region to another.

Archaeologically, witchery entails the use of supernatural means to cause harm to the guiltless, but in the modern era, it has evolved to using mystic skills like the casting of spells and re-enactment of magical rites to reverse the status quo.

Astoundingly, this has found its way into the beautiful game as some football teams in Africa now rely on witchery, also known as 'Muti', 'Juju', or 'Otumakpo', to influence the outcome of their matches or better still, complement their efforts.

From national teams down to club sides, football administrators and not forgetting the players, have all been fingered for getting involved in the unholy act in one way or the other.

Now the question is, does witchcraft truly exist in African football or is it just a figment of imagination?

At home, the Tanzanian national football team, Taifa Stars, was afraid to go through the usual routes when entering the stadium



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's forward, Charles Ilanyia (L), negotiates his way past Polisi Tanzania FC's midfielder, Said Juma, as the two squads locked horns in this season's NBC Premier League match in Arusha on September 27. PHOTO: KMC FC

for warm-up.

The players' bus came and dropped off the players at the side gate of the stadium where the TV production crew is located and the side where Simba SC fans often sit.

Taifa Stars' players stormed in and made their way back to the changing rooms. This is not the first time the squad's players have acted like this.

In the first match of the 2022 World Cup qualifiers against Burundi, which took place in

Bujumbura, Taifa Stars' players refused to go into the dressing rooms during the break.

All these times the argument has been to evade sabotage. But these mistakes are what Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) have turned into a source of revenue against domestic outfits.

Clubs have been complaining that their hosts are playing dirty games as part of the

sabotage and, in response, the former are taking action.

The Taifa Stars' action, which took place in TFF leaders' presence, means that even the federation knows there is sabotage taking place.

Now that TFF knows that, why does the federation continue to turn poor clubs into investors?

CAF has issued a warning letter following allegations of sabotage at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

This happens after many foreign clubs complained about the stadium. Even local clubs, especially from outside Dar es Salaam, have been complaining.

When the TFF and the TPLB are informed of these non-sporting events, they ignore them.

If clubs take action to avoid this sabotage by refusing to enter the changing rooms or bypassing the planned routes, they are severely punished.

Football is a three-point battle, every team has to defend itself by any means to make sure they are safe when they enter the stadium.

The football authorities must act on all complaints in local stadiums so that football can be played and professionalism can hold sway.

People fail to prepare their sides well, relying on shortcuts to achieve success. This is the result, either spray in changing rooms or connive with match officials to show opponents' players controversial red cards.

It is impossible for the same teams to at all times benefit from refereeing mistakes, in the same environment and soccer stakeholders just keep quiet.

Money lately flows into local football and the authorities have to come up with the right decisions to do justice to the money.

Tanzania has a great chance to be a successful nation in soccer in the CECAFA region, but these shortcomings hold it back so much.

The TFF and TPLB need to fix these little obstacles for the present and future benefit of domestic football.

## Simba SC midfielder lifts Fans' Player of the Month award

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

GHANAIAN midfielder, Bernard Morrison, who plays for Tanzania's Simba SC, has won the side's Emirates Aluminum ACP Simba SC Fans' Player of the Month award for November.

Morrison has been voted as the award winner beating Rwandan striker Meddie Kagere and Tanzanian midfielder Jonas Mkude.

Morrison entered the race following a good performance the midfielder showcased in November.

The footballer steered Simba SC to victory in the first leg of the CAF Confederation Cup Additional Second Preliminary Round against the Red Arrows of Zambia in Dar es Salaam.

Striker Meddie Kagere was involved in the search for the November prize winner, thanks to his goal-scoring prowess in the squad for the month.

Kagere scored in the NBC Premier League duels against Namungo FC, Ruvu Shooting, and the continental showdown's clash against Red Arrows.

Mkude made a significant contribution to Simba's Premier League victories against Namungo FC, Ruvu Shooting, and Geita Gold FC while putting solid showing in the game against Red Arrows.

October's Emirates Aluminum Simba ACP Fans Player of the Month prize was won by midfielder Hassan Dilunga

## Interim manager Carrick leaves Manchester United

MANCHESTER, England

MICHAEL Carrick has decided to leave Manchester United following his stint as caretaker manager, the club have announced.

United released a statement within minutes of the final whistle after their 3-2 win over Arsenal to reveal Carrick has decided to step down from his role as first-team coach and will leave the club with immediate effect. Ralf Rangnick, who was watching from the stands, will take the reins on Friday until the end of the season.

"My time at this great club will always rank as the best years of my career," said Carrick. "When I first signed over 15 years ago, I never in my wildest dreams could have imagined winning so many trophies and I will certainly never forget the fantastic memories both as a player and as a member of the coaching team.

"However, after a lot of thought and deliberation, I have decided that now is the right time for me to leave the club. I want to place on record my thanks to all of the players and a special mention goes to the backroom staff, working long hours with such a great group of people has been a real pleasure and I have made some long-lasting friendships.

"I am, and will always be, a Manchester United fan and will come to as many matches as possible. I would like to wish Ralf, the staff, the players and the fans all the best for the future and I look forward to being in the stands and supporting the boys as a fan."

Carrick took over as caretaker boss after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's dismissal on Nov. 21. In his three games in charge, he led United to wins over Villarreal and Arsenal and a draw against Chelsea.

"He just spoke to us in the dressing room, an emotional dressing room really, as he's been a big part of this club for a large number of years as a player but also as a coach," United captain Harry Maguire said after the match.

"He's been a great player for this club, a legend at the club, he's won everything at the club and he's been a fantastic servant in terms of his coaching.

"He's a really likable man, all the lads respect him and he's been amazing with each and every one of us. We're going to miss him, of course we're going to miss him, and we wish him well for the future."

Carrick, who worked as a coach under Solskjaer and Jose Mourinho after ending his playing career in 2018, was the last to leave the pitch after victory over Arsenal, spending time to applaud the Stamford End.

Football director John Murtough added: "Michael leaves with the sincerest thanks and best wishes of everyone at Manchester United after 15 years of exceptional service to the club as a player and as a coach. While we are sad to see him go, we respect and understand Michael's decision.

(Agencies)

## Umtiti confronts Barca fans who mobbed his car

BARCELONA

BARCELONA defender Samuel Umtiti confronted a group of fans after they blocked his car while he left the club's training ground on Wednesday.

Video of the incident showed that three fans stood in the middle of the road and jumped up and down in front of the player's vehicle. One fan climbed on top of the car's bonnet while Umtiti, who has yet to play for the LaLiga side this season, was behind the wheel.

The France international and 2018 World Cup winner repeatedly honked his horn in the hope that the group would clear the road, but they only moved out of the way when Umtiti revved his engine and edged forward before accelerating away.

An agitated Umtiti then stopped the car abruptly after several metres, left his vehicle and walked towards the fans to confront them.

One fan requested to have his photograph taken with the player while another supporter shouted: "Umtiti, don't be upset, man."

The 28-year-old agreed to have his photo taken but then turned to one of the supporters and said in Spanish: "Come here. Do you pay for this car? Why do you touch it? Do you know what respect is?"

He then walked back to his car and drove away. Umtiti was jeered by Barcelona fans in pre-season after rejecting the opportunity to leave the club for free this summer. Some supporters felt his decision to stay was one of the reasons the club could not afford to keep Lionel Messi, who later joined Paris Saint-Germain on a free transfer.

The defender is determined to see out his contract at the Camp Nou, which runs until 2023.

Umtiti was exiled by former manager Ronald Koeman and his playing time has yet to improve since the appointment of Xavi Hernandez, although the former Barcelona player has only been in charge for three matches.

Koeman, who was sacked following a 1-0 defeat to Rayo Vallecano in late October, was similarly targeted by Barcelona fans as he tried to leave the Camp Nou following a 2-1 El Clasico defeat to Real Madrid.

Koeman's car was surrounded by Barcelona supporters as he attempted to drive away from the stadium, with the club later condemning the "violent and disdainful acts" faced by the Dutchman.

(Agencies)

# Ronaldo proved his worth to new Man U manager Rangnick on record-setting night

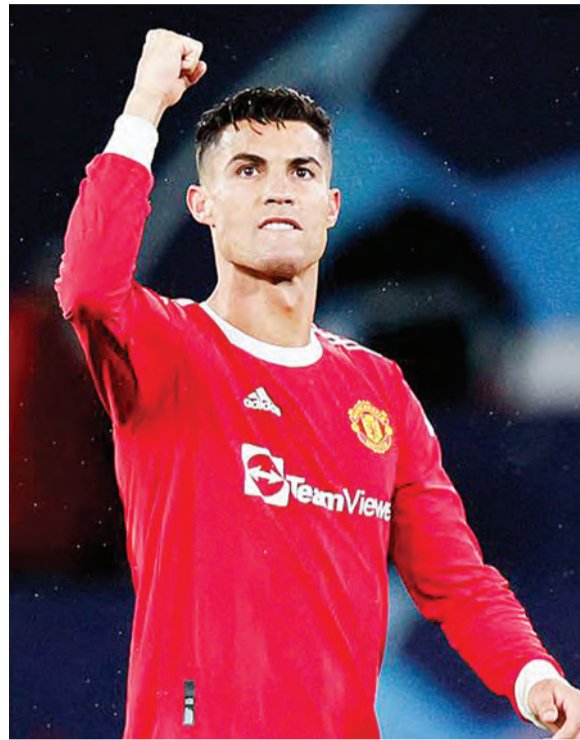
By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THERE'S a new boss at Manchester United, but Ralf Rangnick already knows that Cristiano Ronaldo is still the main man.

Who knows how Rangnick's six-month stint as interim manager at Old Trafford will ultimately turn out, but two goals from Ronaldo -- the 800th and 801st of his career -- in a 3-2 win against Arsenal proved that he simply cannot be overlooked by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's temporary successor.

Rangnick, the former Schalke, Hoffenheim and RB Leipzig coach, will officially replace caretaker-manager Michael Carrick, who announced his departure from the club after the game, when he takes his first training session on Friday. The German watched from the directors' box as his new team emerged triumphant in an eventful clash against the Gunners and he will have left with his notebook full of issues to address.

He needs to deal with a goalkeeper in David De Gea whose fragility



Cristiano Ronaldo

in a packed penalty area once again contributed to a goal being conceded when, in farcical circumstances, Arsenal took the lead after Emile Smith Rowe scored while the Spaniard was lying on the floor following a "foul" by United teammate Fred. VAR had to confirm the visitors' goal due to the confusion surrounding the incident.

And aside from De Gea, who went on to make a series of outstanding saves, Rangnick will be concerned about the quality in both full-back positions, Fred and Scott McTominay's limitations in midfield and the inconsistency of Marcus Rashford up front.

But while Ronaldo, who is 37 in February, cannot expect to play every game between now and the end of the season, his performance against Arsenal will have banished any doubts Rangnick may have held over his value to the

team.

As the man credited as being the so-called "Father of Gegenpress," the high-energy pressing game which requires forwards to be the first line of defence, Rangnick is unlikely to abandon his philosophy simply to accommodate Ronaldo in his team.

Rangnick may bend slightly and make allowances for Ronaldo because of his peerless ability to score crucial goals, but it is the player who will have to measure up and prove himself in the end.

Ronaldo's sharp exit down the tunnel at Stamford Bridge following Sunday's 1-1 draw against Chelsea, when he was dropped to the substitutes' bench by Carrick, highlighted how the former Real Madrid and Juventus forward will never accept a bit-part role.

But if anyone was expecting Ronaldo to sulk in response to being dropped, he did the opposite in a man of the match performance against Mikel Arteta's team.

His goals are almost expected now, but the accusation levelled against Ronaldo is that

he doesn't work for the team -- any team -- and that everything has to go through him and be devised to suit his strengths and weaknesses.

Rangnick saw a different Ronaldo than the stereotype, though. The Portugal captain chased down defenders, forced them into mistakes and gave a perfect display of "gegenpressing."

His work rate was exceptional. Two moments late in the game highlighted the effort and determination he displayed.

The first saw Ronaldo close down defender Gabriel and bundle him to the ground on 85 minutes. It was a foul and he conceded a free kick, but that Ronaldo was prepared to do that in the closing stages showed he is ready to what Rangnick wants.

Then two minutes later, Ronaldo headed an Arsenal corner clear at the near post to launch a counter-attack and he proceeded to sprint to the other end of the pitch in a desperate effort to score his hat-trick goal after earlier netting from a Rashford pass and a 69th minute penalty.

Ronaldo was exhausted by the end of his run and was immediately substituted, but if he had to prove a point, he did that in typical fashion.

With a game against Crystal Palace at Old Trafford on Sunday, recovery will be the key for Ronaldo over the next 48 hours. But Rangnick should do all he can to ensure that the Portugal captain is fit and fresh to start his first game in charge.

And he can thank Carrick, leaving the club 15 years after arriving as a player from Tottenham Hotspur, for the winning platform he can now build upon.

Under Carrick, United have won twice and drawn once to halt the run of defeats under Solskjaer. Bruno Fernandes' equaliser in the first-half, prior to Ronaldo's second-half double, proved enough to win the game, despite Martin Odegaard making it 2-2 on 55 minutes.

Confidence is returning, but United remain a team in need of structure and organisation. Delivering that is now Rangnick's job, but at least he knows he can rely on Ronaldo.

# Atletico Madrid No. 1 Jan Oblak on the art of the goalkeeper and why 'we're different'

MADRID

ON a wet November afternoon at Atletico Madrid's training ground, Jan Oblak wants to set the record straight about some goalkeeping stereotypes.

"We're not crazy," he told ESPN, moments after learning that he has been voted No. 1 male goalkeeper in this year's FC 100. "We're normal people. But we're special, we're different. I'm really happy I became a goalkeeper."

Oblak, 28, of Slovenia, is nobody's idea of a goalkeeping maverick. He comes across as polite, reserved, even a bit shy. But "normal" doesn't feel right either. After all, he made his professional debut at 16 and earned his first big move abroad at 17.

"Special" is more like it. "Different," too. Just ask Atletico fans who have spent the past seven years watching him make one miraculous save after another. Indeed, Oblak has been so good for so long that, when his form dips, it turns heads. It is the price you pay for consistent, relentless excellence.

Ask him about his role models, the players he looked up to as a child, and he does not name-check legends such as Gianluigi Buffon, Iker Casillas, Oliver Kahn or any other high-profile keeper from the 2000s. Instead, he talks about his dad, Matjaz.

"My father was a goalkeeper," Oblak says. "He played all his life. Since I was a young boy, I was



Jan Oblak

always watching him. Behind his goal, throwing myself, diving to the left, to the right, to the side that he dived. My father helped me a lot. He never pushed me -- nobody said 'you should be a goalkeeper' -- but I decided that, probably because of my father, I wanted to become a goalkeeper like him."

Oblak's precocious rise to the top would have been dizzying if he was not so level-headed. In 2009, he became first-choice keeper for Olimpija Ljubljana, in Slovenia's second tier. After his first full season, he was signed by Portuguese giants Benfica.

"I started fast," he tells ESPN. "I played for the first team at 16 years old... When I left my country, I was one million percent sure, that was going to be that. One day I was going to be at a top club, to play in top competitions, to play great games against the biggest players in the world."

By the age of 20, Oblak was Benfica's No. 1. Six months later, he joined Atletico in a deal worth €16m, a Spanish record for a goalkeeper. But though Oblak was expected to replace Thibaut Courtois, recalled by Chelsea after a three-year loan, veteran Miguel Angel Moya, initially got the nod from coach Diego Simeone at the start of 2014-15.

Oblak was not helped by a disastrous Champions League debut against Olympiakos, in which he conceded three goals from four shots on target and did not play in Europe or LaLiga for six months after that. After such a setback, he kept his head down and waited for an opportunity.

"Talent is not enough to play at a big club," he says. "I've worked all my life, since I was a kid, I was always staying after training to go to another training (session) with the older guys... I know that there are a lot of things that I can do much more. This is a never-ending story, you can always improve, you can always be better. I think all professionals think like that."

Oblak finally played his first LaLiga game in March 2015 and has been Simeone's undisputed first-choice ever since. The numbers from the following season are jaw-dropping: 38 league games played, 18 goals conceded.

And he has since shown that 2015-16 was

no one-off. In becoming Spanish football's most reliable stopper, he has won the Zamora trophy -- awarded for the lowest goals-to-games ratio -- a record-equaling five times: Every year from 2016 to 2019, then again in 2021.

There have been lows, including a 2016 Champions League final loss to Real Madrid, in which he failed to save a penalty in the decisive shootout, but many more highs. For example, a triple save against Bayer Leverkusen in March 2017, beating away the first shot before throwing himself to his left and then his right, is the most concise demonstration of goalkeeping greatness in the competition's recent history.

Still though, it has taken time for Oblak's international acclaim to match his reputation in Spain. In what feels like a goalkeeping golden age -- Alisson and Ederson in the Premier League, Courtois and Marc-Andre ter Stegen in LaLiga, Manu-

el Neuer in the Bundesliga and Gianluigi Donnarumma in Serie A and then Ligue 1 -- it has not always been easy to stand out.

Atletico's LaLiga title win earlier this year, the club's first since 2014, helped in that regard. "I think in the last few years [people] see the goalkeeper as more important than before," Oblak tells ESPN. "I think they really recognise that all teams now, if they want to have good results, they need to have a great goalkeeper. And they are always looking for more things, you need to play with your feet, you need to build up... I think it's really interesting. In the next few years for sure, goalkeepers are going to improve."

He is the goalkeeper with most appearances in Atletico history, but his contract is due to expire in 2023. In each of the last two summers, the club feared a Premier League giant might be tempted to pay its €120m release clause.

## Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Ronaldo proved his worth to new Man U manager Rangnick on record-setting night

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Simon Msuva

## Msuva yearns for professional spell in La Liga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THERE are many top leagues in Europe but Tanzanian attacker, Simon Msuva, who dons Moroccan side Wydad Casablanca's kits, wishes to play in the Spanish Premier League, La Liga.

Msuva, who a few days ago was in Dar es Salaam for a break, said it was due to Spanish football being so much alike with the style of play deployed by clubs in Morocco.

"I used to go to Spain with Difaa el Jadida at that time as a foreign player in Morocco, it was a tour to prepare for the next season of the league, we are bordered by Spain that's why it was easy for us to go there, we got a couple of friendly games and that's when I believed the approaches matched."

"Even if there is a difference then it is very little, I enjoyed the visit and I came in very eager to get a chance to play football in Spain because it is a good nation and competitive among the biggest leagues in Europe," the former Yanga striker stated.

Msuva added that having a dream of playing in Spain does not mean that if the opportunity arises to play in Germany, Portugal, France, or England he may refuse.

"I'm just like a farmer, it's not fair to choose a plow, the Moroccan League has made me take another step, I feel new every day so I believe wherever I can get a chance I will not hesitate to take it, now I have focused my energy on doing well with Wydad before moving forward."

This is the fifth season for Msuva to play in the Moroccan Premier League which is popularly known as Botola Pro, three seasons he had with Difaa El Jadida and scored 29 goals in 49 games, within his first season he did not prove to be a newcomer to the league as he scored 11 goals.

Msuva has scored 48 goals and provided 17 assists in all competitions within his five seasons of playing professional football in the country, the Tanzanian star is one of the foreign players in the league with a good average of scoring goals.

The Taifa Stars striker won the Moroccan top tier championship last year for the first time, he enjoys another fruitful season ahead in search of the second consecutive silverware season.

While in Morocco, the programming of the next days of the Botola Pro seems delicate for the clubs.

The championship has been stopped to allow the participation of the senior national team in the Arab Cup in Qatar.

The suspension should last until December 18 if Morocco qualifies for the final.

The championship remains threatened by the truce imposed by the Arab Cup.

It makes Moroccans wonder if the top flight can end on the scheduled date.

With Msuva's Wydad Athletic Club yet to concede loss while the league is on break, the squad sits on top of the Botola Pro with 32 points, boasting of eight-point difference with city rivals, Raja Casablanca, who have 24 points after 12 games.

# Tanzanite hosts Burundi in FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Qualifiers



Tanzanite players feature in training ahead of African qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup's fixture against Burundi slated for today at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: TFF

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S U-20 women football squad, Tanzanite, hosts Burundi in African qualifiers for 2022 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup's third-round clash at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam today.

Football supporters will be allowed to enter the stadium free of charge, according to the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

The decision targets to boost Tanzanite players' morale.

The federation disclosed the stadium's entrances will be closed once fans total 4000.

Two more rounds are left in the qualifying campaign in which only two teams from Africa will go to Costa Rica, FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup hosts.

On October 9, the Azam Com-

plex hosted the African qualifiers' second-round tie pitting Tanzanite against Eritrea.

Tanzanite beat Eritrea 2-0 with goals netted by Irene Elias Kisisa (55th minute) and Protasia Mbunda (84th minute).

The Tanzanians, who also won the

first leg 3-0 in Eritrea, progressed to the third round with an aggregate 5-0 win.

Heading into Saturday's match against Burundi, two nations will be hoping for a positive start in the first leg before facing off in Bujumbura two weeks later.

With Tanzania hosting the first leg, Tanzanite head coach, Bakari Shime, believes winning at home would be a big boost in their pursuit of progression to the next stage.

"We want to win at home because that gives us an advantage going into the return leg."

"The players have been prepared well and we hope that they execute the plan we made," he said.

Despite failing to win the CECAFA U-20 Women's Championship last month, Shime insists that does not affect their plans for Burundi but rather they picked lessons.

The tactician revealed: "We are used to being either champion or finishing second. We are not used to missing trophies, but now after missing the CECAFA Championship top honour ... this is a wake-up call and the technical bench and the players ought to wake up and do well to realize the weight of these games and our opponents, it is not easy to win, extra strength is needed."

He added: "We were disappointed that we couldn't win the title but that is behind us now."

"We have tried to rectify the mistakes made and that is a good factor to motivate us going into the encounter with Burundi."

"We have moved away from the CECAFA experience. I know many Tanzanians have a lot of faith in this team and we can only repay that belief by winning. All of us are ready to win and keep chasing the target of playing at the World Cup."

Winners on aggregate will advance to the fourth round. To reach this level, Tanzania eliminated Eritrea 5-0 on aggregate while Burundi ejected Namibia 5-0 on aggregate.

## Simba SC eyes progression to CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S Simba SC leadership says the outfit is ready for this season's CAF Confederation Cup Additional Second Preliminary Round's second leg match against the Red Arrows FC of Zambia.

Simba SC will play Red Arrows FC away in Lusaka tomorrow, whilst boasting of a 3-0 win in the first leg fixture which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Ally Sharty, Simba SC Assistant Information Officer, said the club's management had completed all the formalities for the Lusaka trip.

Sharty stated the outfit is expected to be in Lusaka yesterday.

The official pointed out the leadership is prepared for every situation to face the challenges that will arise when they travel to Lusaka.

"We know the African football environment, often when you travel to a place for a match, a lot of things can happen, so the leadership is prepared to face the challenges."

"Our goal is to win away, we believe our team has what it takes to do that because we are keen on progressing to CAF Confedera-



Simba Sports Club's players warm up before participating in a recent Mainland Premier League fixture.

tion Cup Group Stage."

In Sunday's game, Simba SC will have to look for either a win or a draw to secure a place in the Group Stage, with hosts Red Arrows needing to convincingly come out victorious, scoring more than four goals.

Simba crashed out of the 2021/22 CAF Champions League second preliminary round, losing to Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy FC away goals' rule.

Jwaneng Galaxy FC suffered a 2-0 defeat to Simba in the first leg fixture in Gaborone.

Jwaneng Galaxy FC, against all odds, put gallant showing to cruise to 3-1 victory over Simba in the return leg in Dar es Salaam to progress to CAF Champions League Group Stage through away goals' rule.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

