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## EABC: Dialogue vital to resolve trade disputes

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has called for partner state dialogue to eliminate outstanding non-tariff barriers (NTBs) between Kenya and Uganda to boost trade.

The East African Community (EAC) private sector apex body said in a statement in Arusha yesterday that in line with the spirit of the treaty for the establishment of the trade bloc, the EABC urges Kenyan and Ugandan authorities to hold bilateral discussions to avoid a retaliatory trade stalemate arising from repeated imposition of such barriers.

Objecting to the use of mutual retaliation in handling such disputes, the apex body demanded that the two countries consult in the spirit of the treaty and resolve existing disputes amicably.

The EABC advisory said intra-EAC trade is currently low at approximately 15 per cent of total trade of the partner states, with this lowly figure arising from denying preferential market access to EAC originating products.

New trade measures on a retaliatory basis will reduce trade volumes further, affect employment, market access, economies of scale of regional industries and the wellbeing of many in East Africa, it stated.

"It should be noted that not only do NTBs increase transaction time and the cost of doing business across borders but also sets back the competitiveness of products originating from the EAC region," it explained.

Persistent and mushrooming NTBs reflects the absence of an effective EAC trade dispute settlement mechanism, for

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan officiates at a stakeholders' meeting discussing the state of multiparty democracy in Tanzania, convened in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

# Samia wants clear rules of conduct for rallies to start

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has sought to cool down political passions in the country, appealing for forgiveness and moving forward as one nation.

In her speech to open a meeting of democracy stakeholders to discuss the situation in the country here yesterday, she said there is no one who holds a certificate of ownership of the country, urging politicians of different loyalties to forget the past and bury their differences.

The president said she was ready to forgive and start afresh for the wider interest of the country, directing the Registrar of Political Parties and the chiefs of the police force to sit together with democracy stakeholders.

They ought to find the best way to conduct political rallies



**Political leaders are not small children who fail to abide by the laws until their rallies have to be banned for violating the country's laws**

without violating the country's laws, she stated.

"I beseech you not to look back. We should look forward to a new Tanzania where people respect one another, and I am ready to listen, accept criticism. I am ready to forgive and you also should be ready to follow the laws, as I know there are still grumblings and other complaints," which the president said arise from how institutions of our budding democracy operates.

The government was ready to receive views for strengthening the law on political parties and related issues aimed at enhancing democracy, she declared, underlining that political parties have the legal right by law and by the constitution to conduct public meetings, "but as for now these have been halted due to many of them engaging in

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## Tanzanian diplomat to coordinate UN humanitarian, relief activities

By Guardian Reporter

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Tanzanian diplomat Joyce Msuya (pictured) to the position of Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator.

The UN mission in the country said in a

statement yesterday that Msuya succeeds Ursula Mueller of Germany, whose services the secretary general deeply appreciated for dedication during her tenure.

The Tanzanian diplomat holds a Master of Science in microbiology and immunology from the University of Ottawa in Canada, and a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and immunology from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland.

She has previously served as assistant secretary general and deputy executive director for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, overseeing a \$455m budget and a portfolio of projects and operations pegged at \$1bn, with 2,500 employees in 41 branch offices.

"She provided administrative leadership to 18 multilateral environmental agreements secretariats, including

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## 'Real estate agents must be registered'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has issued guidelines for managing real estate agency business, aimed at formalizing the trade dominated by private individuals, including those without proper addresses.

William Lukuvi, the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister, issued these guidelines in a meeting with representatives of real estate companies, selling and renting houses and land plots, and some operating on their own.

He said the guidelines aim at identifying agents, their activities, where they operate from, procedures of monitoring and controlling agency activities as well as legal protection of customers and agents.

Those targeted are real estate agents working with local governments and government agencies, the formal private sector, private individuals acting as middlemen and stakeholders in estate agency activities, he stated.

The minister explained that the guidelines require that every agent "who rents, sells houses or land plots" to be registered, with the exercise starting early next month. The required qualifications are being a Tanzanian citizen of not less than 18 years of age, while providing an address and mobile phone number, email, show work premises, TIN number, NIDA card and recognition certificate from the



**...think carefully about the government's directive as the aim is to see that agency activities are conducted without inconveniences**

Lands ministry.

Identification of agents will be done by the new urban planning department in town, municipal and district councils, he said.

When these requirements are met, the local council will provide the applicant with an identification letter to allow him conduct agency business in regard to houses, buildings, land plots and farms, with the applicant paying 20,000/- as agency fees per year, he stated.

In the guideline there are prohibitions that the agent ought to observe including doing agency activities without licence, tax evasion and fraud, the minister underlined, urging meeting participants to exercise diligence as many of them were not paying income taxes.

Deputy Minister Dr Angeline Mabula appealed to the real estate operators to "think carefully about the government's directive as the aim is to see that agency activities are conducted without inconveniences."

For their part, the estate agents thanked the government for providing them with the guideline that will recognize their agency



Deputy Minister Dr Angeline Mabula







A cross-section of participants at the multiparty political meeting yesterday listen to President Samia Suuhu Hassan addressing them in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

## Samia wants clear rules of conduct for rallies to start

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acts that may breach the peace.”

“Political leaders are not small children who fail to abide by the laws until their rallies have to be banned for violating the country’s laws,” she stated, elaborating that laws have to be observed. “We cannot do things anyhow, and I very much beg you to make sure parties follow the laws,” she emphasised.

The president also called on political parties to use multiparty democracy as part of giving the people alternative ideas on what needs to be done for the country’s development. “Politics does not mean abuses or mudslinging, not

violence, but should be used to spur development,” she affirmed.

Civic United Front (CUF) chairman Prof Ibrahim Lipumba said the president’s speech has opened a new page for political activity in the country. The speech has given light on arriving at a political accord which political parties were appealing for since the previous phase of government, he stated.

Hamis Sharif, a resident in the city, said President Samia’s speech has bought back hope, especially to democracy stakeholders, in seeing the importance of allowing public meetings organised by political parties.

## Tanzanian diplomat to coordinate UN humanitarian, relief activities

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regional sea conventions,” the UN noted.

In 2018 and 2019 she served as interim executive director at under-secretary general level, steering the organization towards stability, leading the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly and mobilising resources to support its mission, it elaborated.

The veteran UN administrator brings to the position more than 20 years of experience in international development and finance, spanning strategy, operations and partnerships, with diverse

assignments in Africa, Latin America and Asia, it further stated.

She has held several senior leadership roles at the World Bank Group including as special representative and head of the World Bank Group office in Korea, regional coordinator at the World Bank Institute outlay in China and special adviser to the World Bank senior vice president and chief economist.

She also led strategy and operations for the International Finance Corporation in Latin America and Africa, covering the manufacturing, agribusiness and services sectors, it added.

## EABC: Dialogue vital to resolve trade disputes

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instance the EAC Trade Remedies Committee, along with the slow pace of resolution of NTBs by the EAC Regional Monitoring Committee (RMC), it said.

The recent Sectoral Council for Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) meeting last month resolved to NTBs and 12 remained outstanding, it elaborated. “On behalf of the East African business community, the East African Business Council (EABC) urges the

EAC Partner States to eliminate all sorts of barriers imposed on goods and services produced from within the EAC bloc,” the advisory underlined.

NTBs hinder the free movement of goods as enshrined in the EAC Customs Union and Common

Market protocols at the detriment of East African manufacturers and traders, importers and exporters from both countries, it emphasised.

EAC Partner States need to ratify Article 24 (2) of the EAC Customs Union Protocol to pave the way for the start of operations of the EAC Trade Remedies Committee, it further noted, with committee being tasked with handling issues like application of rules of origin, anti-dumping provisions, subsidies and countervailing measures.

Its mandate also relates to decisions on safeguards and providing for a dispute settlement mechanism, while the committee’s non existence at present “makes it impossible for the EAC Council of Ministers to refer matters on the elimination of NTBs to the committee as provided for in the EAC Non-Tariff Barriers Act, 2017 (Article 12 (2), (3) and (4),” the apex body noted, referring to resolutions of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

Retaliation by imposing NTBs as it sets back the progress and gains made in Intra-EAC trade; elimination of current trade barriers and reduces investor confidence and predictability of the business environment in the EAC bloc, the advisory cautioned.

Quick convening of the bilateral public-private sector dialogue between Kenya and Uganda to find a win-win lasting solution on NTBs would boost trade, economic growth and jobs for the prosperity of the whole region, it added.



One of the auctioneers airs his views at a meeting with Lands, Housing, Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi on guidelines from the government on how to go about managing their activities in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

## Dar es Salaam man pays 1.5m/- fine for possessing 4 pieces of wildebeest meat

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

The wildlife department in Liwale district, Lindi region ordered Ally Saleh Mfikilwa (43), a Dar es Salaam resident paid a fine of 1.5m/- for illegal possession of four pieces of wildebeest meat.

Lindi Regional Police Commander, Mtatiro Kitinkwi told journalists that Mfikilwa was

arrested on Monday last week at Nangando village, near Rashal oil filling station.

Kitinkwi said that game officers in collaboration with the police force in Liwale managed to arrest Mfikilwa in possession of the four pieces of wildebeest meat worth \$ 650 equivalent to 1.5m/-.

The RPC noted that the suspect had packed the meat in white sulfate

bag that was kept in the car boot. The vehicle, Scania-T 719 CDC with a trailer registered number T 342 AMJ heading to Dar es Salaam from Liwale district.

He said police are still looking for other two suspects—the driver and conductor who fled the scene and are nowhere to be found.

“Mfikilwa managed to pay the 1.5m/- fine on December 6th 2021

and was allowed to continue with his journey to Dar es Salaam. We are still searching for the driver and conductor whose names are yet to be established,” he said.

Kitinkwi urged people involved in illegal transportation of wild meat to stop, and make sure they follow all the procedures including securing permits at the wildlife department.

## Omicron variant spreading at unprecedented rate - WHO

GENEVA

THE new variant of coronavirus Omicron is spreading across the globe at an unprecedented rate, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, WHO chief Tedros Ghebreyesus said it was probably in many others that had yet to detect it.

Dr Tedros said he was concerned that not enough was being done to tackle the variant.

Cases of the heavily mutated variant have been confirmed in 77 countries.

“Surely, we have learned by now that we underestimate this virus at our peril. Even if Omicron does cause less severe disease, the sheer number of cases could once again overwhelm unprepared health systems,” he said.

The WHO’s latest data suggests the variant - first detected in South Africa in November - can better evade existing vaccines and carries a higher risk of re-infection, leading the organisation to say the level of risk remains very high.

A number of countries have introduced travel bans affecting South Africa and its neighbours following the emergence of Omicron, but this has failed to stop it from spreading around the world.

On Tuesday’s news conference, Dr Tedros reiterated concerns about vaccine inequity, as some countries accelerate rollouts of a booster shot in response to Omicron.

Recent studies of the Pfizer/

BioNTech vaccine showed it produced far fewer neutralising antibodies against Omicron than against the original strain, but that this deficit could be reversed by a third, booster, jab.

Dr Tedros said boosters could play an important role in curbing the spread of Covid-19, but that it was, “a question of prioritisation.”

“The order matters. Giving boosters to groups at low risk of severe disease or death simply endangers the lives of those at high risk, who are still waiting for their primary doses because of supply constraints,” he said.

Supplies to the global vaccine-sharing programme Covax have increased in recent months.

However, world health officials fear a shortfall of tens of millions of doses - like the one which occurred in the middle of this year when India suspended its vaccine exports - could happen again.

In poorest countries, some vulnerable people are yet to receive a single dose.

Omicron is the most heavily mutated version of coronavirus found so far.

Prof Tulio de Oliveira, the director of the Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation in South Africa, said there was an “unusual constellation of mutations” and that it was “very different” to other variants that have circulated.

“This variant did surprise us, it has a big jump on evolution [and] many more mutations that we expected,” he said.



**“Surely, we have learned by now that we underestimate this virus at our peril. Even if Omicron does cause less severe disease, the sheer number of cases could once again overwhelm unprepared health systems”**





Vodacom Tanzania Plc head of sales and distribution George Lugata (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam about the firm's new offer dubbed: "Pata simu Lipa kidogo kidogo" literally translates 'get a phone pay in instalments' where Vodacom customers will be able to buy a smartphone model Samsung for 80,000/- and continuing to pay for 300 days. He is flanked by d.light Tanzania director Charles Natal who is the offer partner. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Tanzania takes advantage of Dubai 2020 Expo to market its products'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dubai

TANZANIA is making better use of the Expo Dubai 2020 in marketing various products from the country.

Apart from mineral products, Tanzania is also promoting products from tourism, agriculture and livestock sectors.

The government is using Expo 2020 Dubai Tourism Investment Forum to advertise tourist attractions in the country as well as building up investment relations in the tourism sector.

Addressing the forum at Dubai's Shangri'la Hotel, deputy Minister for natural resources and Tourism Mary Masanja said Tanzania has many tourist attractions and called on delegates of the forum to visit them and invest in the tourism sector that has many opportunities for investment.

Masanja welcomed investors to invest in the sector in Tanzania which has many investment opportunities in urban areas that include cultural historical heritage sites, tourist hotels, restaurants ecological tourism and hunting tourism.

The Forum was attended by the Director of the Diplomatic Economic Department, Amb. Edwin Rutageruka, the Ministry's Permanent secretary, Dr Allan Kijazi, TTB Director Betrita Lyimo and officials from the Zanzibar business community.



**Tanzania has many tourist attractions and called on delegates of the forum to visit them and invest in the tourism sector that has many opportunities for investment**

By Guardian Reporter

## Zanzibar UK sign MoU to strengthen fight against drug abuse in the Isles

Zanzibar and the United Kingdom (UK) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed to strengthen cooperation in the fight against drug abuse in the Isles.

The agreement was signed at State House by Lieutenant Colonel Burhani Zuberi Nassoro, director general of Zanzibar Commission for National Coordination and Drug Control and UK's representative Simon Charters. It was witnessed by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

Addressing journalists soon after signing the agreement, Colonel Nassoro said the move is aimed to capacitate Zanzibar more and enable them win the fight against drug abuse.

The director warned those engaging in drug trafficking and use saying that their days are numbered as they will be easily tracked and arrested using modern technology.

He said the government is well committed to eradicate the challenge and will not spare anyone who will be found thwarting the efforts.

He said they have many partners working together in the fight against drugs and they expect to receive modern anti-drug equipment that will be installed in all ports.

The official said that staff of the commission will be well equipped with techniques to explore, spy and identify criminals of drugs from their hiding places.

"This is an alert to all drug traders to stop from the illegal business immediately as the team is well prepared to create Zanzibar which is free from drug abuse," he said.

He urged the public to provide closer cooperation to the commission by reporting all people who engage in the illegal business of trafficking, supplying and use of drugs.

He assured members of the community that all informants will be protected and his information will be kept confidential to protect the community.

British High Commissioner to Tanzania David Concar said his country has been cooperating with Zanzibar in various areas of development including trade, health and education.

He said the agreement focuses on fighting international crime on drugs which has been on the rise.

"The only way to fight this crime is to

join forces in this matter to eradicate criminal acts, no country can fight crime without joining forces and that is why my country has signed an agreement with Zanzibar," he said.

He said that experts from the UK will land in Zanzibar to join the initiative and thus make Zanzibar safer to attract more investors.

Zanzibar State Minister First Vice-President's Office Dr Saada Mkuya said next week they expect to change the commission to become an authority so as to further grant it more power to fight against drugs.

"We are going to make changes in the law to make the commission an authority with legal power to fight the challenge," she said.



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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW IN RESPECT OF PREPARATION AND MAINTAINING THE VALUE ADDED TAX ACCOUNT

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) wishes to remind all Value Added Tax (VAT) Registered Traders in Tanzania Mainland of the requirement to maintain Value Added Tax Accounts as provided for under Section 89 of the Value Added Tax Act, Cap. 148. The VAT Account maintained should clearly indicate the following information as required by the law:

- All the output tax payable in the period,
- All the input tax credit the person is allowed for the period
- All increasing and decreasing adjustments that the person is required or entitled to make in the period.

Besides VAT Account, taxpayers are required to keep all other records and information in respect of VAT affairs as provided for under Section 89 of the Value Added Tax Act, Cap. 148. TRA shall make a close follow-up to ensure that, all traders comply with this requirement of the law.

All VAT registered traders are required to comply without fail so as to avoid unnecessary consequences of non-compliance with the VAT law that includes, impossible penalty and/or interest that increases the cost of doing businesses/office operations.

For more information, please visit your nearest TRA office or TRA website ([www.tra.go.tz](http://www.tra.go.tz)) or contact us through the following:

Toll free : 0800 750 075  
0800 780 078

WhatsApp : 0744 23 33 33

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#### GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

#### PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS AND CONSULTANTS (2022-2024)

CLIENT: ALLIANCE FOR A GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA (AGRA)

Founded in 2006, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is an African-led African-based organization that seeks to catalyze Agriculture Transformation in Africa. AGRA is focused on putting smallholder farmers at the center of the continent's growing economy by transforming agriculture from a solitary struggle to survive into farming as a business that thrives. As the sector that employs the majority of Africa's people, nearly all of them small-scale farmers, AGRA recognizes that developing smallholder agriculture into a productive, efficient, and sustainable system is essential to ensuring food security, lifting millions out of poverty, and driving equitable growth across the continent.

AGRA is in the process of prequalifying vendors and consultants for different categories and thematic areas for the period 2022 to 2024.

AGRA is specifically interested in creating a database of very good consultants (Firms & Individuals), that are specialized in the following intervention areas:

1. Seed Systems
2. Policy and State Capability
3. Competitive SMEs, Inclusive Markets and Trade
4. Sustainable Farming

All interested and eligible vendors and consultants are requested to register via our website:

[www.agra.org/general-procurement-notice](http://www.agra.org/general-procurement-notice)



# MNH starts conducting bone marrow transplants

By Guardian Reporter

Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has announced that it has officially started conducting bone marrow transplants, making Tanzania the first country in East Africa to offer such services.

MNH executive director Prof Lawrence Museru told journalists yesterday that the hospital has conducted transplants on five patients who are now under special care.

Prof Museru said Tanzania joins the level of five other African countries that offer the services namely: South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Nigeria.

"This is another milestone achievement, we expect to conduct transplants to four patients monthly because everything has been prepared to facilitate this including experts and infrastructure," he said.

The beginning of the services at MNH is good news to cancer and sickle cell patients who will now be relieved of pain and suffering accompanied by the diseases.

There are no official figures currently on people in need of bone marrow transplants, but according to Prof Museru about 200 people line up for bone marrow transplants every year relying on figures from MNH. It costs someone more than 250m/- to get the services in India and other countries, but MNH will conduct the transplants at 70m/-.

The process to start the services began with a series of preparatory stages including selecting and sending abroad for specialized training a team of experts from MNH including hematologists, oncologists, nurses and many others.

The services will be conducted at

the hospital's Upanga and Mloganzila branches where he said the government issued 7bn/- last year to purchase necessary equipment and renovate infrastructure.

For her part, head of hematology department at MNH Dr Stella Rwezaura said all is set for super specialized services at MNH saying the hospital aspires to offer all the key services needed to reach out to the demand but also reduce costs that the country was incurring sending patients abroad.

This is another milestone achievement for the country's main referral hospital after several other successful establishments of key services in the last four years.

MNH has in recent years enhanced its capacity to provide major services whereby the first was cochlea implant, interventional radiology, and kidney and liver transplant and now bone marrow transplants.

Kidney transplant was the second achievement in a row by the hospital after a successful cochlear implant surgery in June 2017.

The move reduces costs of liver transplant by 50 per cent. One successful transplant costs about 100 million that is for India which is taken as the cheapest.

"The five patients are the first to undergo bone marrow transplant and taking into consideration into this fact we thank then and their relatives for agreeing to undergo the transplant," she said.

Last year the government provided 7bn/- for establishing the bone marrow transplant service including the construction of the centre of excellence for transplant.

Some of the money was used to buy medical equipment and in training of experts.



Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) programme officer Paul Mallimbo (C) briefs journalists in Tanga yesterday on new cooperatives reporting category which was included in the Excellence Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2021. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

## Prof Mbarawa to contractor: No room for shoddy work on Busisi-Kigongo bridge

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

WORKS and Transport minister, Prof Makame Mbarawa has directed the contractor and supervisor of the JPM Kigongo-Busisi Bridge to make sure they implement the work professionally.

Inspecting the project's work at the 3.2-km bridge costing 716.33bn/-, he said he would not like shoddy work; they should work hard and to the required standard according to the contract agreement.

He said the work should be done day and night because much time had been lost.

He said it is an historical for the country as the work employs the latest technology and it should be a lesson for Tanzanians on how to construct bridges.

"I am told there are 11 youth involved, but I would like to see about 21 youth working here, as remuneration thereof was no problem because this is among strategic projects and I instruct

TANROADS to come here to learn," said Prof Mbarawa.

He also called on Tanzanians to provide cooperation to ensure the bridge is completed on a timely manner to acceptable standards.

For his part, Mwanza Regional TANROADS manager, Eng Boniface Mkumbo said the project was more than 34 per cent complete even though the work appears down 16 per cent and have mobilised themselves to compensate the shortfall by

increasing workers from 461 at present to 720.

He said building equipment have also been increased and pledged to implement the minister's instructions and complete the project in time and to the required standards.

Abel Sostensi and Issa Nkya, residents of Busisi and Sengerema respectively said the bridge will spur the economy and increase the number of tourists who will like to see and use the bridge.

## Scientists meet in Arusha to research on brucellosis on animals and humans

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

RESEARCHERS from Tanzania, Rwanda and US based colleges met in Arusha to do research and make follow up on the challenges posed by brucellosis disease on humans and other animals.

Brucellosis is a highly contagious zoonosis caused by ingestion of unpasteurized milk or undercooked meat from infected animals, or close contact with their secretions. It is also known as undulant fever, Malta fever, and Mediterranean fever.

The bacteria causing this disease, brucella, are small, gram-negative, nonmotile, nonspore-forming, rod-shaped (coccobacilli) bacteria.

The director of livestock services in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Prof Hezron Nonga said the project that involves various scientists and researchers is aimed at establishing a system on the joint follow up on the disease.

Brucellosis - also known as undulant fever, Malta fever, and Mediterranean fever is highly contagious zoonosis caused by ingestion of unpasteurised milk or undercooked meat from infected animals, or close contact with their secretions.

Speaking in Arusha Tuesday this week, Prof Nonga said these scientists will be involved in the investigations and research on the disease on cattle, goats, sheep and humans.

He said the involvement of humans and animals in the research stems from disease itself and is among six priority diseases infecting humans from animals.

He said history shows that the disease has been in the country for a long time, and was discovered for the

first time in 1918 during the colonial period.

"The disease continues to exist since that time adversely affecting livestock; wildlife and humans, for examples in regard to cattle, those affected are the ones grazing in areas near wildlife reserves.

He said research also shows that cattle near wildlife reserve areas the level of infection is between 30 and 40 per cent due to the livestock-wildlife interactions

"Wildlife live with the disease's bacteria that do not do any harm to them and when they eat grass, drink water from one place and live in the same environment, infections can be transmitted from the wildlife to the livestock, and later to humans," he added.

He said livestock that live with humans can transmit the disease to the latter and when female livestock are impregnated, after seven months they abort, and for the males they have the inflammation of the testicles.

He said for humans, the disease's symptoms are frequent fever and for pregnant women, abortion becomes normal.

Prof. Joram Buza, instructor from Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology (NMAIST) said they were conducting research to look into how the disease is transmitted from one country to another and from animals to humans. He said to a great extent humans contract the disease through drinking un-boiled milk and eating raw meat.

He said other reports show that there are other areas in the country where 53 per cent of animals are infected by the disease, equivalent to half of all animals, posing great hazards to milk users.



The Guardian Ltd (TGL) publishers of The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers employees practice fire fighting skills during a disaster preparedness training conducted by Kinondoni Regional Fire and Rescue Force. The event was organised by TGL for their staff on Tuesday. Looking on (2nd R) is the Force's Communication Officer Sgt. Aman Hassan. Photo: Sanula Athanas

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY Minister January Makamba has called upon investors to continue investing in production of electrical equipment which will be used in implementation of rural electrification projects.

Makamba said the move would ensure availability of reliable electricity services in the country, especially in rural areas.

He made the statement in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday shortly after he visited Africab Tanzania—manufacturer of a wide range of electrical products like wires and cables, transformers, switch gears, pvc conduit pipes and trunking.

Makamba who was accompanied by Deputy Energy Minister, Stephen Byabato said such industries are of great importance as they help to reduce importation of electrical equipment from abroad.

## Minister calls upon investing in electrical equipment production

He said plans are to ensure that the Rural Energy Agency (REA) reaches all the divisions, after successful implementation of rural electrification at villages.

"There are a total of 64,000 divisions whereas only 27, 000 have been reached with electricity services. We have over 30,000 divisions in need of the service. The government is determined to ensure that all the divisions get power services within four years," said the minister, adding, to succeed there must be plenty of electrical equipment manufactured locally.

Minister Makamba asserted that there are needed some 122,000 kilometers of low voltage

cables, and 110,000 kilometers of medium voltage cables and 38,000 transformers to be able to connect all divisions with electricity service.

"I have witnessed the production of electrical equipment; you need to expand your factory to produce more equipment. May I call upon other investors to inject money in projects within the energy sector," he stated.

Africab Tanzania marketing manager, David Tarimo said the industry has the capacity to produce enough equipment; adding that following the increased demand, they have invested in a similar factory in Kimbiji, an outskirt of Kigamboni district in Dar es Salaam

region.

"We have established another factory in Kimbiji to boost production; we will continue producing quality products that suit the local market as well as providing employment to young Tanzanians," said Tarimo, calling upon the government to continue cooperating with them.

He also requested the government to put emphasis on Tanzanians to use locally made electrical equipment taking into consideration that they are of great quality. He said there is no need to import such equipment because local manufacturers can produce enough for the market.





**NMB CSR specialist, Aloyce Kikomakes a point to students from various schools who visited the bank's head office for a digital and entrepreneurship boot camp. The field visit was part of 9-days boot camp organised to engage children on finance, digital and business skills. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

# Stakeholders call for speedy gazetting wildlife corridors

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS have called on the government to speed up the process of gazetting all wildlife corridors in the country so as to enable them to be recognised legally.

The legal recognition of corridors is mentioned among the factors that will be a permanent solution for the challenges facing the corridors in the country.

Secretary for Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Benson Mwaise, said if the corridors are gazetted they will be legally recognised and their boundaries will officially identified and then the procedures of how to manage them will also be put in place. It is reported that the corridors are currently facing many challenges including invading of people and building permanent settlement in the corridor areas but because the corridors are not legally recognised it becomes difficult to address.

Mwaise told journalists recently who visited the Burunge WMA; a trip which was organised by Traffic, a non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

He said; "At the moment, it is difficult to know the boundaries of the corridors, something that brings

challenges also in operation due to invasion."

The Secretary cited an example of Kwakuchinja corridor which is also not legally recognized, saying that the gazetting delay will lead to disappearance of the corridor due to the increase in the number of people who are invading the areas.

According to Mwaise, the area is now facing challenges of poaching, human wildlife conflicts, rapid growth of the human population and their related activities, corridor blockage and road killings as well as invasive species.

Dr Alfan Rija, a senior lecturer at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) - Wildlife Management Department hinted on the note that gazetting of the corridors is highly needed in order to secure them.

"Most of the corridors are invaded and occupied by the people who have set up their own buildings and many human activities are taking place, therefore gazetting them is the only solution," he added.

The expert added that there are more than 30 corridors in the country which are well identified but not legally recognised because they are not gazetted.

However, Wildlife corridors are essential links between different animal populations to ensure genetic viability and habitats through migration routes.

According to the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, corridors are important for five main reasons that if an animal or plant population declines to low levels or becomes extinct in one area or habitat patch, individuals from another patch can immigrate and rescue that population from local extinction.

Another reason is, if a small population is isolated, it will lose genetic variation over the long term and suffer from inbreeding. A corridor allows immigrants to import new genetic variation into isolated populations.

A corridor increases the area and diversity of habitats over and above the area of the two habitat patches that it connects. If the habitat of one area becomes unsuitable for example because of climate change, organisms (both plant and animals) can move along corridors to reach more suitable habitat, and thus be 'rescued'.

The fifth important of corridors is that some protected areas do not encompass the range of ecosystem requirements needed by certain flora and fauna. Migrating species, for example, especially large mammalian herbivores and associated carnivores, move outside and/or between protected areas. They may also use corridors as dispersal areas.

# Demand for pay-as-you-go financing for products to skyrocket East Africa

By Guardian Reporter

DEMAND for 'Pay-as-You-go' financing for products in the East African Market is set to skyrocket in 2022 as more consumers opt for alternative payment solutions as opposed to cash first payment.

Latest data from Angaza, a leading provider of technology for distribution sales and customer management shows despite an increase in demand for sophisticated products like smartphones and TVs, the majority of consumers are unable to pay for these items upfront.

Angaza Customer Success Director, Peter Thuo says the Pay-as-you-go model shows great potential to help consumers in emerging markets access products they previously could not afford through flexible payment terms.

"Pay-as-you-go (PAYGo) financing has in the past been used to help more low-income consumers in emerging markets access basic services. We are now seeing a paradigm shift as more middle income earners are seeking this financing model in a bid to access more sophisticated durable products like smartphones, TVs, Fridges that they cannot pay for upfront," he said.

The model also supports distribution businesses in selling any product to reflect their

consumer bases' unique needs. With the financing model, consumers who cannot afford to pay for a product upfront can choose to pay distributor partial, affordable installments over an agreed period of time.

These partial payments are either made until the product is paid off and the consumer owns the product or on a continuous basis. If the consumer cannot make their installment payments, the product automatically shuts down until payment is made.

"This ability to make installment payments on time creates a financial "ladder" of opportunities for consumers to increase their creditworthiness and access opportunities to finance larger, more complex products over time. Smartphones, TVs, laptops, refrigerators, clean cook stoves, and motorbikes are the most sought after products for this model," he said.

This comes as the smartphone market is expected to rise in the near future. Africa's smartphone market shipments are expected to grow 7.4 percent in 2021, reaching 1.37 billion units, followed by 3.4 percent growth in 2022 and 2023 according to data from the International Data Corporation (IDC). East Africa's smartphone adoption is expected to grow by 18 percent from 42 percent

to 60 percent in 2025 according to GSMA 2021 Mobile industry; furthermore, almost 100 million people gained access to clean cooking between 2015 and 2018, according to the 2021 Clean Cooking Snapshot report.

To increase access to these in-demand products, Angaza has expanded beyond pay-as-you-go (PAYG) solar products.

The firm has partnered with over 25 manufacturers, including Burn Manufacturing, Samsung, NuovoPay and SureChill, to provide distributors with the opportunity to sell clean cook stoves, smart phones, and other transformative products.

To make payments for products safe and convenient for consumers and enable cashless operations for distributors, Angaza has partnered with over 60 mobile money providers across 25 countries.

"The option of mobile money has led to a significant decrease in cash usage over the past few years, enabling consumers to pay at any time, from anywhere while saving distributors the cost of physically collecting payments. We are very excited about distributors' strong interest in the Angaza platform to get transformative products like smartphones, electronics, and cook stoves into the hands of millions of consumers around the world," explained Thuo.

MSPH Tanzania LLC, 7th Floor, Jangid Plaza, Plot No. G6, Chaburuma Road (Off-Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road) P.O. Box 80214, Dar es Salaam, email: icap-tz-info@columbia.edu phone: +255 (0) 22 270 0719+255 (0) 22 270 0725

## TENDER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A TOUCH SCREEN CLIENTS' FEEDBACK SYSTEM ON QUALITY HIV SERVICES

### PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NUMBER ICAP/TZ/08/2021-2022

**Introduction:**

MSPH Tanzania LLC, known as ICAP, is a non-governmental organization operating in Tanzania since 2004, with funding mainly from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). ICAP at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health is the recipient of a five-year PEPFAR-funded cooperative agreement beginning 29th September 2021 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support comprehensive community- and facility-based HIV and VMMC services in Mwanza region.

MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP Intends to procure development of a touch screen clients' feedback system on quality HIV Services for FIKIA Plus project under PEPFAR/CDC awarded funding.

MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP now invites reputable and registered suppliers to request the tender document for the following

**Scope of Work: Development of a touch screen clients' feedback system on quality HIV Services provided:**

**Background**

In order to monitor and improve the quality of HIV services provided at the supported health facilities, ICAP will deploy a touch screen kiosk with a system for clients receiving HIV services to provide feedback on the quality of the services that they received at the supported health facilities.

The touch-screen clients' feedback system on HIV services is therefore expected to have the following outcomes:

- \* Clients will have a medium to share their concerns on the quality of HIV service delivery and give opportunity to health facility authorities to address these concerns. This feedback loop will increase their trust in the health system and foster collaboration to improve health service quality.
- \* Health care providers will be aware of the community's perception of their services and areas for improvement. This information will facilitate better planning prioritization for HIV services improvement.
- \* Regional and Councils health management teams will be able to use the clients' feedback from the system on limitations to high quality HIV services in specific health facilities to rate health facilities and mobilize resources for quality improvement.

**Description of the system features:**

The system will enable the clients to provide feedback on the HIV services they received at the health facility. There will be place where the touch screen "kiosk" will be placed, and clients who received HIV services, will be able to provide their feedback on the touch-screen as they exit from the facility. There will be close ended questions, and the client will respond according to their satisfaction level.

This feedback will be integrated into a dashboard database (web application) that will be shared with health facility leaders on a monthly basis. The health facility administrators will be able to work on the specific issues raised by the clients and provide feedback. This feedback will also be shared by the Councils and Regional Health Management teams.

**Description of Services needed:**

1. Purchase of 16 touch screen clients' feedback kiosks
2. Installation of 16 touch screen clients' feedback kiosks in 16 health facilities in Mwanza region
3. Development of the touch screen clients' feedback kiosk software for capturing the feedbacks
4. Development of a web application dashboard for analytics
5. 1 year maintenance of the 16 installed touch screen clients' feedback kiosks.

**The bidders shall submit with its bid the following additional documents:**

1. Business introduction letter
2. Business/company profile
3. Valid business license
4. Tax identification number (tin)
5. Valid tax clearance certificate
6. Value added tax registration certificate (if any)
7. Certificate of incorporation (if any)
8. Article of association (if any)
9. Manufacture authorization
10. Memorandum of association (if any)
11. Experience justification
12. Letter for recommendation from at least know well companies

**Note:**

1. The public tender opening will be made in presence of all bidders or their official representatives, we encourage all bidders to attend through zoom call and Zoom Call Link will be sent to all who applied only in advance of the meeting.
2. Bids not received and opened in public at the public bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
3. The tender validity period is 14 days.
4. Selection criteria will be lowest price, technically evaluated/ acceptable based on technical specifications and other criteria described above.
5. MSPH Tanzania reserve the rights to disqualify any offer based on failure to follow solicitation instructions.
6. MSPH reserves the rights to waive minor proposal deficiencies that cannot be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition
7. MSPH will be contacting all those that have submitted quotes to confirm contact person, address and that bid was submitted for this solicitation.
8. The evaluation of bids will be conducted as per MSPH Tanzania LLC – ICAP Procurement Guidelines.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Eligible suppliers meeting all stated requirements are requested to: -

- a. Submit one application for each lot they are applying for. If a supplier is applying for two different lots, **each lot should have a separate application document with supporting evidence specifically for that lot.**
- b. Interested, eligible suppliers should email their electronic quote via email to procurement department at [TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu)

**The Tender Committee,  
MSPH Tanzania LLC – ICAP,  
Jangid Plaza 7<sup>th</sup> Floor – Chaburuma Road  
P.O Box 80214, Dar es salaam, Tanzania  
All quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings**

**The deadline for the submission is 10:00am East Africa Time on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021.  
All tenders should be electronically submitted to [TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu)  
No tender fee charged for this invitation**



## Media stakeholders urge government to continue reviewing laws and policies governing the industry

By Getrude Mbago

MEDIA stakeholders have called on the government to continue reviewing laws and policies governing the industry so as to enable media outlets to operate freely and responsibly and thus support the country to attain speedy development.

Speaking during the virtual roundtable on press freedom in Tanzania and human rights held recently, the stakeholders hinted on the note that the country should support free operation of media if it is to achieve its development deeds.

Alakok Mayombo, senior trainer at Internews Tanzania said that free media and responsible media help greatly to drive social, economic and political development of a nation.

She said despite strides made by the government and stakeholders to support free and responsible media, there were still some laws that prevent the industry from operating well, something that needs more measures to support the industry.

Mayombo said free media plays a crucial role in informing and if the community receives right information on time, they have a better chance of making the right decisions on various issues including health, economic and social.

She explained that the media contributes to the development of society and the nation at large, so players have to facilitate in free and safe environment for them to operate.

Patrick Kipangula, assistant director of Information Services Tanzania stressed on the need for journalists to do their job in accordance with the profession and the country's laws.

He wanted to read and understand well the laws governing the industry so as to enable them operate responsibly.

"Media stakeholders should also know that freedom comes with responsibility. The media is responsible for informing, educating and entertaining the society; but such roles must be executed in respect of the country's laws as well as professionalism," he insisted.

Deodatus Balile, chairperson of Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF) said that there efforts have been taken including discussing with the government so as to review some of the laws that are seen infringing press freedom.

He noted that some laws which have been enacted within the past five years stand as obstacles for the operation of the industry and the public to access their rights.

"There are some articles in laws such as the Media Services Act, 2016; Access to Information Act, 2016 among others that are deemed to be a threat to human rights and press freedom," he said.

Imane Duwe, TAMWA member and head of mass communication at the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) also said some laws in the Isles need to be reviewed so as to facilitate free operation of media outlets.

She said that stakeholders have already drafted a proposed Media Bill in Zanzibar and submitted it to the government for further review.

"We hope that if the proposed bill is considered by the government, the operation of the media industry will greatly change and thus help stimulate development growth by working hard and ensuring that the public is well fed by right information while also unearthing illegal practices that affect the country's progress," she said.



Minister for Local Government and Regional Administration (TAMISEMI), Umyy Mwalimu speaks during the opening of 3- days meeting for heads of secondary schools in Tanzania coordinated jointly by Global Education Link (GEL) and Tanzania heads of secondary schools association (TAHOSSA) yesterday at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO Correspondent MIRAJI MSALA

By Guardian Correspondent, Karatu

A TOTAL of 125 cases of physical and 96 of sexual violence were reported in 2021 in Karatu district, Arusha region and various steps taken thereon against suspects including court action.

This was revealed on Tuesday this week by the district community development officer Abdallah Nyange in his 2020/21 report to stakeholders involved in the fight against gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse at the apex for the commemoration of 16 days against GBV and child abuse, the event coordinated and financed by World Vision Tanzania through Endabash AP project.

Nyange said in cooperation with the community development division, the police and WEL,

## Karatu district reports 221 GBV and child abuse cases

SHDEPHA, World Vision Tanzania, WLAC and children centers stakeholders, they followed up on the cases and took steps according to the law by with the cases now at various stages.

"In the period January to December this year, we have received 96 cases of sexual violence, many of who against children and 125 on physical violence with some suspects already sentenced while other cases still pending in courts."

Nyange said the problems with people of Karatu district are embracing customs that weakens

evidence on cases against sexual abuse and find some consensus from the two sides.

He called upon village officials to educate the people to avoid such acts, by at least spending half an hour before every village sitting to enable parents understand the consequences for those who prefer to settle the issue in the family.

He said the District has embarked on strategies to ensure all children and women are protected.

He mentioned the strategies as including physically following all signs that could lead to these vile

acts in all schools, continue with efforts in strengthening investigation and prosecuting procedures, hold joint sittings with motorcycle drivers (bodaboda).

He mentioned others as holding village level sittings and formalizing all liquor drinking places.

For her part, Neema Mbwambo, project officer dealing with women and children issues for World Vision Tanzania, Endabash AP and Lake Eyasi said gender based violence and child abuse in Karatu district was still high and pledged to grapple with the situation by educating the public.



Elders at Makongati village Kihanga ward in Iringadistrict, Iringaregion listen to a facilitator from World Vision Tanzania, Sheikh Zuberi Mohammed (R). The organisation in collaboration with various stakeholders and the government are implementing a project named, 'mindset transformation towards positive attitude' in the ward's villages. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

## Tabora RC Burian hails JTI for supporting local communities

By Correspondent Allan Ntana, Tabora

TABORA Regional Commissioner Ambassador Dr Batilda Burian has applauded Japan Tobacco International (JTI Leaf Services) company for its effect on environmental protection and improving livelihoods of the communities.

She made the remarks yesterday inaugurating a tree planting programme to mark a new season for tobacco growers at the event held at Utemini and Maswany villages in Ndono and Kakola wards, Uyui district, Tabora region.

She said apart from her key role of buying tobacco from farmers

through their primary societies (AMCOS), JTI LS has shown practically its dramatic concern on the environment and support to farmers and the entire community.

She clarified that the company has supported the government tree planting efforts by providing free seedlings and planting mechanisms, hence urging tobacco growers to plant more trees and keep them thoroughly.

Dr Burian applauded good job well done by the company on promoting good agricultural practices to ensure growers' efficiency, increased production and healthy environment. She briefed that the government has declared

each district to plant not less than 1.5 million trees each year, adding that till now more than 10,000 seedlings have been planted in the region in collaboration with stakeholders.

"I commend the good job done by JTI LS on improving agricultural activities, healthy environment and social support to farmer communities, this is how other stakeholders should be", she said.

The company agro forest manager, Alfidhil Makengo said that JTI LS is a community oriented company which works in collaboration with the government for the betterment of tobacco growing communities.

He said the company provides free quality seeds and other

materials to growers, education on good agricultural practices, social services as well as maintaining conducive healthy environment.

Tanzania tobacco board officer Oscar Simwanza clarified that according to tobacco act no. 24 of 2021 all tobacco growers should have tree farms as a vying mechanism to evade destruction of the environment.

He added that tree planting programme and use of modified barns for efficient wood consumption is a continual mission, hence advised the primary society leaders to encourage their people to participate fully and use the improved barns.

## PharmAccess wants swift action to fast-track universal health coverage

By Special Correspondent

AS part of its commemoration of its 20-year anniversary, PharmAccess has called on key healthcare stakeholders in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania to achieve a breakthrough in access to better healthcare for all.

Over the past decade, people in sub-Saharan Africa have been steadily living longer and in better health due to, amongst others, reductions in infant and childhood mortality, increased access to medical treatment including for AIDS/HIV, and improved nutrition.

Nevertheless, to receive quality health services, many face financial hardship through high out-of-pocket health costs - influencing people to postpone or skip health visits entirely.

In her remarks, PharmAccess CEO Nicole Spieker said, "Thanks to our partners' endeavors, especially the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we have over the past 20 years empowered thousands of healthcare workers and policy makers to provide better care to their communities."

"This year's UHC Day is the moment to ask our partners to state and commit to their engagements so we can reach the goal of access to quality healthcare for everyone."

She said PharmAccess utilises innovative strategies such as mobile technology, sustainable finance models and financial protection for vulnerable and low-income groups.

In the context of 20-year PharmAccess, country offices are hosting a series of events addressing the biggest issues inhibiting inclusive healthcare in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania.

In Tanzania, PharmAccess organized an event in Zanzibar around sustainable health financing and quality improvement with the intent to build stronger partnerships and inspire thought leadership.

access to and utilization of health services, particularly among the poor. Through digitalisation, data insights and dashboards, policy makers are empowered to make informed decisions. Now it is time to scale proven models to increase impact.

In Ghana, PharmAccess works with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), which has an active membership of over 12 million people.

Furthermore, PharmAccess and the NHIA are strengthening their collaboration, working with data experts, offering support to institutionalize data insights and further enhance the impact and sustainability of the most inclusive health insurance scheme in Africa.

In Nigeria, even though 34 out of 36 states have signed the health insurance bill to make health insurance mandatory for all, most are yet to start implementing it.

Universal health coverage in the country will only be reached through increased funding for health adding that PharmAccess Nigeria will therefore launch a series of expert sessions aimed at advancing new sources of funding and to place healthcare financing centrally on the policy agenda for the national and local governments.

Mobile and digital technology are already fast-tracking improvements in virtually all sectors in Africa, but especially in Kenya, with a SIM penetration of 120 per cent. However, the health sector is yet to embrace the full potential of digital technology.

Therefore, PharmAccess Kenya, together with the SDG Coalition, will organize a convention to create synergies in technology and innovation, capitalizing on the opportunities at hand to improve healthcare financing. The United Nations officially designated 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day), to hold leaders accountable to their promise of health for all.



## Youth need to change mindset about modern agriculture - panel

By Special Correspondent

YOUTH in Africa have been urged to adopt agribusiness as a viable and rewarding employment option that could create attractive-wage job opportunities, reduce widespread poverty in rural areas and help to eradicate distorted patterns of rapid urbanisation in most countries on the continent.

The call was made by a panel of scholars and higher education stakeholders who took part in a virtual public dialogue series hosted by the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP). The theme of the series is 'Role of Youth in Building Resilient Agri-food Systems in Africa.'

The AAP was co-created by Michigan State University (MSU) and African thought leaders in 2016. It is a consortium of MSU and 10 leading African universities. Members usually collaborate to address continental and global challenges.

The meeting on October 21 was one of the side events of the World Food Prize Foundation's 2021 Borlaug Dialogue and focused on how African youth could be integrated into agri-food systems.

In her presentation, Betty Kibaara, a director in the food initiative at the Rockefeller Foundation's Africa region office in Nairobi, said Africa's youth have been misunderstood for too long. "Africa's youth have been waiting for mentors and advocates who would provide them with knowledge, skills and investments to enable them to add value to Africa's traditional agri-food systems by improving productivity, food processing and market diversification," Kibaara said.

She highlighted the success of Nicholas Mareve, 24, a finance graduate who joined an agribusiness project producing insect-based protein feed in poultry, pig, and fish farming in Kenya. The Rockefeller Foundation and the Nairobi-based International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology partnered on a project model of alleviating poverty and promoting food

security.

Mareve is producing about a tonne of dried insect feed per week and sells compost to vegetable farmers. "One man's waste is my gold, as I source waste from markets and slaughterhouses to help produce the black soldier fly eggs," Mareve told University World News.

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the most promising option for youth employment in Africa lies in transforming the agricultural sector but, for that to happen, farming would have to overcome neglect that stems from the colonial legacy of low investment and limited value addition.

In a study titled 'Development Perspectives on Special Agro-industrial Processing Zones in Africa: Lessons from Experiences', that was launched in July 2021 this year, the AfDB said more investments will be required in Africa's agricultural food production systems to enhance value addition, create jobs in rural and peri-urban areas and increase exports.

Youth needs to think differently

Towards this goal, Richard Tododia Ruto, the president of Kenya's National Youth Bunge Association, said there is an urgent need to shift the mindset of young people who seem to have little options as they have no skills and have come to hate traditional farming systems in rural areas.

The association is an umbrella body of more than 23,000 village parliaments (bunge in Kiswahili), whose main agenda is to elevate the youth's voice in society by expanding their economic opportunities and inspiring community service.

According to Ruto, most young people in Africa regard farming in the villages as an occupation for the old people and even those who help their parents usually see it as work with low economic returns.

He said most young people engage in farming for lack of options, while others think it is meant for dropouts and those who have never been to school.



Chels Microfinance Arusha branch manager Belinda Maximilian (R) addresses residents of Mirerani township in Simanjoro district, Manyara region on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

## Thousands of Dodoma farmers drilled on food security methods

THOUSANDS smallholders farmers Dodoma Region have benefited from training aimed at imparting knowledge on organic rain fed agriculture, kitchen gardens establishment, and entrepreneurship practical and saving and lending to increase food security and promote gender equality.

Most of the beneficiaries are from in three districts—Chamwino, Dodoma and Mpwapwa of Dodoma Region. The training is part of the implementation of a three-year initiative dubbed: "Dodoma's Women in Agriculture and Business Initiative (DWABI)", which kicked off in 2019. It is being implemented by Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) through support from the Austrian Development Agency

(ADA)—the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation, and ICEP.

So far, between 2019 and 2021, the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) has managed to offer training in organic rain fed agriculture and kitchen gardens establishment, entrepreneurship practical and saving and lending, according to Project Manager, Elizabeth Kirangai.

According to the Project Manager, Consequently, DWABI aims at empowering women in Dodoma through training in organic agriculture, small business and saving and lending methods, which

will result into an increase in food security and gender equality.

"The major challenges which led to the establishment of this project include poverty, food security, poor access for financial inclusion by women, lack of individual economic activities amongst women as well as low number of women in leadership and decision making organs, among others," said Ms Girangai.

The DWABI project manager was speaking in Chamwino district during farmers' day, an occasion which coincided with an event to pay tribute to farmers in the country's capital, Dodoma.

The event was graced by Japhari Kikoti on behalf of Chamwino District Commissioner, Gift Msuya. Msuya in her speech read on her behalf by Kikoti applauded the initiative, pledging any necessary support from the government, insisting that she was encouraged by SAT's DWABI project which she said was complimenting the government efforts to empower women economically.

Among other things in the project, SAT has been helping women in the formation of Saving and Lending Groups which help women to access lower interest loans from financial institutions.



Arumeru district administrative secretary James Mchembe speaks with employees of Meru district hospital shortly after a charity walk to encourage people to get COVID-19 vaccines. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Special Correspondent

## EIB-supported gender lens investment funding Alitheia IDF announces final close at \$100 million

THE management of Alitheia IDF (AIF), Africa's first women-led and women-focused private equity fund, has announced the final close of the \$100 million fund with European Investment Bank (EIB) joining as the closing investor with \$24.6 million.

With this final close, Alitheia IDF becomes the largest gender-lens private equity fund by value in Africa.

Led by principal partners Polo Leteka and Tokunboh Ishmael, Alitheia IDF invests in growth-stage companies across six African countries—Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Zambia. The fund has a mandate to plug the over \$42 billion investment gap between male and female entrepreneurs as a means of catalysing the economic power of African women as producers,

distributors, and consumers. In 2021, the fund began implementing this mandate by leading investment rounds in five women-led businesses across essential sectors including agribusiness, education, manufacturing, housing, technology, and logistics.

The investee companies are Jetstream Africa (Ghana), ReelFruit Ltd (Nigeria), SKLD (formerly SchoolKits, Nigeria), AV Light Steel (South Africa) and Chika's Food (Nigeria).

"Globally, women have tremendous purchasing power as consumers and controllers of household economics. In the same vein, women entrepreneurs have a significant presence in Africa's SME sector with

African women making up 58% of the continent's self-employed population. However, despite this economic power and presence, African women are underserved as consumers and producers. This has had huge impact on economic growth as the potential of more than half of the continent's population remain untapped due to structural and systemic issues. We are proactively working towards filling this gap with a clear mandate to support women-led businesses across the continent while raising awareness for gender-smart investment as a path towards inclusive economic growth," said Principal Partner Tokunboh Ishmael in Nigeria.

African women have remained

underserved by the financial sector even as the historical investment gap between men and women continues to widen. Estimates show that African women receive less than 5% of all investment on the continent even though over 40% of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Africa are women-led. Reports by McKinsey point out that closing the investment gap will lead to 26% gross domestic product (GDP) growth (\$28 trillion) by 2025. By applying a gender-smart lens to investment, Alitheia IDF is setting the pace and providing a framework for gender-inclusive investments with the goal of enabling economic growth for African countries and, critically, African women.

## 3rd Africa-Turkey summit to enhance partnership for common development

By Special Correspondent

THE transition from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU) highlighted the need to promote African integration and the African continent 'as one' on the international stage, defend Africa's common interests and strengthen Africa's position in the global economy and in the international community.

These objectives are reinforced in both the Constitutive Act, which mandates the AU to "encourage international cooperation", and in the Agenda 2063: Aspiration 7 which envisions "Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner."

Achieving this will entail improving Africa's place in the global governance system; improving Africa's partnerships, and refocusing them to respond to African priorities for growth and transformation, while ensuring that the continent can finance its own development and reduce aid dependency.

The Africa-Turkey partnership was formalized in the 2008 Istanbul Summit, during which two outcome documents were adopted, namely the Istanbul Declaration and the Framework for Cooperation. The second Africa-Turkey Summit took place in November 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The 2nd summit adopted the Malabo declaration, the Africa-Turkey joint implementation plan and the matrix of the key priority projects covering trade and investment, peace and security, culture, tourism and education, youth empowerment and technology transfer, rural economy and agriculture, infrastructure: energy, ICT and transport as well as other topics such as health and media.

Against this backdrop, the 3rd Africa-Turkey summit will kick off on 18 December 2021 and will be preceded by Senior Officials and Ministerial meetings from

16 December. On the margin of the summit, a parallel session on health under the theme "mobilizing potentials for African health needs in the pandemic and post-pandemic era" will be organized by ministers of health and heads of delegation from Africa, representing the continent and the African Union and the minister of health of the Republic of Turkey on 17 December.

The Summit will be officiated by the leadership of the African Union: H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chairperson of the AU, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Albert M Muchanga, Commissioners for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining (ETIM) and Josefa Leonel Correia Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), among other high officials from AU member states.

The high-level participation of the AU shows the commitment in strengthening collaboration on current issues in the global arena as it relates to health, peace, security, governance and justice, human-focused development and strong and sustainable growth. The Africa-Turkey common actions for the period leading-up to the next summit can be summarized under the following three sub-themes: Peace, security and justice; human-focused development; and strong and sustainable growth.

These sub-themes will be implemented under five strategic cooperation areas through a Joint Action Plan for the period 2021-2026 leading up to the next Summit. Areas are peace, security and governance; trade, investment and industry; education, STI skills, youth and women development; infrastructure Development and Agriculture; and promoting resilient health systems.



## Political situation meeting: Limited chances of success

President Samia Suluhu Hassan is today expected to personally officiate at the start of three days of talks between regulatory agencies of political activities and the civic stakeholders, namely human rights groups and political parties. Chances of the meeting being showered with success are limited as both sides have demands that are difficult to negotiate, and the weaker party at the negotiating table knows that it has the support of most active voices in diplomatic forums. The regulators have little sympathy for their positions, as only free expression is accepted plus untrammelled counting of votes, whatever are the fears.

While limited democracy has served the country very well, to safeguard and maintain peace and cohesion while a diversity of forces were bent on wrecking it so that there is a roundtable on sharing out power, that position is not easy to sell in global forums. Fortunately the government doesn't need to convince all and sundry on each forum, but show that it has good intentions in taking some affirmative actions. That is the area that will be discussed if this sphere can be narrowed down for alignment with democracy as such.

On the eve of the talks being opened by President Samia, one noticeable absentee was likely to be the leading opposition party, whose absence in some quarters will be a blessing in disguise. When the president started relating the political atmosphere after coming to office mid-March, and taking fairly cautious steps to disengage the government from excessive control

of the media, also permitting indoor political consultations, the leading opposition party shifted gear to constitutional demands, bent on starting demonstrations. This kind of position puts the president under pressure to maintain the status quo.

For one thing, it is arguable if there is still a possibility for the country to conduct peaceful political activities without some key actors going overboard to stick to non-negotiable demands like completing a constitutional review process that the ruling party closed, and has support of its rank and file. Again, there is no discussion whatsoever on policies or strategies for economic growth, only demands about sharing out power whereas Tanzania is organised on a direct constituency electoral format, not via proportional voting where voters pick party candidates listed, as with Special Seats MPs here. That avenue is blocked.

What the sixth phase government is doing is in the right direction, namely removing excessive constraints on the free exercising of expression, and when there is a by-election, fair process and due counting of votes. That has always been the case except in the last civic and then general elections, organised on the basis of an emergency to pursue major tasks of national development without being disoriented by those who hanker after power by all means. Most of these projects are in safe hands but that doesn't mean the government can throw caution to the winds, allow untrammelled political action, cut presidential powers and let chaos reign. This is what was happening prior to late 2015.

## How coffee and tea can help lower the risk of stroke and dementia

Dementia manifests as a set of related symptoms, which usually surface when the brain is damaged by injury or disease. The symptoms involve progressive impairments in memory, thinking, and behaviour, which negatively impact a person's ability to function and carry out everyday activities. Aside from memory impairment and a disruption in thought patterns, the most common symptoms include emotional problems, difficulties with language, and decreased motivation. The symptoms may be described as occurring in a continuum over several stages. Dementia is not a disorder of consciousness, as that is not usually affected. It ultimately has a significant effect on the individual, caregivers, and relationships in general.

A diagnosis of dementia requires a change from a person's usual mental functioning and a greater cognitive decline than what is caused by normal aging. Several diseases and injuries to the brain, such as a stroke, can give rise to dementia.

Whereas a stroke is a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain causes cell death. There are two main types of stroke: ischemic, due to lack of blood flow, and hemorrhagic, due to bleeding. Both cause parts of the brain to stop functioning properly. Signs and symptoms of a stroke may include an inability to move or feel on one side of the body, problems understanding or speaking, dizziness, or loss of vision to one side.

Signs and symptoms often appear soon after the stroke has occurred. If symptoms last less than one or two hours, the stroke is a transient ischemic attack (TIA), also called a mini-stroke. A hemorrhagic stroke may also be associated with a severe headache. The symptoms of a stroke can be permanent. Long-term complications may include

pneumonia and loss of bladder control.

The main risk factor for stroke is high blood pressure. Other risk factors include high blood cholesterol, tobacco smoking, obesity, diabetes mellitus, a previous TIA, end-stage kidney disease, and atrial fibrillation.

At least two cups of tea or coffee are needed to see an effect, said the study, published in the journal Plos Medicine recently. The researchers studied the 365,682 participants from Tianjin Medical University in China, included 365,682 participants from the UK Biobank study.

"Our findings suggested that moderate consumption of coffee and tea separately or in combination were associated with lower risk of stroke and dementia," the study authors wrote. People who drank two to three cups of coffee or three to five cups of tea a day, or a combination of four to six cups of coffee and tea had the lowest incidence of stroke or dementia, the researchers found.

Those who drank two to three cups of coffee and two to three cups of tea daily had a 32 per cent lower risk of stroke and a 28 per cent lower risk of dementia compared with those who did not drink tea or coffee.

The research, led by Yuan Zhang, further suggests that the intake of coffee alone or in combination with tea is associated with a lower risk of post-stroke dementia. Researchers studied the 365,682 participants between 2006 and 2010 and followed them until 2020. At the start, participants self-reported how much coffee and tea they drank.

Over the study period, 5,079 participants developed dementia and 10,053 experienced at least one stroke. However, the scientists pointed out that the UK Biobank reflects a relatively healthy sample in relation to the general population, which could restrict the ability to generalise.

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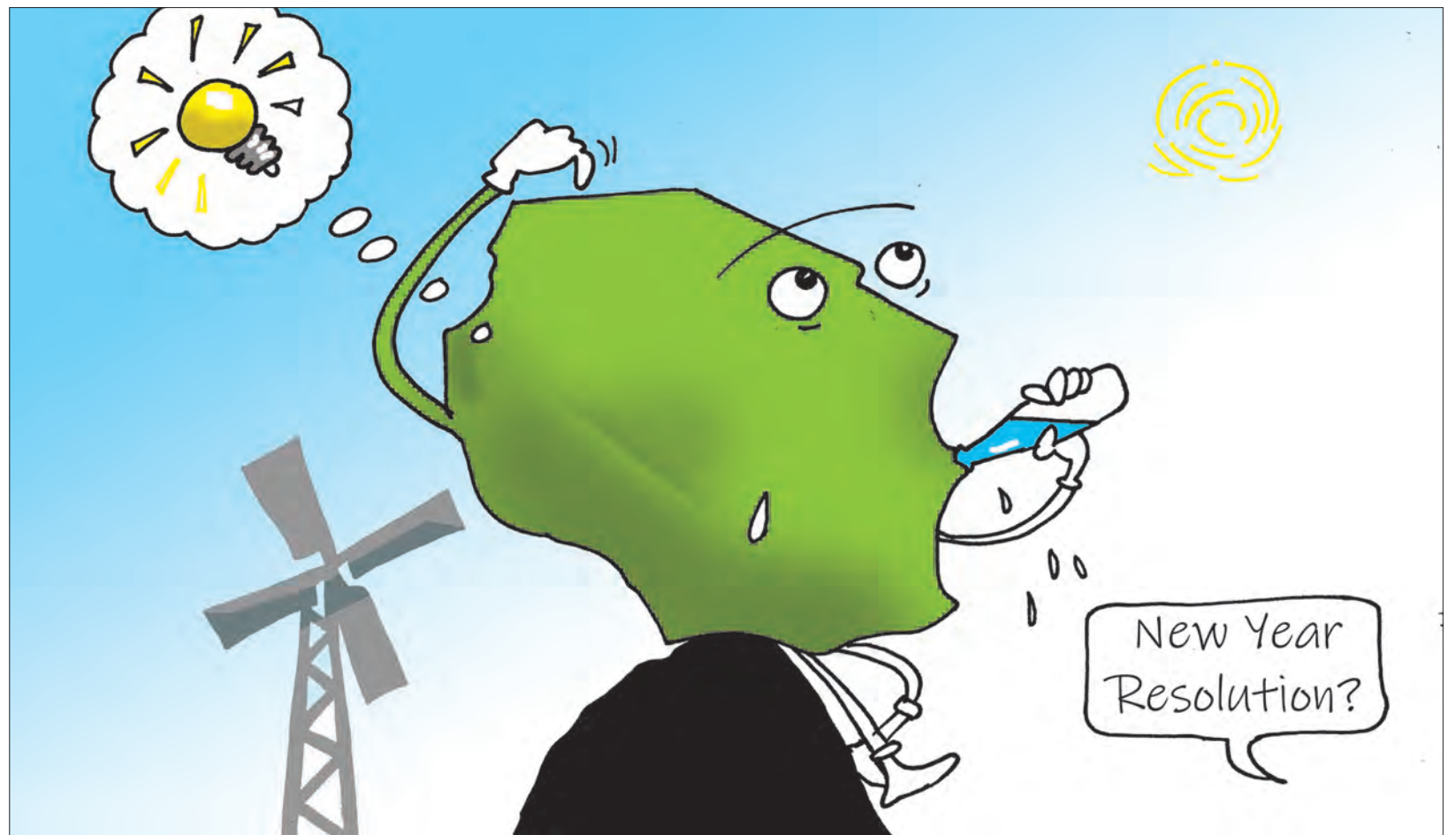
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## China's loans to African countries meant to support key development infrastructure

By George Muntu

THERE have been many complaints from foreign and local media that China's lending to African countries undermines their sovereignty.

Some of the allegation being made is that, China is deliberately providing large loans to African so that when recipients' countries fails to repay their debts then it will use it as a cover to seize the assets of those respective countries.

And one of the examples they use to justify their false claims is the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, ZESCO Zambia, Mombasa Port Kenya and now Entebbe Airport in Uganda. All these examples are deliberately used as a reason to intimidate Africans and instil hatred against China.

Despite these allegations, but the fact is that, China has never seized any assets of Africa countries and has no intention to do that. According to China Embassy spokesperson in Uganda Mr Fang Yi, he said that, all loan agreements, including that of Entebbe Airport Expansion and upgrades Projects, are voluntarily signed by both parties through dialogue and negotiation on equal footing without any hidden terms or political conditions attached. He said, terms of the loan agreements for Entebbe Airport Expansion and Upgrade projects are in full compliance with the prevailing conventions and practices in the international financial market.

What Africans need to know is that no loan can be issued without terms and conditions. One of the conditions before issuing the loan, there must be a guarantee to manage the loan even if it is not physical collateral. Second, no loan that can be provided without mitigating risks; the loan must be thoroughly analyzed before it is issued to determine if the applicant has met all the criteria. Also due diligence must be done to determine the ability and credibility of the borrower. Fourth, before the loan is provided, both parties must agree to the terms and conditions of the agreement before signing.

Therefore, all such process and procedures were performed prior to the issuance of the loan to the Uganda government. Thus, the malicious allegation that Uganda has surrendered key assets of Entebbe Airport for China has no factual basis and is ill intended only to distort the good relations that China has with Uganda.

It should be point out that, China's goal in lending to African countries



Chinese-built railway linking Nairobi to Mombasa

is to enable them to build the necessary strategic infrastructure that will bring development and economic growth to their countries. In addition to that, also, Africans need to know that China's commitment to being Africa's number one lender is due to the friendship and good relationship the two sides have.

Before China emerged as the largest lender in Africa, our countries

were facing strict conditions from western lenders and international financial institutions such as the IMF and the WB. However, our countries were forced to comply with their terms and conditions because they did not have an alternative country or bank to borrow. That situation made it impossible for African countries to get big loans for building critical development infrastructure unlike now where we see how Chinese loans are helping African countries to build vital infrastructures such as of energy, transport, communication education and health infrastructure etc.

Thus, the allegations that China has nationalized Hambantota Port in Sri-Lanka and the Zambian power utility ZESCO are not true but false and fabricated. These allegations are deliberate conspiracies carried out by western nations with the aim of tarnishing China's reputation and intimidating African countries so that they do not continue borrowing from China. But the fact is that China has not confiscated any of the assets of those countries, and all the governments have denied these allegations to be fabricated.

It should be noted that, 99 years lease of Hambantota Port to China Merchant has nothing to do with the loan granted by China Exim Bank to Sri Lanka government. It was the

Sri Lanka government initiatives to privatise the port to a foreign company at \$1.12 billion where China Merchant emerged as a winner. All the process and decisions to privatize the port to a foreign company were made through the cabinet and the process of announcing the tender and getting the winner was carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country.

It should also be noted that, the money paid by China Merchant to the Sri Lankan government was not to pay off the Port debt, but the government used it to strengthen its foreign reserve and part to pay for other foreign debts. Even after the port was privatized to China Merchant, it is still owned and managed by the Sri Lankan government

Therefore, Africans should not allow ourselves to be swayed by the propaganda and false information that China's loan to Africa undermines our sovereignty. Instead, we should thank China for such loans because African countries have been able to reduce infrastructure shortages by building vital infrastructures that have stimulated development and economic growth in the continent.

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Nairobi, Kenya

## Youth at forefront of climate change action will make biggest impact

On Gladys Habu's birthday, she filmed a message to world leaders while standing waist-deep in the sea next to a dead tree stump - the only remnant of Kale Island now submerged underwater due to climate-change-induced sea-level rise.

Climate change impacts have deeply personal meaning for this young climate activist from the Solomon Islands - Kale Island was her grandparents' home.

"I strongly believe an investment in youth is a direct investment into the climate workforce. An active force that will enable the marked difference we all hope to see in the fight for a climate-safe future," Habu says.

Habu is a Commonwealth Points of Light award winner, the Queen's Award for activism for her climate change work in the Pacific. She is one of 1.5 billion young people under the age of 30 who are among the most vulnerable to climate change, but least involved in decision-making.

"Climate change is a multifaceted, cross-cutting issue that affects all aspects of life, and therefore is one of the most challenging to face. Despite increased scientific knowledge and evidence of climate change on the ground, there is still a trending rise in investments into profit-oriented industries that contribute critically to the problem," she tells IPS.

Habu says youths have the numbers to be effective agents of positive change in climate action. But beyond their role as advocates, they must act from the forefront of climate action, taking part in policymaking and implementation.

However, she says, there needs to be a large-scale investment in young people.

Addressing climate change is crucial and urgent. The UN's State of Food Security and Nutrition says that as many as 161 million more people faced hunger in 2020 than in 2019, driven by increased climate variability and extremes, conflicts and economic slowdowns, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UN says that an estimated 21 percent of the population in Africa, 9.0 percent in Asia, and 9.1 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean are affected by hunger. As Commonwealth youth leaders recently highlighted, these regions are also the most affected by climate change.

As the debilitating effects of climate change unravel, the report shows that compared to 2019, an estimated 46 million more people in Africa, 57 million in Asia and approximately 14 million more in Latin America and the Caribbean were affected by hunger in 2020.

Youth can play a crucial role in halting the fast pace of climate change and reversing its devastating effects - such as accelerated world hunger and malnutrition, Nigerian youth leader Lucky Abeng says.

However, this will need increased youth participation in all levels of climate action.

Abeng was excited to see the level of youth engagement at the recently concluded COP26.

"I was personally impressed to see the interest shown by youth in Glasgow. Joining voices to call for climate justice and bridging the gap on intergenerational equity."

As the Commonwealth Climate Change Network (CYCN) Chair for Grassroots Engagement and Participation, Abeng is hopeful that position papers submitted by youth activists to various governments will be mainstreamed in plans and programs for implementation post-COP26.

The Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network has over 2000 climate, sustainability, and environment youth leaders and youth-led organisations focused on climate adaptation and mitigation and sustainable development.

Abeng's hope could well be realised through the Commonwealth Secretariat's mandate to include young people in national development policies and plans at all levels of decision making.



Gladys Habu on the beach in the Solomon Islands. She has filed a deeply personal story about how climate-change-induced sea-level rises have submerged her grandparents' island home. Credit: Commonwealth Secretariat



Young climate activist Lucky Abeng speaking at the Commonwealth Pavilion at COP26. Credit: Commonwealth Secretariat



Former CYCN Special Envoy for Climate Change Jevanic Henry with fellow delegates at the Youth4Climate Summit 2021. Credit: Commonwealth Secretariat

Jevanic Henry, an Assistant Research Officer at the Commonwealth Secretariat, tells IPS that through the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, all the Commonwealth Regional and National Climate Finance advisers seek to consider gender and youth concerns in all climate finance initiatives.

Henry, who served as a Special Envoy on Climate Change for the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), says the Commonwealth Secretariat is "uniquely placed to further advance this mainstreaming, building on the political will by the Commonwealth Heads (of State), technical expertise available within the Secretariat to support member countries and its convening power to work with other development partners at all levels."

On the sidelines of COP26, Abeng witnessed various events on the nexus between youth, marginalised people, and climate change.

Beyond these events and progressive discussions, Abeng hopes to see realistic and sincere youth-focused implementation plans embedded into countries' national plans, including their Nationally Determined Contributions to limit global warming.

He says genuine commitment to youth participation in climate action should be demonstrated through funded capacity-building and empowerment opportunities for young people.

Henry believes it can be done. First, "we need a good policy environment that recognises the needs and potential role of young people."

While there is progress, it is crucial that in Commonwealth funded projects, youth and women are equal in decision-making and beneficiaries of climate action.

"We are aware that youth are change-makers in many ways and need practical support to advance those ideas," Henry says, and proper funding is crucial.

"There is a need for improvement in the design of new and existing climate and disaster risk reduction international financing pools to ensure they are made more accessible for young people," Henry says.

Within the Commonwealth Secretariat, there are efforts to put youth in the forefront to independently drive national climate action and advance towards integrating and adopting youth-sensitive budgeting.

For these reasons, Henry explains, the Commonwealth Secretariat is advancing a training programme on enhancing access to sustainable financing for green entrepreneurship, focusing on youth.

"For example, ahead of COP26, in conjunction with the Government of Saint Lucia, we run a youth entrepreneurship training," he says, giving them the information to take advantage of the opportunities that come with a green economy and accessing financing for projects and ideas.

Habu says youth have made great strides in climate advocacy and influencing policy change.

"Imagine how much more can be achieved by youths from the forefront of climate action."



## BEIJING

The COVID-19 pandemic has moved us farther away from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Data shows that the pandemic has pushed a further 124 million people into extreme poverty. Global poverty is now expected to be at 7% by 2030 - only marginally below the level in 2015. And with the global temperature increase already at 1.2 degrees, we are on the verge of the abyss. UN Secretary-General António Guterres is deeply concerned about the impact of the pandemic on the SDGs. But there is hope. He believes in the knowledge, science, technology, and resources to turn it around. He also urges further financing for development and climate action.

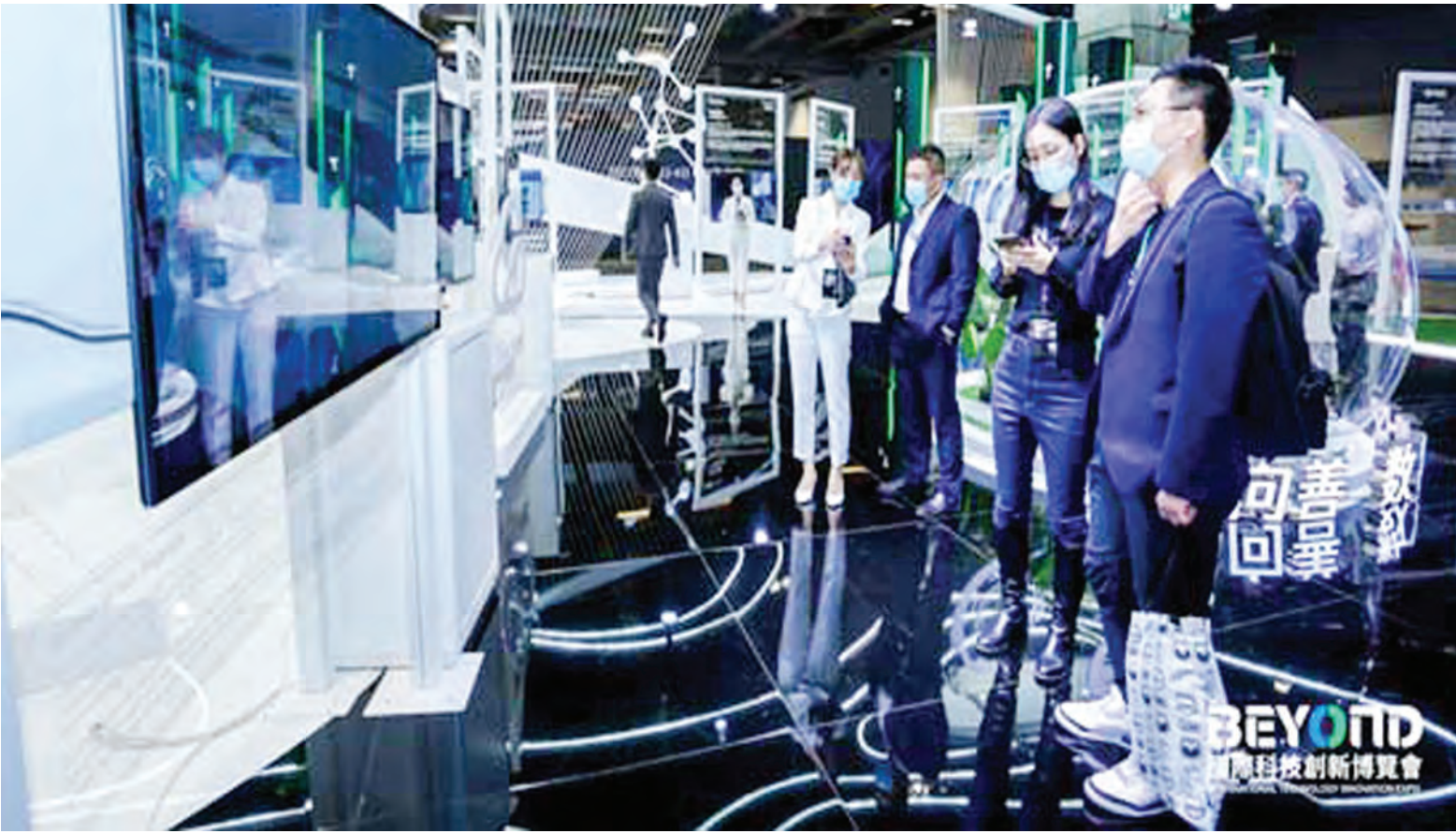
The SDGs can only be achieved with strong global partnerships and cooperation. Building back better calls for inclusive green growth, including integrated policy choices in governance, social protection, green economy, and digitalization.

The UN in China also recognizes the importance of equipping people with the skills in science, technology, and innovation needed for decent work, entrepreneurship, and the achievement of the SDGs.

## What's Next?

Against this backdrop, it was a pleasure to witness and participate in the Beyond International Technology Innovation Expo, which took place in Macao SAR, China, from 2-4 December 2021. The world can be reassured by the strong will for People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) among the over 300 companies and over 20,000 participants gathered in Macao. Both of us joined the Expo, one physically and one remotely,

## Beyond expo: Embedding the SDGs in the DNA of future technology and innovation



Visitors at booth for Beyond Expo. Credit: TechNode

and we commend Jason Ho and Gang Lu, the two young organizers who have shown their belief in the social, environmental and governance impact of technology, financing, and business, in setting the theme of the first Beyond Expo to be "what's next?".

The last day was dedicated to an SDGs Summit to highlight one of the major themes of the Expo, technology, investment, business for impact and the SDGs. The SDGs Summit consisted of three panel discussions: Impact investing, AI and ethics, and business social responsibilities. It was encouraging to hear that young start-ups and impact investors embedded the SDGs in the DNA of their opera-

tions. Among them, there were initiatives on carbon neutrality, green agriculture, technology to empower rural women, and auto-driving boats to clean ocean garbage

## A new frontier for the UN

UNU in Macao, the UN organization in Macao and the focal point of the UN Country Team in China on digital technologies, played host and provided speakers to the second panel of the SDGs Summit. Attendees discovered how the latest technological developments found in China could offer ample solutions to the world's development issues, especially those in the Global South, such as agriculture, health, and

climate change. Seeing the vision of the organizers, panellists, and participants who are putting the SDGs at the core of their business rather than as a public relations tool provides hope for our collective future.

Beyond Expo also hosted a virtual panel featuring some UN organizations, entitled "How would the UN leverage technologies for SDGs: Conversations among technology leaders in the UN system". It included key senior staff from the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, UNDP, and UNOPS. They discussed how their respective organizations are using technologies to accelerate the SDGs, and how the UN can

deliver as one, harnessing big data and innovation.

## To 2030 and Beyond

Beyond Expo has shown us its potential as a platform where impact investors, companies, government, academia, and the UN can get together to discuss how to co-create a more sustainable future through technology and innovation. It is also a prime example of how emerging generations of entrepreneurs, technologists, and investors realize that sustainability is not just good for humanity but good for business.

The UN in China calls for action from all stakeholders, including governments, individuals, and businesses, and will stand ready to support future collaborations and new partnerships to generate solutions and explore innovations for the SDGs, towards the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

## Siddharth Chatterjee

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee took office as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China on 16 January 2021 and is the designated representative of - and reports to - the UN Secretary-General.

Mr. Chatterjee has more than 25 years of experience in international cooperation, sustainable development, humanitarian coordination and peace and security in the United Nations and the Red Cross movement. Mr. Chatterjee holds a master's degree in public policy from Princeton University in the United States of America.

## Jingbo Huang

Dr. Jingbo Huang is the Director of the United Nations University Research Institute in Macau, a UN think tank on digital technology and SDGs. Jingbo has been serving the UN system for the past 20 years across five UN organizations. She holds a Doctor of Education degree from Columbia University and is also an alumna of Peking University, model in Latin America.

## Open letter to the Secretary General, heads of UN agencies & international donor community

## UNITED NATIONS,

We are former UN officials with decades of combined experience supporting international civil society and governments to advance the rights of women and girls.

We came together to alert the United Nations and the international community to the urgency of preventing a human catastrophe in Afghanistan. Afghan women and men must not be condemned to yet another decade of regionalism/ sectarianism/tribalism and proxy wars.

The UN needs to step up its game, offer to facilitate a platform for inclusive leadership in the country that can bring Afghans together, and work together with them to prevent reemergence of proxy wars, building a road towards international consensus for peace and security.

The international community must ensure that Afghans, especially Afghan women and girls, participate on equal terms in the making of their country, re-establishing human rights monitoring mechanisms and, as a matter of urgency, accessing and monitoring distribution of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.

As Naheed Farid, a Parliamentarian and House Chair of the Women's Committee in Afghanistan said: "Action needs to be taken to ensure that the de facto authorities in Kabul develop an inclusive and fully representative governance body that represents the diversity of Afghan society." 1

We encourage negotiations that create space for Afghan people, including women and girls, to take their destiny into their own hands. We also endorse the call for Afghan women's centrality in decision-making on global aid made by Margot Wallstrom and Susana Malcorra on November 4th in Pass-Blue.

Life for Afghans, especially Afghan women and girls, has been insecure, dangerous, and constrained for decades. Armed conflict and militarism have stalled all prospects of development and peace for Afghanistan. Women and girls have been and remain the target of violent discrimination.

The 2020 Human Development Index for Afghanistan indicates that gender inequalities in health, education and control over economic resources remains high, ranking Afghanistan 157th among 162 countries in the gender inequality index 2.

The seizure of state power by the Taliban, the partial collapse of state services

compounded by the recent measures to limit education for girls and remove women from the workforce, the increased retreat of women into their homes portends serious deterioration of women's rights in Afghanistan and further widening of gender inequality in the country.

While Taliban are working to transform themselves from a radical movement into a legitimate state structure and try to govern the country, ethnic, communal and regional factions are starting to vie for power.

For example, on October 8th, the Islamic State Khorasan bombing in a Shiite Mosque in Kunduz province killed close to 70 people and injured 140 worshippers from a Hazara community 3. This was the second attack on a Shiite Mosque in one week. Earlier, the same group attacked a military hospital in Kabul, killing 20 people and injuring 16 4.

Testing the limits of Taliban governance, food and water shortages plague isolated communities and urban centers alike. A thirty year-drought, widespread displacement, lack of jobs and scarce cash have spun the economy into free fall as another brutal winter sets in. No information is available on the real costs of the Covid-19 pandemic. Recognizing Afghanistan's rapidly deteriorating conditions, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, noted that the international community is in a "race against time" to prevent an impending humanitarian catastrophe.

Conditionality imposed by the international community for releasing aid may have already deepened the scale of human suffering. In addition, delivery of aid seems to be becoming an important issue. Despite the promises of Taliban to allow humanitarian agencies to operate, USAID reports that at least two-thirds of aid organizations in Afghanistan have faced severe bottlenecks in aid delivery since the fall of Kabul.

Access to aid by those who need it most may be the first casualty of a collapsing state. Food and supplies trickling into the country have been diverted to the black market by local power brokers. Almost no information is available on household distribution of aid or the amount and quality of aid reaching the Afghan people.

This situation leaves women and girls increasingly vulnerable to abuse and violence. As in many humanitarian emergencies, civil society monitors report that food aid is appropriated to exchange for sexual favors or child "marriages," as desperate families bargain for survival. Single mothers are not recognized as heads-of-household



Afghan women leaders and human rights defenders speak to the press outside of the UN Security Council chambers on 21 October 2021. Pictured from left to right: Asila Wardak, Fawzia Koofi (speaking), Anisa Shaheed and Naheed Farid. Credit: UN Women/ Amanda Voisard

by local authorities and therefore are likely to face barriers in accessing humanitarian assistance.

Exhaustive global research over decades has documented that aid delivered to women by women most effectively reduces "leakage," ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable groups. Afghan women are best placed to ensure that food and other humanitarian assistance reach children, the disabled and elderly, and especially female-headed households.

However, in addition to restrictions on women's access to education and employment, the backsliding and regression on women's and girls' right can most strikingly be observed in their participation in decision-making mechanisms.

The Taliban's formation of an all-male interim administration have eliminated women's hard-won if still limited leadership roles in the executive and judiciary at all levels of government. Women's equal participation in political and public life is not only a prerequisite for realizing a life free of violence and discrimination, but also for increasing the quality of development and aid and ensuring equal access to the benefits of aid.

We recognize that efforts of the last twenty years resulted in limited advances for most Afghan women and girls. The bulk of resources in the country went to

the military investment and much aid was siphoned off by excessive corruption. Yet good progress was made in opening up educational opportunities for girls and livelihood options for women.

Even more lasting is the dynamic network of women's civil society organizations, sports, scientific, media and cultural groups that were built over the past twenty years. Resilient women and girls have fought against biases, even faced down stone-throwing crowds, to build their bicycle racing teams, their robotics organizations and women's radio stations.

They run shelters for women expelled from their homes and promote females' participation at all levels of government. Now, a generation of women and girls that entered public life as teachers, lawyers, journalists and politicians are feeling at a loss and in danger; they are afraid of losing the future.

We cannot be silent as this progress is walked back. Women's and girls' futures must not become casualties of the withdrawal of US and NATO forces from Afghanistan. The safety of hundreds of women's human rights defenders, judges, politicians, physicians, professors, journalists and artists who are still in Afghanistan must be prioritized and they must be at the table in aid and political negotiations, putting aid

distribution systems in place, monitoring delivery and building inclusive governance systems.

Humanitarian aid to stabilize the population will only be effective if women civil society leaders are positioned to monitor secure and timely distribution, and the inclusion of women must be top priority of aid and governance negotiations with the Taliban. The United Nations and the international donor community are morally obligated to ensure Afghan women's access to humanitarian assistance, and time is running out.

## Signed:

Rebecca Reichmann Tavares, Roberta Clarke, Meryem Aslan, Moni Pizani Orsini, Madhu Bala Nath, Joanne Sandler, Roshmi Goswami, Socorro Reyes, Anne Stenhammer, Yamini Mishra, Lucia Salamea-Palacios, Roxanna Carillo, Susana Fried, Dina Deligiorgis, Bharati Silawal-Giri, Amarsanaa Darisuren, Sushma Kapoor, Chandni Joshi, Suneeta Dhar, Stephanie Urdang, Aster Zaoude, Achola Pala, Celia Aguilar Setien, Anne Marie Goetz, Elizabeth Cox, Nalini Burn, Ana Falu, Ilana Landsberg Lewis, Branca Moreira Alves, Memory Zonde-Kachambwa, Sangeeta Rana Thapa, Shawna Wakefield, Flora Macula, Guadalupe Espinosa, Ooyuna Oidov, Jean da Cunha



# Students' body in new drive to fight against sexual abuses in universities

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

AS part of efforts to fight against sexual harassment among students in higher learning institutions, the Muhimbili Institute of Allied Health Sciences Students Organisation (MUIAHSSO) has prepared posters that educate newly enrolled students on the importance of reporting such incidences.

"We thought of coming up with an advert which is posted on students' social networks, we also put posters on notice boards directing them to report whenever they come across sexual harassment," said Joseph Madinda, Minister for Gender and Students Welfare - MUIAHSSO.

According to Madinda, the biggest challenge that some girl-students

face is financial constraints which has resulted in some of them falling into sexual harassment. He said some do not have relatives in Dar es Salaam, thus it becomes easily for them to be convinced by people pretending to be good Samaritans to help with accommodation while waiting for registration.

"We aim at ending sexual harassment at our campus; we educate students about the various types of violence. We do all we can to protect them, especially Diploma students because they do not get loans from the Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) and are coming from poor families," said Madinda.

He said they are organizing a special event dubbed 'Revolvement' which will take place on

December 18, 2021 at the college compound with the aim of raising money from donors.

The funds, he said, will then be used to support girl-students from vulnerable families to ensure no one fails to complete her studies over lack of money.

He said the fund raising event will go together with a charity lunch where a number of invited leaders will attend. They are from private companies including NMB, Vodacom and others.

Madinda said the money to be raised will help Diploma students undertaking laboratory, pharmacist, radiology, nursing midwives courses, environmental health and dental laboratory courses.

Tanzania Media Women

Association (TAMWA) Executive Director, Dr Rose Reuben said they have been fighting against gender-based violence (GBV) amongst communities, families, schools and colleges whereas sexual harassment is an area that they have been working on often.

She said TAMWA has been conducting research and campaigns in collaboration with journalists, discovering that the problem of sexual corruption and harassment is still rampant.

"We emphasize on students not be silent about sexual violence, they should break the silence and talk about it," said Dr Reuben.

"History tells us that TAMWA has been actively fighting sexual harassment and successfully tracked down incidents of GBV

including sexual corruption and sexual harassment at universities and identified one of the incidents that occurred in year 1992 which involved a student at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) identified as Levina Mukandala who committed suicide after being subjected to GBV," she said.

On November 7th, 2021, Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako when speaking at the launch of the mental health day held at the University of Dar es Salaam, urged female students in colleges to report the matter to responsible departments and units so that disciplinary action can be taken against the perpetrators.

"The government is deeply saddened to see and read in the

media reports about our girls in educational institutions being abused by acts of sexual corruption, I urge our daughters not to hesitate to report such incidences so that we can take disciplinary action against the perpetrators and protect our daughters from being abused," stressed the minister.

On November 25, 2019, the Chief Resident Magistrate of Kisumu Court, Dar es Salaam, Huruma Shaidi sentenced Assistant Lecturer of the National Institute of Transport (NIT), Samson Mahimbo (69) to a three years imprisonment or pay a fine of 5m/- after he was found guilty of using his powers to force a student - Victoria Faustine to sexual corruption so that she can pass her re-examination in the road and transport management course.

# NBC comes up with tractors and loans for farmers

By Guardian Reporter

AS a measure to spur development in the agricultural sector, the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has signed an agreement with ETC Agro Tractors and Implements Ltd, distributors of farming equipment, aimed at loaning tractors and other machinery to farmers.

Speaking at a brief signing event in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, NBC director of business banking Elvis Ndunguru said the agreement aims to increase profits of small, middle and large scale farmers.

Ndunguru said in recognition of the fact that

the agricultural sector contributes 30 per cent to the national income and employs 70 per cent of all Tanzanians, the NBC to advance the loans to farmers.

"In the circumstances, the agreement aims to assist farmers to increase tractors and other farming equipment that will transform their farming activities," he said, and added that the loans will start being provided in January 2022.

"Our expectations are that they will be low interest loans with soft conditions

"For example, there won't be any other collaterals, as the only collateral will be the tractor itself or

other equipment, but the farmer will have to contribute at least 25 per cent of the equipment's cost," he said.

He added that NBC will look into the flow of the farmer's crop sales whether he can repay the loan or not.

"Importantly, loan's repayment will also depend of the relative farming calendar, therefore if a farmer engages in maize cultivation, a seasonal crop, the repayment will be during the harvest period.

"In the period when the farmer has no harvests, probably preparing his farms, he will not be required to make loan repayment, we are doing



NBC director of commerce, Elvis Ndunguru (3rd R) with ETC Agro Tractors & Implements Ltd manager Praveen Chandra (2nd R) show the agreement signed in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday this week on the programme to loan tractors and various other farming equipment to farmers. Right is the firm's administrative manager, Mussa Daudi, and left are NBC officials who witnessed the signing event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

that deliberately to enable farmers to repay their loans without being faced with any other challenges," Ndunguru added.

He added that farmers can get the loans at any NBC branches countrywide.

Speaking on the agreement on behalf of the manager of ETC

Agro Tractors & Implements Ltd, Praveen Chandra, the firm's administrative manager Mussa Daudi said farmers who receive loans are those with the ability to cultivate 15 hectares crops onwards.

He said the basic issue is to make verifications to be certain the loan applicant was a true

farmer. He added that the tractors and other farming equipment will be loans to farmers in every region through the firm's team of 40 experts assigned in various regions.

The firm, among others also loans tractors to farmers through special programmes via mobile phones, as well as providing

training to farmers before providing them with loans.

"In many occasions we have been providing free three-day training sessions before giving them loans," he said and added that the firm's tractors have the capacity to cultivate more than 50 hectares without experiencing any mishaps.

# PACJA, Germanwatch launch project to support energy access in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the Germanwatch have jointly launched a project in Egypt meant to strengthen the role of civil society groups in the promotion and implementation of sustainable energy transition initiatives as well as renewable energy.

The ensuring a people-centered energy transition in Africa through civil society engagement project has been informed by the fact that the global energy poverty is now concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

"Lack of energy access, particularly in rural Africa has prevented our women from leading more productive lives. Instead, it has expanded inequality gaps, and increasing a wide range of social injustices," said Augustine Njdamnsi, chair of technical and political committee, PACJA.

Njdamnsi said the acute energy poverty affects many developments and environmental outcomes is lowering the region's chance of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

For example, added Njdamnsi, the lack of access to energy is affecting the continent's services in health, household income, quality of life, ac-



Egyptian platform

cess to modern services such as ICTs, as well as human capital development, productive land and forest use.

Currently, around one in two citizens of sub-Saharan African countries, roughly 75 per cent of the global total, have no electricity. And a staggering 80 per cent of the population (about 800 million people) lacks access to modern energy, and rely

on biomass products such as wood, charcoal, and dung to cook.

According to the experts meeting in Egypt, access to clean, sustainable and modern energy services is needed to meet basic human needs and for economic and social development across Africa. Increased access to energy, 'can unlock sustainable economic growth, improve human health

and well-being and enable women and children to lead more productive lives.

However, the inequality gaps across Africa is on the rise as women and girls spend more hours searching for wood fuel far from their homes and thus easily become victims of physical and sexual abuse.

According to Mithika Mwenda, the executive

director, PACJA, the project will equip CSOs with skills, knowledge and tools to engage in renewable energy policy development and strengthen their voice at the domestic, continental and global levels. The project will also ensure that CSO engagement is more coordinated, through the strengthening of the Africa Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access

(ACSEA). On the positive note however, there is rising political will to have the situation reversed. Of the 53 submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), all but one mention renewable energy contributions. Many of these contain rural development and pro-poor renewable energy contributions, such as

the electrification of rural areas.

The expansion of the Renewable Energy initiatives however, present risks. Nfongwa noted that the many REIs in Africa lack coordination and transparency; often exclude important stakeholders, particularly of the civil society; and are poorly governed.

"This leaves room for unnecessary redundant

efforts, program and project duplications; a narrow focus on certain RE solutions and countries; and the absence of independent means of monitoring and tracking their performance. In turn, these shortcomings undermine the effectiveness of RE initiatives in delivering transformative and sustainable energy access, especially for the poor," he said.

To address this problem, the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and Germanwatch are implementing a project (Ensuring a People-Centered Energy Transition in Africa Through Civil Society Engagement) to strengthen the role of civil society in the promotion and implementation of sustainable energy transition initiatives as well as renewable energy related NDC commitments in Africa five (5) countries.

The project will equip CSOs with skills, knowledge and tools to engage in renewable energy policy development and strengthen their voice at the domestic, continental and global levels. The project will also ensure that CSO engagement is more coordinated, through the strengthening of the Africa Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access (ACSEA).



# The age of discontent: What drives the rising wave of world protests?

## NEW YORK

In recent years, the world has been shaken by protests. From the Arab Spring to the social uprisings in Chile and Latin America, the world has seen a dramatic rise in protests. In a polarized world, the COVID-19 pandemic has only accentuated feelings of outrage and discontent.

New research brings evidence of this by analyzing nearly three thousand protests since the beginning of the 21st century, in over a hundred countries covering more than 93 percent of the world population.

Beginning in 2006, there was a steady rise in overall protests each year up to 2020. As the global financial crisis began to unfold in 2007-08, demonstrations increased, and further intensified after 2010 with the worldwide adoption of austerity cuts.

Frustration grew over the lack of decent jobs, inadequate social protection and public services, unfair taxation and a perceived lack of real democracy and accountability of decision makers to the people.

This led to a new and more political wave of protests in 2016, often becoming "omnibus protests" (protests addressing multiple issues) against the political and economic status quo. Polls worldwide reflect dissatisfaction with democracies and lack of trust in governments.



Anti-racism protesters in Brooklyn, New York, demanding justice for the killing of African American, George Floyd, May 2021. Credit: UN News/Shirin Yaseen

Increasingly, demonstrations are not only the purview of activists and trade unionists, but have become an outlet for the middle classes, women, youths, pensioners, indigenous and racial groups. These citizens do not consider themselves activists and yet they protest because they feel disenfranchised by official processes and political parties.

Decades of neoliberal policies have generated huge inequalities and eroded the incomes and the welfare of both the lower and middle classes, fueling feelings of injustice, disappointment with malfunctioning democracies, and frustration with failures of economic and social development.

Whilst the media often portrays protests as sporadic, disorganized

riots, most of the world protests studied were planned, with clearly articulated demands. The main cause of discontent (in 1503 protests) relates to the failure of democracies and political systems, lack of real democracy, accountability and justice; corruption; as well as the perceived power of a deep government or oligarchy, sovereignty and patriotic issues; and

protests against wars, the surveillance of citizens, and anti-socialism/communism.

A second cause relates to economic justice, expressing grievance and outrage against unequal austerity cuts and policy reforms (1,848 protests), demanding improved jobs, wages and labor conditions, better public services and housing, agrarian and tax justice;

and against corporate influence, deregulation, privatization, inequality and low living standards; as well as against pension reforms, high energy and food prices.

The third main cause of protests is the demand for civil rights (1,360 protests) on indigenous and racial rights; women's rights; labor rights; LGBT and sexual rights; right to the commons (digital, cultural, atmospheric); immigrants' rights; freedom of assembly, speech, and press; prisoners' rights and religious issues.

A last cluster of protests encompasses demands for global Justice (897 protests) on issues such as environmental and climate justice; against the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the European Union/European Central Bank; against imperialism (United States, China); against free trade or the G20 - demanding a better and more equitable world order.

Not only has the number of protests increased, but also the number of protestors. Crowd estimates suggest that at least 52 events had one million or more protestors.

The period 2006-2020 has evinced some of the largest protests in world history; the largest recorded was the 2020 strike in India against the government's plan to liberalize farming and labor, estimated to have involved 250 million protestors.

The second decade of the 21st century has also seen a global rise of the

far right, attracting dissatisfied citizens to a radical right "counterrevolution" that typically includes an assault on the tenets of liberal democracy by authoritarian leaders.

Falling into this category were the QAnon protests in 2020 in the United States and globally; opposition to Muslims, migrants, and refugees in Europe; and the protests against the Workers Party in Brazil in 2013 and 2015.

While the rhetoric is anti-elite, far right politics does not seek significant structural power change, rather directing the popular fire and fury against minorities, denying rights to migrants, blacks, gays or Muslims, who are depicted as a threat to the jobs, security and values of the majority.

Other rallying cries include calls for personal freedoms (to carry a gun, not to wear a mask, not to be quarantined), nationalism, and the promotion of traditional values. To counter radical right authoritarianism, societies must fight misinformation and expose the contradictions of far right politics.

Nonetheless, the overwhelming majority of protests have made progressive demands for real democracy, civil rights, economic and global justice. Peaceful protests are a fundamental aspect of a vibrant democracy. Historically, protests have been a means to achieve fundamental rights at the national and international level.

While new research shows that global political instability is increasing, there are solutions. Governments need to listen to the grievances coming from protestors and act upon them. The demands of people around the world have much in common and ask for no more than established Human Rights and internationally agreed UN development goals.

*Walden Bello is Adjunct Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Binghamton and co-chair of the Bangkok-based progressive institute, Focus on the Global South.*

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 182 00--

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

3 letters	LOP, KEY, ADE
4 letters	LOUT, DOOM, OOPS, MAID, STOP
5 letters	EYES, KAKA, HARE, GRADE, FLOOD, OPRAH, DREAD, OTAKU
6 letters	STRIPE, YIELDS, SPRINT, INDIAN, EDITOR
7 letters	TUESDAY, ENDURED, EMIRATE, ENAMOUR
8 letters	ALLOTTED
9 letters	TUG OF LOVE

1		2	3	4				5
6								
7								
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25								
26								
27								
28								

**CLUES: Across**

- recent times
- used to express good wishes in meeting
- Qatar's Capital
- famous for majorelle Garden
- manage a living with difficulty lacking interest
- the longest continental mountain range in the World
- letters and parcels sent by post in addition
- stiff blistle growing from the ear of barley or rye
- Ioanian
- length of a time a person existed
- confess openly
- pass 26. argon (symbol)
- mouse 28.a diazo copying

**Down:**

- largest Port in Kenya
- defied
- bring or recall to the conscious mind
- a small space setback in a wall
- monetary unit of Tanzania
- Tanzania's Capital
- to or at a distance
- process digestive products
- urge / goad into doing something ahead
- hereditary classes of Hindu society
- escape, avoid
- give money due for work

**WORD-FIT**

M	O	U	N	T	A	L	I	N	S
D	R	O	U	G	H	T	A		
L	A	I	C	I	Z	E	E		
E	A	N	E	N	E	T			
A	S	S	A	L	H	A	I		
M	U	O							
U	R	E	S	T	R	I	C	T	
S	E	E	U	O					
E			C	E	N	T	R	A	L

**CROSSWORD**

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

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

## JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	





Thursday 16 December 2021

## Covid-19 slashes EADB profit by 27pc last year

By The Banker Reporter

**P**ERFORMANCE of East Africa Development Bank was affected by the novel coronavirus outbreak last year with profit falling by 27 percent to US\$6.37 million.

EADB Board of Directors Chairperson, Keith Muhakanizi and Director General, Vivienne Yeda said the bank's annual report for 2020 that the regional bank had continued to perform better since 2019 except for the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Muhakanizi said during the year, the Kampala based bank continued to pursue its mission to promote sustainable social economic development in East Africa by providing development finance, advisory and support services.

"Despite challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact of measures taken to contain it, EADB implemented activities to consolidate performance under its Strategic Plan (2016/20)," Muhakanizi said.

He mentioned the activities as: Increased its share capital and reserves from US\$266 million to US\$279 million on account of additional share capital from

the United Republic of Tanzania and profitability for the year; Signed a line of credit for US\$20 million from the OPEC Fund for International Development; and Financed selected projects of strategic interest to the member states, including but not limited to promotion of import-substitution, intra-regional exports, agricultural development and Small and Medium Enterprises.

Backing her Board Chair, EADB's chief executive, Yeda said the bank maintained close relationship with customers to understand their challenges and provide needed support which included moratorium in loan repayment where underlying projects were negatively impacted.

"The bank's technology facilitated remote working and ensured that service delivery was not significantly impacted. As a result, the bank managed to reschedule loans totalling above US\$40 million, which was slightly above a quarter of the whole loan portfolio," Yeda said.

She pointed out that most of the customers subsequently did very well following the flexibility provided to keep liquidity that was required to support business instead of repaying the loans.

"Over the period 2016-2020, the bank's liquidity coverage ratio, which is a measure of its liquid assets relative to its liabilities, improved from 2.2 times in 2016 to 5.7 times by the end of 2020. The Non Performing Loan (NPL) ratio, a key aspect of the balance sheet, improved from 6.9 percent in 2016 to 5.9 percent by the end of 2020 as the bank continued to pursue a prudent lending approach," she added.

The EADB chief executive further noted that outstanding portfolio size as at 31 December 2020 was US\$134.22 million compared to US\$153.25 million as at 31 December 2019. "The drop in the gross portfolio was mainly due to slowdown in net lending following disruption of economic and business activities by the coronavirus pandemic," Yeda noted.

She stated that during the period under review, the EADB continued its corporate social responsibility policy. Through its collaboration with Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), EADB conducted training on Social Performance Management (SPM) & Client Protection Principles (CPP) for management and staff of Sidian Bank Kenya, a partner financial institution.



EADB's director general, Vivienne Yeda.

## Global cryptocurrency regulation should be comprehensive and co-ordinated, IMF says

WASHINGTON

There is an urgent need for cross-border collaboration and co-operation to address the technological, legal, regulatory and supervisory challenges associated with the adoption of cryptocurrencies, according to the International Monetary Fund.

"Setting up a comprehensive, consistent and co-ordinated regulatory approach to crypto is a daunting task. But if we start now, we can achieve the policy goal of maintaining financial stability while benefiting from the benefits that the underlying technological innovations bring," senior officials at the Washington-based lender said in a note on Thursday.

The fund's commentary is by Tobias Adrian, director of the IMF's monetary and capital markets department, Dong He, the deputy director of the monetary and capital markets department, and Aditya Narain, a deputy director in the IMF's monetary and capital markets department.

The industry's cross-sector and cross-border remit limits the effectiveness of national approaches, the IMF said. Many cryptocurrency service providers operate across borders, making the task for supervision and enforcement more difficult, the lender added.

Interest in cryptocurrencies and blockchain is surging as investors and people flock to digital assets and online payments gain pace. A growing number of institutional investors and wealth managers plan to increase their exposure to cryptocurrency assets between now and 2023, according to a survey by Nickel Digital Asset Management, based in London.

"Determining valuation is not the only challenge in the cryptocurrency ecosystem: identification, monitoring and management of risks defy regulators and firms," the IMF officials said in their commentary.

Some of these risks include operational and financial integrity risks from cryptocurrency asset exchanges and wallets, investor protection and inadequate reserves and inaccurate disclosure for some stablecoins, they said.

The advent of cryptocurrency can accelerate "cryptoisation" in emerging markets and developing economies - when so called digital assets replace domestic currency and circumvent exchange restrictions and capital account management measures, they said.

The risks underscore the need for "comprehensive international standards that more fully address risks to the financial system from crypto assets, their associated ecosystem and their related transactions, while allowing for an enabling environment for useful crypto asset products and applications," the IMF officials said.

## TTCL takes 4G network to VP's backyard in Kigoma

By The Banker Reporter

A fourth generation communication tower has been installed in Buhigwe district of Kigoma region at a cost of over 326.8m/- financed jointly by Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited and Universal Communication Services Access Fund.

TTCL Managing Director, Waziri Kindamba and UCSAF's CEO, Justina Mashiba told Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango this week that the 4G tower will offer all types of communication including voice, data and T-Pesa.

"This 4G communication tower will completely change the dynamics of this district economically as many opportunities will be unveiled to the public," Kindamba said while revealing that TTCL paid over 208.6m/- of the total bill.

He said the tower which will



TTCL managing director, Waziri Kindamba speaks at a past event held in Dar es Salaam.

also provide high speed internet connection will enable members of the public communicate easily hence speeding up development in the area. "We expect to see many young people join the net-

work of TTCL agents that will serve the public with recharge vouchers, mobile money and internet connection," he noted.

UCSAF's chief executive, Mashiba

backed Kindamba's observation saying the facility is a game changer as Buhigwe's rural communities can now access efficient and reliable communication services.

"The Fund's objective is to ensure that people living in the periphery of the country such as remote rural areas have access to reliable communication services," she said while assuring Dr Mpango that UCSAF will continue investing heavily in rural communication infrastructure.

Speaking after unveiling the 4G tower, Dr Mpango said that the government will continue focusing on investment in remote parts of the country where private mobile communications companies have evaded due to low returns.

He said the 4G tower is part of the 6th Phase Govern-

ment's commitment to ensure affordable communications is available in all parts of the country and especially in rural areas. "Reliable communication network allows the public to easily conduct their businesses and contribute to development of the country," Dr Mpango noted.

Welcoming the VP, Information Communication and Technology Minister, Dr Ashatu Kijaji commended TTCL and UCSAF's partnership for successfully executing the project on time. "This 4G communication tower will improve services in Buhigwe district and contribute towards rapid development," Dr Kijaji said adding that before the end of the current fiscal year, the national broadband optic fibre will be connected to Buhigwe and other districts in Kigoma region.

## Bitcoin lingers near lows as central banks ready stimulus cuts

NEW YORK

While Bitcoin lingers near recent lows after tumbling from its November all-time high, many crypto investors see an overarching theme that could be behind some of the recent volatility: prospects of reduced central-bank stimulus.

Government and central-bank stimulus efforts that have been underway for more than a year are starting to get wound down as economies globally attempt to emerge from the pandemic. Digital assets have come under pressure in that environment, with Bitcoin losing roughly a third of its value over the past month, a period that coincides with the Federal

Reserve's announcement that it might speed up its stimulus-withdrawal efforts.

Bitcoin is down almost 30% from its record high of near \$69,000 reached about a month ago, while Ether, the second-largest digital asset, has shed about 20%. Smaller coins have been hard-hit too, with Litecoin losing more than 40% in that stretch, according to Bloomberg data. Meanwhile, an index of the 100 largest digital coins has lost a quarter of its value since mid-November.

"Investors will be more discriminating if they think that they're on their own and don't have the backing of the central bank," Brian Nick, chief investment strategist at

Nuveen, said by phone. "You have seen a rotation into higher-quality assets but also assets that are more tied into the parts of the economy we have a sense are working pretty well or where there is a lot of demand, and away from pure speculation."

The Fed will on Wednesday wrap up its final meeting of 2021, where it's expected to accelerate its tapering of asset purchases - an action that would allow officials to begin lifting rates next year. Though Bitcoin got off to a rough start on Monday, losing as much as 8.4% at one point, prices stabilised Tuesday, with the coin little changed at around \$46,885 as of 12:08 p.m. in New York.

The Bloomberg Galaxy Crypto Index, which tracks a handful of the largest digital currencies, rose 2.4% at the same time. Dogecoin, popularised this year by Tesla Inc.'s Elon Musk, rose roughly 20%, according to data from Messari, after the car-maker said it will accept payment in the meme-currency for some merchandise.

To be sure, narratives for investing in Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies tend to shift around because the coin is hard to value fundamentally. Some investors see a tight correlation with riskier assets. Others argue the coin makes for a good inflation hedge, while a whole different cohort says history proves that point moot.



Bitcoin's recent performance.



# EAC chief says MSMEs plays critical role in regional economies

By Correspondent Victor Karega, Mwanza

**M**ICRO industrial parks with shared equipment and resources can nurture the next generation of manufacturers.

East African Community Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki said in Mwanza last week when opening the 21st Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) trade fair that such businesses play a crucial role in the economic development of East African countries.

Dr Mathuki pointed out that MSMEs account for 90 percent of businesses and 80 percent of jobs in the region, especially among youth and women.

"As a community, we have the responsibility of enabling MSMEs growth to ensure long term sustainability and recovery of economies in the region," he noted while noting that EAC member states still have a crucial role in empowering MSMEs growth to ensure long term sustainability and recovery.

He official informed the exhibitors that the theme for this year recognises the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on trade and places greater emphasises on quality and innovation as critical paths

to enhance competitiveness.

Dr. Mathuki commended efforts of MSMEs for their resilience in adopting new business models to enable business continuity during the post Covid-19 era. He called for the member states to equally encourage research and development as requisites for innovation and growth.

"Malaysia's national commercialisation platform, PlatCOM Ventures, is a good example in helping entrepreneurs turn their ideas into successful products and services. The development of micro-industrial parks with shared equipment and resources could incubate the next generation of manufacturers," the EAC Secretary General added.

He however, challenged EAC countries to provide all necessary support to ensure that MSMEs are export-ready and ready to compete with more prominent players and offer alternatives to imported goods.

According to him, lenders and financial institutions have already driven a significant number of initiatives in East Africa to support MSMEs, including the suspension of loan repayments, fee waivers, relief loans, and expedited loan approvals in an effort to support post-Covid-19 economic recovery.

"I am confident that through collective

and collaborative Covid-19 economic recovery efforts at national and regional levels, we will be able to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels of MSMEs business output," Dr Mathuki noted.

Speaking at the same event, Minister for Industry and Trade, Professor Kitila Mkumbo said that the main objective of the EAC MSMEs Trade Fair was to provide a platform for enhancing marketing linkages for the group's products and services within the region.

Prof Mkumbo said that the fair was also geared at enabling the MSMEs access the existing regional market with a population of over 150 million people.

He reaffirmed the six member states' commitment to the EAC regional integration initiatives, such as the ongoing exhibition, adding that the key component for the integration agenda was doing business together as the community.

"As EAC partner states, we have agreed to address challenges impacting the growth and development of MSMEs and industries in the region by developing policies that will facilitate cross-border business," he said while further noting that some partner states are now establishing mechanisms to facilitate access to affordable capital by the group.



EAC secretary general, Dr Peter Mathuki.

# Minister Mhagama commends Kyoo Ltd management for bold safety measures

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INVESTMENT into the safety and security of employees at Kioo Limited in Dar es Salaam has impressed Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy and Parliament Affairs), Jenister Mhagama who called on other employers to emulate.

Mhagama who toured Kioo Limited's main factory in Dar es Salaam last week as part of activities to commemorate the country's 60th anniversary of independence said the company's management has invested in systems that guarantee safety at work place.

She said as the country marks 60 years of independence, it is important that Tanzanian workers are well protected while at work as required by regulations. "The report that was presented and what I have seen around the factory all align well with the government's regulations and for that, I congratulate you," Mhagama said.

She added that Kioo Limited's management has performed well in improving workers' benefits while the factory also pays huge amount of taxes to Treasury which helps government finance development projects.

Speaking at the same event, Occupation Safety and Health Authority (OSHA)'s CEO, Khadija Mwenda who accompanied Mhagama, also commended the Kioo Limited's management for the big investment made to improve safety and security of the factory premises that guarantee safety and health of employees.



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (policy and parliament affairs), Jenister Mhagama (back to camera) talking to Kioo Limited's management when she visited the factory in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

"I urge other industries to come and learn from Kioo Limited on how to put systems that guarantee safety and health at their workplaces to ensure that their employees are not at risk while undertaking their routine duties," Mwenda said.

Briefing Minister Mhagama on Kioo Limited's investment in occupation health and safety, the company's Human Resource Manager, Jacob Msuya said they have been able to comply with the law because of OSHA's good guid-

ance.

"Our management has been doing everything that it can to ensure that all employees remain safe when executing their daily duties by investing in modern facilities around the factory premises," Msuya said.

He said Kioo Limited is a proud Tanzanian and East African glass manufacturer whose range of products sell widely both locally and in the Southern Africa region.

"Kioo is one of the largest manufac-

turers of container glass for soft drinks, beverage, beer, alcohol and food in East and Central Africa. Kioo's facility is modern and most technically capable plant in the entire region which offers best quality, light weight and reduces production costs to its customers," he added noting that the factory employs over 600 people directly. Currently, the plant has a capacity to produce about 400 tons of glass per day of which almost 60 percent is exported while the remainder sells locally.

# Absa Botswana rolls out new Fintech solution to extend market reach

GABORONE

Absa Bank Botswana has announced the roll out of a new digital wallet offering, dubbed 'Spark by Absa', targeted at banked and unbanked citizens, as well as businesses that are digitally transforming. The solution is offered through two channels - the Spark by Absa Banking App and USSD for transactions.

USSD transactions includes money transfer, bill payments, pay via QR Code, wallet on POS payments, sending money request to another digital wallet user, bank to wallet, wallet to bank, ATM cash out and card to wallet transactions.

Valeta Mthimkhulu, Retail Director at Absa Bank Botswana, said formal and informal businesses can use the solution's QR payment codes to facilitate contactless Instant payments between individual wallet customers and businesses.

She believes the solution will support many of the traditional cash-focused businesses such as transport, car wash, local grocers, street food vendors etc. with their digital inclusion journey. Spark by Absa creates an ecosystem in which a variety of customers are able to interconnect and carry out financial transactions on the same platform, Mthimkhulu added.

"We are always looking for ways to extend financial services to Batswana and also recognise that technology plays an integral role in driving financial inclusion," she said. According to Mthimkhulu Absa remains focused on the unbanked population across different geographical markets and this latest solutions is designed to facilitate transactions for both Absa and non-Absa customers.

BANKING & FINANCE

# Financial inclusion on the agenda as Mukuru Card customers to make online purchases

JOHANNESBURG

Mukuru, one of the largest remittance companies in Africa and a leading next generation financial services platform, has announced that its Mukuru Card has been activated for online purchases in South Africa, allowing holders of the card to take part in the eCommerce revolution even if they don't hold traditional bank accounts.

Mukuru CEO Andy Jury says one of the promises of fintech is financial inclusion, and so making the Mukuru Card available for online purchases made sense. "The pandemic has seen a big shift towards online payments at a range of retailers and service providers. As part of our belief in enabling Africans to take control of their finances digitally, providing access to over wide range of retailers and service providers as diverse as Takealot.com, Mr Price, Dischem, Uber and Afrihost, among many others, opens more doors," he says.

In May 2021, a World Wide Worx report found that online retail in South Africa grew 66% in 2020, valuing the sector then at more than R30bn. Mukuru customers now have access to this shifting retail environment simply by adding their Mukuru Card as one would add a debit card for online payments. "People must be empowered to take control of their own destiny," says Jury.

"This is not idealistic, but rather a sound philosophy, and certainly from Mukuru's perspective, it influences business decisions in how we build a customer base that has access to a broader suite of financial services making use of our tools as links in a broader value chain. Enabling our customers to take part in online purchases is another way we aim to achieve this goal," he says.

Jury adds that Fintech is vital to financial inclusion, but that the end goal should look beyond the technology itself. "The long-term goal should

lie in providing an ecosystem that empowers users on a progressive journey to financial inclusion. It is incremental, and each step needs to be accompanied by consumer education and upskilling, as the interventions become more financially sophisticated."

The global pandemic has shifted shopping behaviour and is largely credited with the large increase in online retail in South Africa. With the fourth wave in South Africa likely to gain steam throughout December and January on the back of the much-publicised Omicron variant, this shift to digital shopping is likely to accelerate even further.

"There is risk that as the world races full speed into the online space that large segments of the population are left behind and the digital divide widens. It's for this reason that Mukuru made it a top priority to provide access to the online commerce revolution for our customers," says Jury.



Mukuru CEO, Andy Jury.



# January is not a myth: December spending spree and Janu-worry financial hangover

By Godwin Semuny

Tanzanians love the festive season and all the dramas it brings. During this time, everyone spends money, be it on travel upcountry on holidays, shopping, drinking and partying.

Most people tend to use the jolly season as an excuse to splurge on things they wouldn't usually do, ending up spending beyond means. Overindulging in shopping, food and drinks is so often matched by overdoing our spending; thus, the first part of the year turns into a damage repair exercise of personal finances.

During the festive season, Tanzanian's social media pages go bizarre with videos and pictures of people partying from morning to morning. It is like a marathon of who parties most. We have all seen a recent video of people partying with a wheelbarrow full of liquors. Yes, a wheelbarrow.

Fast-forward, three weeks later, people will start complaining about being broke. Social media posts flips from 'party scenes' to people pleading with Headmasters and Landlords for patience. Behold, 'Njaa-nuary' has arrived!

Six weeks in a month For most workers, January seems to oddly have six weeks because many employers pay salaries in the middle of December. By the time Christmas arrives, there will likely be five more weeks before the next paycheque. Still, for parents, January means back-to-school, hence fees, uniforms, books, and stationery have to be paid for out of December's salary and for some, rents are due.

The case of touching a hot stove, again and again

One might think the sobering experience of running out of cash and being broke in previous 'Januarys' years prior, would have been a lesson for

people to better manage their finances, but all is in vain.

The festive season can be financially taxing; with all the festive sales, deals and discounts, it's easy to get off track and let your holiday spending get away from you. To become more conscious, it is crucial to develop a budget and stick to it.

List the priority areas for December, look at the critical ones for January and see how best to resolve them. Budgeting while everyone else is partying sounds basic and boring, but it is the best way forward.

Those with stable sources of income should make savings for December their annual New Year's resolution. Whether it is a 'Piggy Bank' or a particular bank account for the holiday season, try to develop a monthly deposit plan that will give you a financial cushion at the year-end. Village Community Banks (Vicoba) are another way out. Forming a savings club, like Vicoba, could be one way of

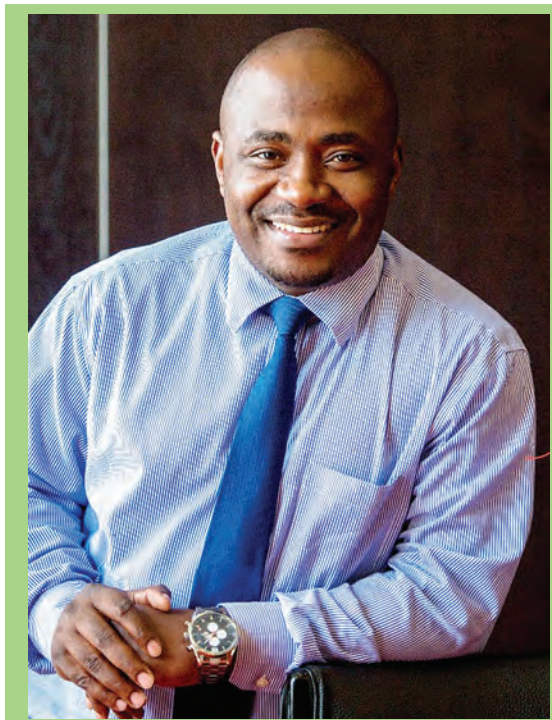
ensuring an extra income at the end of the year.

Avoid impulse buys

Impulsive purchasing or impulse buying is a spontaneous decision to buy a product or service, made just before purchasing. It could mean buying an extra pair of shoes just because they are on sale. No matter the amount, it is an unnecessary hit to your finances. To avoid these impulse buys, one needs to ask themselves if they urgently need that item at that particular moment.

Cut the excuses; you knew January was coming

We all knew that January was coming, but we got swept by the festive fever, fair enough. So, let's be sincere and cut all the excuses. Worldwide, January is regarded as a Financial Wellness Month, seeking to remind us to think critically about our financial well-being and analyze our financial health. It is the perfect time to get hold of our finances and plan for the future. January is not a myth.



**Godwin Semuny**

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## Central bankers are the biggest risk to stocks in 2022

NEW YORK

A hasty policy shift by central banks anxious to tame surging inflation is the biggest downside risk for global stocks next year, according to an informal Bloomberg News survey of fund managers.

And with the post-pandemic rebound now past its peak, this month's poll of 106 investors also shows that more market participants expect value stocks to outperform equities that soared this year on future growth expectations. While risks lurk, more than 40% of respondents singled out a more robust economic expansion as the main upside catalyst for 2022.

"We believe 2021 was a year of recovery and 2022 will be a year of resilience - investing in reshoring supply chains, digitalising businesses, innovating in health care and building a more sustainable planet," said Katie Koch, co-head of fundamental equity for Goldman Sachs Asset Management, which oversees about \$2 trillion in assets. One of the best opportunities she sees is in US small caps, as they give "exposure to the next generation of innovators and disruptors at attractive relative valuations."

The results of the poll offer a glimpse at some common industry expectations and concerns heading into 2022, following this year's ferocious rally that sent US and European benchmarks to successive historic highs. The survey was conducted by reporters who reached out to fund managers and strategists at major investment firms December 3 to 13.

The findings are in line with the latest Bank of America Corp. survey of global fund managers, which showed that hawkish central banks are seen as the biggest tail risk for the first time since May 2018, followed by inflation and Covid-19's resurgence. Investors are bracing for major policy meetings of the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and the Bank of England this week, which might provide clarity on the pace of monetary tightening and the wind down of stimulus measures.

**Here's a summary of the main findings of the Bloomberg News survey:**

### Downside risks

A majority of respondents said that surging inflation or aggressive moves by central banks to curb rising prices are the biggest dangers for next year. "One of the biggest risks would be an over-tightening of monetary conditions," said Julien Lafargue, chief market strategist at Barclays Private Bank. "While conditions have been met for emergency measures to be removed, it'll be challenging for the US and the world economy to tolerate excessive interest rate hikes, especially coming from the Fed."

Concerns over monetary tightening eclipse other risks, including a potential new flareup of the pandemic, a slowdown in China, or geopolitics. Still, this doesn't mean that they are off the radar. "Covid, unfortunately, will be around, in one form or another, for the foreseeable future," said Marcus Morris-Eyton, a portfolio manager at Allianz Global Investors, which oversees about \$730 billion in assets. "But, importantly, we are becoming better at managing both the personal and the economic consequences."

For some, the overall exuberance in the market itself is dangerous. "In reality we're in a bubble as big as any I've experienced - cynicism has disappeared," said Alasdair McKinnon, lead manager of the Scottish Investment Trust, which oversees about \$890 billion in assets. "The most extreme signs of speculation are in crypto, SPACs and the general rush to IPO businesses."

Inflation threshold

## 99pc of defaulters profit from Uhuru's CRB freeze

NAIROBI

Close to 99 percent of the 4.6 million loan accounts negatively listed with the country's credit reference bureaus (CRBs) will have their data frozen following the suspension of reporting of defaults on Sh5 million and below.

Data from the CRBs show that the CRBs can only share default data from less than 50,000 loan accounts. President Uhuru Kenyatta in September announced the moratorium on negative listing of borrowers with loans below Sh5 million with CRBs for a year, cutting credit information sharing in the banking sector.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has warned that commercial banks could restart rationing loans following the suspension of blacklisting of such defaulters. The suspension is part of the measures to cushion borrowers hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. It restricts banks from using defaulters' data to deny millions of Kenyans additional loans to grow their businesses or for projects.

"What this means is that the removal of non-performing data of less than Sh5 million will affect 99 per cent of the non-performing base," said Joseph Nyaga, the CEO TransUnion, in reference to President Kenyatta's order. TransUnion is one of Kenya's three CRBs.

Mr Nyaga said the majority of the negative listings were for loans tapped through mobile phones. A third of Kenyan loan



CBK Governor, Patrick Njoroge.

accounts are negatively listed as defaulted with the CRBs in an economy where Covid-induced job cuts and business closures have pushed thousands of people into a debt trap.

Data from the CRBs show that the accounts negatively listed stood at 4.6 million out of the 15 million accounts, reflecting a jump from 3.2 million accounts in April last year. Workers and businesses defaulted on bank loans worth Sh93 billion in the year to February following the imposition of stringent measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Data from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) shows that non-performing loans (NPLs) rose from Sh351 billion in February 2020 to Sh444 billion at the end of February this year - the sharpest one-year increase in recent history.

But this excludes defaults from unregulated digital mobile lenders, who were also barred from forwarding the names of loan defaulters to

CRBs. Industries and other businesses had cut down on their activities in response to the infectious disease, leading to job cuts and unpaid leave for retained staff as profitable firms moved into losses.

This saw workers who had tapped mortgages and unsecured loans for purchase of goods such as furniture and cars and expenses like school fees default. Unsecured loans are given on the strength of one's salary. Firms that had borrowed based on the forecast of cash flows have also been struggling to repay their bank loans.

Nearly 730,000 jobs were lost last year when Kenya imposed coronavirus-induced lockdowns that led to layoffs and pay cuts, but the country's economy is presently recovering. These are the people President Kenyatta was seeking to protect through the CRB freeze order. But the CBK reckons the move could constrict private sector lending growth.

CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge said recently that banks might shun lending to individuals and small traders at a scale last witnessed between September 2016 and November 2019 when Kenya capped interest rates. Bankers say a lack of credit reference information could contribute to soaring costs of loans and stall lending to businesses due to incomplete borrowers' information.

"The suspension could adversely impact the provision of credit by banks to the target (MSMEs) group as they will be unable to distinguish between the good and bad borrowers during the suspension period," said CBK earlier. Borrowers reported to one of Kenya's three CRBs jeopardise their chances of being able to borrow more.

The suspension is the second since Kenya reported the first case of Covid-19 last year as the State moved to protect households and businesses from being locked out of credit. The CBK ordered a six-month suspension of CRB listings in April last year as part of the measures to cushion borrowers hit by the pandemic.

The moratorium lapsed in October, allowing financial institutions to start sending names of defaulters to the CRBs. Lenders, however, offered defaulters 90 days from October 1 to start repaying their loans or get blacklisted.

The Kenya Bankers Association, the lender's lobby, says banks should be allowed access to credit information from the CRBs to forestall massive rationing akin to what was witnessed during the interest rate control regime.

BANKING & FINANCE

Despite agreement that inflation is a risk, pinpointing the level at which it becomes a danger for the equity market is trickier. For most respondents in Bloomberg's survey, the problem begins when annual growth in US consumer prices is sustained above 3%. Still, almost a fifth said that it won't derail stocks until inflation holds above 5%.

For Salvatore Bruno, head of investments for Generali Investments Partners, the breaking point is annual US inflation persistently holding above 4%. The bond market's reaction may matter more. Many strategists expect that interest rates will not keep up with increases in consumer prices, meaning inflation-adjusted, real yields on bonds will remain too low to make them a viable alternative to stocks.

"We think real rates are the crucial metric to be monitored in order to understand how markets could derail," said Bruno, whose firm oversees about \$650 billion. Pascal Blanque, chief investment officer at Amundi, Europe's biggest pure-

play asset manager with about \$2 trillion under management, agrees: "As long as central banks cap the nominal rates, and real rates remain so low, there is no alternative to equities."

Inflation on both sides of the Atlantic is running at much higher levels than what the survey's respondents said should cause alarm. While the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank looked past the readings during the post-pandemic rebound, that won't last for much longer, and they "will barely tolerate inflation above 4%-4.5% in 2022," according to Blanque.

Of course, investors are also positioning for surprises on the upside. Chief among them is an economy that proves more resilient than current consensus expectations. "There's still room for a positive growth surprise given that households in developed markets have large savings piles that can be run down more quickly, while supply shortages could ease more quickly than widely assumed," said Hussain Mehdi, macro

and investment strategist at HSBC Asset Management, which oversees about \$620 billion. "A strong labour market recovery also supports the outlook for consumption, while broad policy settings remain broadly accommodative despite a shift to normalisation."

Continuation of strong economic recovery is the basis of Goldman Sachs Asset Management's positive view on stocks. "Our belief is that we'll still have a robust growth backdrop next year," Luke Barrs, head of fundamental equity client portfolio management in EMEA for GSAM, said by phone. "And whilst we're conscious that inflation and interest rates could start to rise through the course of 2022, we don't see that negatively impeding equity markets in the grand scheme of things as long as that growth dynamic stays robust."

For 24% of the survey's respondents, inflation proving transitory would be the most consequential positive surprise, though some said it would depend on the reasons. "Falling inflation rates can

also have 'negative' reasons, i.e. a growth slowdown," said Stefan Kreuzkamp, chief investment officer at DWS, which oversees about \$990 billion.

Investment themes According to the survey's results, the time is finally ripe to look at cheaper, so-called value stocks, as 24% said those are their top pick for 2022. Respondents in Europe also flagged opportunities in small caps, while Cesar Perez Ruiz, chief investment officer at Pictet Wealth Management, which oversees about \$275 billion, said his bet is on companies with pricing power that can weather inflation across sectors.

For Nieves Benito, head of fundamental research at Santander Asset Management, which oversees about \$220 billion, "volatility is likely going to continue to be high and hence the top theme would be a market for stock pickers, where valuation disparities surge as markets might take long to anticipate improving fundamentals."



## WORLD

## UK PM Johnson faces rebellion in parliament over virus curbs

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson faces a large rebellion among his Conservative lawmakers on Tuesday in a parliamentary vote over new restrictions to try to curb the spread of the new Omicron coronavirus variant.

The measures, including ordering people to work from home, to wear masks in public places and use COVID-19 passes to enter some venues, are expected to be approved by parliament but with Johnson relying on the opposition Labour Party for votes.

It's yet another blow to a prime minister already under pressure over reported parties in his Downing Street office last year when such gatherings were banned, a pricey refurbishment of his apartment and the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Many of his lawmakers say the restric-

tions are draconian, with several questioning the introduction of vaccination certification, dubbed COVID passports, to enter some venues, such as night clubs.

Others are using the votes as an opportunity to vent their anger at Johnson, believing the man who helped the Conservatives win a large majority at a 2019 election is squandering the party's successes by self-inflicted missteps and gaffes.

But despite the grumblings of discontent, Conservative Party insiders say there is not enough of a groundswell against Johnson to dislodge him yet, with no potential challenger commanding enough support to replace him.

"Boris on a bad day is better than any of the other wannabes on a good day," said one veteran Conservative.

Meanwhile, the Omicron variant of the coronavirus is spreading swiftly



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visits the Health at the Stowe vaccination centre in central London on Monday. AFP

and will become the dominant variant in the British capital in the next 48 hours, Health Secretary Sajid Javid said on Monday.

"No variant of COVID-19 has spread this fast," Javid told parliament.

"While Omicron represents over 20 percent of cases in England, we've already seen it rise to over 44 percent in London and we expect it to become the dominant COVID-19 variant in the capital in the next 48 hours."

Meanwhile, the country is poised to announce as soon as Tuesday the removal of all 11 countries from its COVID-19 red list, ending mandatory hotel quarantine for travelers arriving from the riskiest countries.

Ministers believe the move is logical now that Omicron cases in the UK are doubling every two to three days, a person familiar with the matter said.

Agencies

## Judge rejects Trump bid to keep tax returns from Congress

WASHINGTON

A US judge on Tuesday dismissed a bid by former president Donald Trump to keep his tax returns from a House of Representatives committee, ruling that Congress' legislative interest outweighed any deference Trump should receive as a former president.



US District Judge Trevor McFadden said in his ruling that Trump was "wrong on the law" in seeking to block the House Ways and Means Committee from obtaining his tax returns.

McFadden, who also said it was within the power of the committee's chairman to publish the returns if he saw fit, put his ruling on hold for 14 days, allowing time for an appeal.

Trump was the first president in 40 years not to release his tax returns as he aimed to keep secret the details of his health and the activities of his family company, the Trump Organization.

The committee sued in 2019 to force disclosure of the tax returns, and the dispute lingers nearly 11 months after Trump left office.

Trump lawyer Patrick Strawbridge told McFadden last month the committee had no legitimate reason to see the tax returns and had asked for them in the hope of uncovering information that could hurt Trump politically.

Strawbridge did not respond to a request for comment on the ruling.

House Democrats have said they need Trump's tax returns to see if the Internal Revenue Service is properly auditing presidential returns in general and to assess whether new legislation is needed.

"I am pleased that we're now one step closer to being able to conduct more thorough oversight of the IRS's mandatory presidential audit program," House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal said in a statement.

McFadden, a Trump appointee, said the committee would be able to accomplish its stated objective without publishing the returns.

He cautioned Neal that while he has the right to do so, "anyone can see that publishing confidential tax information of a political rival is the type of move that will return to plague the inventor."

## AU says COVID-19 offers 'historic opportunity' to build new public health order to counter future crises

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) Commission on Tuesday said the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic offers a historic opportunity to build a new public health order in Africa to counter future health crises.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairperson of the 55-member pan-African bloc, made the remarks at the inaugural International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA-2021), which runs from Dec. 14 to 16 virtually.

"The African continent has not been spared from the devastating effects due to COVID-19. Many have fallen sick, pushing our health systems to their limits," Mahamat said.

According to the AU Commission chief, the economic damage caused by COVID-19 has left many jobless, hungry and vulnerable, as he stressed that the effects on the economy, on health security and sustainable development cannot be overstated.

"Despite this, we have great hopes for the future. COVID-19 has also created a historic opportunity to build a new public health order that can effectively guard against future health crises," Mahamat told African leaders and health experts virtually attending the CPHIA-2021.

He stressed that the inaugural Conference on Public Health in Africa, which is being hosted by the AU and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), is a first step in making the desired new public health order a reality.

Mahamat stressed that the conference is expected to provide "a unique platform that brings together the best and brightest minds in public health in Africa to gather in service of this larger goal."

"Together, we will create a new benchmark for collective effort and participation as we advance public health and practice, education, training, and research in Africa, for Africa," he added.

The three-day conference, from Dec. 14 to 16, is expected to attract more than 10,000 participants from 140 countries around the world, featuring presentations from African heads of state and government, dignitaries and leading health experts, according to the organizers.

Xinhua

## Russia-China relations are sample of interstate cooperation in 21st century – Putin

NOVO-OGARYOVO,

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has described Russia-China relations as a sample of genuine interstate cooperation in the 21st century.

"I am glad to have a direct video link with you. It enables us to have a fundamental discussion of Russian-Chinese relations, comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction. I regard these relations as a sample of genuine interstate cooperation in the 21st century," Putin said in his opening remarks at negotiations by video link with China's President Xi Jinping yesterday.

As he began the meeting, Putin waved his hand in welcome and called Xi Jinping his "dear friend." The Chinese leader responded with the same gesture and a broad smile.

"Despite the continuing sanitary and epidemic restrictions we maintain permanent contact," Putin said. He recalled that in May there was a video



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin via video link in Beijing, China, June 28, 2021. File photo

link on the occasion of a special ceremony marking the launch of a project for building four nuclear power reactors.

A video conference in June was devoted to the 20th anniversary of the Russia-China friendship treaty. The Russian

leader added that he had held discussions with his Chinese counterpart by telephone on "some acute international affairs, including the Afghan problem."

"This year saw the 20th anniversary of the Treaty of

Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation.

The treaty has been prolonged by five years," Putin said, adding that the systematic implementation of that fundamental agreement, which fully reflected the pro-

found historical traditions of friendship and understanding between the Russian and Chinese peoples had made it possible to raise relations to an unprecedentedly high level.

Agencies

## Fighting in northern Ethiopia routing millions of families

UNITED NATIONS

CALLING the situation in Ethiopia's northern regions unpredictable and volatile, UN humanitarian aid workers said on Tuesday the hostilities-triggered large-scale evacuation of homes is primarily -- and significantly -- increasing relief needs.

Since September, the number of internally displaced people in Afar and Amhara has gone up significantly due to increased hostilities, but the exact numbers have not been verified due to the fluidity of movements and access con-

straints, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.

The International Organization for Migration reports more than 2.1 million people fled their homes at the end of September, including more than 1 million in Afar and Amhara.

About 20 truck-loads of food supplies arrived on Monday in Mekelle, the regional capital of embattled Tigray. They traveled the Afar-Abala-Mekelle corridor, OCHA said. On Tuesday and Wednesday, 40 more trucks are due.

The UN Children's Fund said it shipped measles vaccines and related supplies to Tigray, where an estimated 790,000 children require vaccination.

However, it has not secured enough fuel to launch the campaign. "It is critical that a regular flow of humanitarian aid into the region is sustained, including fuel and medical supplies," OCHA said.

"As we have noted previously, 500 trucks of humanitarian supplies are required each week."

With the humanitarian situation in Tigray continuing to deteriorate, aid partners are responding to urgent and growing needs across Ethiopia, despite the highly challenging operating environment," the office said.

It cited below-average rains resulting in drought conditions in the Somali and Oromia regions affecting 5.8 million people. Humanitarian funding for Ethiopia

falls short of the goal by more than 1.2 billion U.S. dollars, OCHA said.

Xinhua

**The International Organization for Migration reports more than 2.1 million people fled their homes at the end of September, including more than 1 million in Afar and Amhara**

## New report calls for agri-food system transformation in Africa amid worsening hunger, malnutrition

ADDIS ABABA

THE number of hungry people in Africa continues to rise spurred by conflict, climate change and economic slowdowns including those triggered by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report launched on Tuesday.

The new report, entitled "Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2021: Statistics and Trends," was jointly launched by the African Union (AU) Commission, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and

the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as the latest update to their annual report on the state of food security and nutrition in Africa.

According to the report, hunger on the continent has worsened substantially since 2013, in which most of this deterioration occurred between 2019 and 2020.

The situation is expected to have deteriorated further this year, with no easing of hunger's main drivers, the report indicated.

Amid the worsening hunger and malnutrition in Africa, the

three agencies behind the report have called on African countries to heed the call for agri-food systems transformation.

The newly launched report is said to allow readers to get a better understanding of the scope of hunger in Africa.

In 2020, 281.6 million Africans were undernourished, an increase of 89.1 million over 2014, the report indicated.

It also indicated that there is significant variation in the levels and trends of hunger across the subregions, in which about 44 percent of undernourished peo-

ple on the continent live in Eastern Africa, 27 percent in Western Africa, 20 percent in Central Africa, 6.2 percent in Northern Africa, while some 2.4 percent in Southern Africa.

The report further warned that the African continent is not on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets to end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round and to end all forms of malnutrition.

In part this is due to poverty and inequality, and to the underlying structural causes that am-

plify the main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition such as conflict, climate variability and extremes, economic slowdowns and downturns and the unaffordability of a healthy diet, it was noted.

According to the report, short term measures to address the hunger challenge include countries providing humanitarian assistance and effective social protection measures, the report says.

Over the longer term, countries are advised to invest in agriculture and related sectors, as well as in water, health, and education services.

**According to the report, hunger on the continent has worsened substantially since 2013, in which most of this deterioration occurred between 2019 and 2020**

Xinhua



## Kiev fails to hand over Soviet-era assets although Russia repaid Soviet debts – Putin

### MOSCOW

UKRAINE has not yet handed over to Russia foreign property it owned when it was a Soviet republic, despite the fact that Russia has paid all external debts of the former Soviet Union, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview for a documentary entitled "Russia: Its Recent History" aired on the Rossiya-1 TV channel on Sunday.

"In the 1990s, Russia was unable to resolve socio-economic problems from financial support from outside. And Russia was deep in debt in the 1990s. First, in 1993 we undertook to repay the former Soviet Union's debts - for all former Soviet republics," he recalled, adding that Russia hoped that the republics would

hand over their Soviet-era foreign assets for that.

"Well, we have repaid their debts but not all of them implemented the liability hand over their foreign assets to us. For instance, Ukraine has not done it until now," Putin said.

He recalled that Russia asked other states to hand over those assets explaining that it had repaid the debts of the former Soviet Union but heard in response that it was its own problem to be settled with the former republics so that they stopped claiming these assets.

"Later on, Russia began to borrow money itself. It had to do it because it was unable to pay pensions and wages in time. Even monetary allowances to the military were not paid in time. That is why, it could not do without it back then," he admitted.

## Australia reopens borders to non-citizens despite Omicron worries

### SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA yesterday reopened borders to vaccinated skilled migrants and foreign students after a near two-year ban on their entry, in a bid to boost an economy hit by stop-start COVID-19 lockdowns and restart international travel.

The emergence of the new Omicron variant forced officials to delay the reopening by two weeks after health officials sought a temporary pause to get more information about the strain, which so far appears to show milder symptoms than other COVID-19 variants.

The return of foreign students, who are worth about A\$35 billion (\$25 billion) a year to the Australian economy, will help businesses to fill many casual jobs. More than 235,000 foreigners, including about 160,000 students, held visas for Australia at the end of October, official data showed.

The easing in travel rules comes as the state of New South Wales, home to Sydney, lifted most restrictions from Wednesday for the unvaccinated, despite a steady rise in Omicron infections after a staggered reopening.

From Wednesday, mask wearing in NSW will no longer be mandatory in indoor settings, only on public transport. Further to this, non-essential retail venues such as restaurants and retail shops, would open to the unvaccinated from that day.

The state logged 1,360 new cases, the biggest daily rise in more than three months and since a nearly four-month lockdown ended in early October. Australia has recorded about 235,500 cases and 2,117 deaths since the pandemic began.

### Cambodia

Cambodia has detected the country's first case of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus in a local woman who had traveled from Ghana, the ministry of health said.

The 23-year old woman had returned from Ghana via Dubai and Bangkok, the ministry said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

The woman, who was 15 weeks pregnant, had been admitted to hospital for treatment, it said.

### Lebanon

The total number of confirmed cases of Omicron COVID-19 variant reached eight in Lebanon, Lebanese Health Minister Firas Abiad said on Tuesday.

Abiad noted that his ministry suspects the presence of 16 additional Omicron cases arriving from African countries, Britain, Spain, Turkey, the United States and the United Arab Emirates, the National News Agency reported.

Abiad said that he will be coordinating with the tourism ministry to implement strict measures in restaurants and other public places during the festive season, especially since hospitals in Lebanon are not well equipped for the new wave of COVID-19 amid the current financial crisis.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Lebanon increased on Tuesday by 1,474 to reach 692,315, while the death toll from the virus went up by 13 cases to 8,873.

### Mongolia

Mongolia on Tuesday confirmed 191 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, bringing the national tally to 386,826, according to the country's health ministry.

Two of the latest confirmed cases were imported from abroad and the remaining were local transmissions, the ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, two more COVID-19 patients over the age of 40 died in the past day, pushing the national death toll to 1,965, it said.

### Singapore

Singapore reported 442 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, bringing the total tally in the country to 274,143.

Of the new cases, 401 were in the community, eight were in migrant worker dormitories and 33 were imported cases, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Health.

A total of 548 cases are currently warding in hospitals, with 31 cases being critically ill in the intensive care unit, and the current overall ICU utilization rate is 50.8 percent.

The ministry said in another press release on Tuesday that the detection of the Omicron variant in the country is "a matter of time" as the virus has been spreading worldwide.

Singapore will extend Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) to more settings to better protect the vulnerable and at-risk groups while allowing specific concessions for fully vaccinated individuals to return safely to the workplace.

A traveler arrives at a COVID-19 testing center at the Incheon International Airport in Incheon, South Korea, Dec 1, 2021. (AHN YOUNG-JOON / AP)

### South Korea

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency posted 7,850 cases for Tuesday, with the number of patients in serious condition also reaching a fresh high at 964.

Daily tallies of infections shot past 7,000 for the first time last week, just days after passing the 5,000 mark, putting ever greater strains on the country's medical capacity.

Agencies

## Retracing Tibet's rise to stability and prosperity

### LHASA

FOR Tibet, 2021 has certainly been an important year.

The autonomous region in southwest China marked the 70th anniversary of its peaceful liberation, celebrated the 100th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) along with the rest of the country, and held a regional CPC congress, a five-yearly event.

The region has achieved remarkable feats over the past decades. Since its peaceful liberation in 1951, Tibet has embarked on a path from darkness to brilliance, from backwardness to progress, from poverty to prosperity, from autocracy to democracy, and from isolation to openness.

History can serve as a valuable prism for retrospection. It is, therefore, worthwhile to explore some of the major reasons behind the profound changes the region has undergone over the past years.

### STRONG PARTY LEADERSHIP

"Without the CPC, there would not be New China and there would not be new Tibet," said Wang Yang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Only by following the CPC leadership and pursuing the path of socialism, can Tibet achieve development and prosperity, he said in August while addressing a grand gathering marking the 70th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

Under the strong leadership of the



A grand gathering is held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet at the Potala Palace square in Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Aug. 19, 2021. File photo

Party, the region has resolved many long-standing problems and achieved all-round progress in all endeavors since the peaceful liberation, which marked a historic transition of epoch-making significance for Tibet.

Tibet carried out the democratic reform in 1959 to abolish feudal serfdom, established the socialist system and implemented regional ethnic autonomy, and pressed ahead with reform and opening up as well as modernization.

Soinam Doje, hailing from a village in Damxung County in the regional capital Lhasa, witnessed the arrival of the People's Liberation Army in 1951.

"I never expected life would become this good. I thought it would be great if the soldiers could arrest the thieves and robbers back then, as yaks and sheep were often stolen or robbed," said Soinam Doje, 82.

Soinam Doje used to be a serf who had to pay heavy taxes to his feudal lords and barely had enough food to fill

his stomach. After the democratic reform in 1959, he was allocated with his own livestock and grassland.

The village cooperative now offers his family dividend from the gypsum mine business. Besides, his eldest son has bought a truck and an excavator, and drives them for the mine. Together with the family's income generated from herding, they bring home as much as 500,000 yuan (about 78,500 U.S. dollars) a year.

Tibet's regional GDP soared from 129 million yuan in 1951 to more than 190 billion yuan last year. The per capita disposable income of rural residents in the region was 14,598 yuan in 2020, registering double-digit growth for the past 18 years, while that of urban residents was 41,156 yuan.

The region's average life expectancy has increased from 35.5

years in 1951 to 72.19 years at present.

Wang Junzheng, the Party chief of Tibet, said at the 10th regional CPC congress late last month that the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee was the most important reason behind Tibet's achievements over the past five years.

### GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNING TIBET

Over the past 70 years, hunger and poverty have become a thing of the past, religious beliefs have been fully respected, and national unity and social stability have been safeguarded.

To serve people of all ethnic groups in Tibet, the CPC put great emphasis on Tibet work, introducing a raft of favorable policies. The Party's guidelines for governing Tibet were also formed, which has been a pillar for Tibet's progress and prosperity.

"The CPC's guidelines for governing Tibet have ensured the right direction of the region's development and produced bountiful results," said Li Huiqin, a professor at Shaanxi-based Xizang Minzu University.

Xinhua

## China's grain output reaches 683 bln kilograms, hits new record

CHINA saw its 18th consecutive bumper year in 2021 as the country's grain output grew by two percent, or 13.35 billion kilograms from a year ago to a record high of nearly 683 billion kilograms, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

It marked a 7th straight year that the country reported total grain production of over 650 billion kilograms.

"The bumper harvest this year offers a solid foundation for China to ensure food security, cope with complex and volatile domestic and international environments, overcome risks and challenges, and achieve high-quality development," said Wang Minghua, an NBS official.

The steady growth in grain sowing area is a primary contributor to the harvest. Wang introduced that in 2021, local governments across the country have taken efforts to ensure that duties of grain production are fulfilled and implemented the most strict farmland protection rules, so as to prevent the use of arable land for non-farming purposes.

They also further strengthened support for grain production, and encouraged reclamation of abandoned land and the exploitation of farmland in the winter fallow season, to raise the enthusiasm of farmers, said the official.

The total grain sowing area of China increased 0.7 percent to 1.76 billion mu, or 117.6 million hectares. The number has kept rising for two years in a row.

The harvest can also be attributed to the popularization of agricultural technologies.

"The production of rice this year stands at 750 kilograms per mu at least, 100 kilograms more



An agricultural drone is applying fertilizer over a paddy field in a farm in Susong county, Anqing, east China's Anhui province, Sept. 8, 2021. File photo

than that in the previous years. It is the best performance in the recent years," said Jin Quan, a rice grower in Huayuan village, east China's Jiangsu province, where agricultural drones are employed for higher farming efficiency and lower consumption of pesticides and fertilizers.

This year, precise and quantitative rice cultivation technique has been applied in over 23 million mu of farmland across the province.

In Datong Hui and Tu autonomous county, northwest China's Qinghai province, high-quality seeds are making bumper harvests. "The corn and potato varieties we have bred are helping farmers get rich," said Bao Jidong, head of a local seed breeding cooperative.

The new varieties have led to a significant rise in per unit yield of the crops. Technologies are improving China's comprehensive capability in grain production, and the expanding planting area of corns, a high-yielding crop, is also driving the increase in per

unit yield. A sample survey indicated that the grain output per mu was 387 kilograms this year, increasing 1.2 percent, or 4.8 kilograms from a year ago.

Floods, droughts and plagues of insects have sounded alarms for grain production this year. Especially since late September, some major grain-producing areas have been hit by continuous rains, which negatively impacted the autumn harvest. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs responded swiftly and dispatched teams and experts to severely afflicted areas to offer technical guidance. The ministry also helped affected farmers to drain the fields, reap the crops and plant wheat, which mitigated the losses of them.

Wang noted that the meteorological conditions in most grain-producing areas across the country have been generally in favor of the growth and production of grain crops this year, though grain output in some regions was affected by adverse

weathers.

In 2021, the yields of summer grains and early-season rice were respectively 146 billion kilograms and 28 billion kilograms, up 3.1 billion kilograms and 700 million kilograms from a year ago. The output of autumn grains also went up by nearly 9.6 billion kilograms to 508.9 billion kilograms.

A German news site said that the harvest of the populous country will alleviate the global food shortage.

Given the spreading pandemic, complicated international situation, and frequent occurrence of extreme natural disasters, the harvest of China is a reminder that agriculture is playing an even larger role in stabilizing the society and economy, and that the country remains firm in its commitment to pursuing food security, said Li Guoxiang, a researcher with the Rural Development Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

People's Daily

## Foreigners buy Turkish homes at record pace as lira slides

### ISTANBUL

TURKISH house sales to foreigners jumped nearly 50 percent to a record level in November, data showed on Tuesday, bringing in billions of dollars in foreign exchange as a lira slump made purchases significantly cheaper for those buying with hard currency.

Against a background of more than 20 percent annual inflation, the property market was generally buoyant in November, with overall sales surging 59 percent year-on-year to 178,814 properties, Tur-

key's Statistical Institute figures showed.

"People seeing housing as a means of defense against inflation was instrumental in the sharp sales rise in November," said TSKB Real Estate Appraisal general manager Makbule Yonel Maya, adding that lower state banks loan rates had an impact.

The lira slumped to a record low of 14.99 against the dollar on Monday, representing a halving in value this year. At its current level of 14.2 it is more than 40 percent weaker than at the start of September.



Altan Elmas, chairman of the Konutler housing developers and investors association, said foreign currency inflows due to house sales in the 11 months to November amounted to some \$8.5 billion, exceeding its forecast.

"We can reach \$10 billion by the end of the year. The biggest support for the new economic program in the period ahead will come from property sales to foreigners," he said.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has backed aggressive interest rate cuts to support his new program that stresses exports

and credit - despite soaring inflation and widespread criticism of the policy from economists and opposition lawmakers.

The 7,363 homes sold to foreigners in November represented the highest monthly level since the data series began in 2013. By far the highest number of foreign buyers were Iranian citizens, followed by Iraqis and Russians.

Property sales to foreigners have been strong throughout the year, rising 39.4 percent in the first 11 months, while total house sales actually fell 9.2

percent in the 11-month period, compared to a year earlier.

The most popular place for house sales to foreigners was Istanbul, with 2,922 sales, followed by the southern resort of Antalya and the capital Ankara.

The data also showed November mortgage sales climbed 61 percent from a year earlier to 39,366, accounting for 22 percent of the total in the period.

Last year, sales surged due to pandemic-era cheap loans from state banks, prompting real estate developers to launch campaigns for buyers.



## Congolese midfielder enjoys impressive spell in Championship

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WITHOUT a doubt he is one of the highly-rated football players in Tanzania's Championship due to the teams he had previously served and the success he achieved.

We are talking about Congolese midfielder, Yannick Bazola, a player who had success at DR Congo football giants, TP Mazembe.

Bazola was part of the TP Mazembe squad that had much success in the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup.

“He also wore the TP Mazembe captain's armband at some point and he is now playing for Tanzania's DTB FC.

“His signing is considered to be good for the Championship outfit.

“Bazola, who plays as a midfielder, revealed to The Guardian that the goal of coming to Tanzania is to achieve success and show his quality, and he believes he will do well this season.

“I have been well prepared before the start of the season as I know for a player to have a good season, he needs to prepare well,” he revealed.

“It has not been a problem for me to come and play here in the country's Championship as I looked at the goals of DTB FC and saw that I could come to add more strength and even help the squad achieve those goals.”

“Bazola said he is impressed with the quality of DTB FC captain, Amisi Tambwe, in the attacking force and noted that if the latter keeps on excelling he can be the league's top scorer.

“Congratulations to him as he has started the season well and I can also say he is a striker who can score at any time and you have to be smart to keep him in check,” he noted.

“If you are a midfielder and then you have a striker of Tambwe's caliber in your squad, out of three assists you will execute for him, he will exploit at least one.”

“Such an attribute can be fruitful as he is dangerous if he is facing the goal.”

This season's Championship's players and coaches have admitted the tournament is tough.

Bazola has a similar view, as he says the showdown is extremely competitive even though his outfit leads the league.

“Every team shows the need for victory and no outfit has shown weakness, so the situation brings about competitiveness in the league and makes it tough.”

The Congolese talked highly of Tanzanian attacker Mbwana Samatta that played with the former at TP Mazembe in 2012/13, 2014/15, and 2015/16 seasons before the midfielder moved to Angolan club, Progresso, which was participating in the country's Premier League, known as Angola Girabola.

“He is one of the most unique players I have ever seen and his reputa-



Yannick Bazola

tion spread throughout DR Congo due to the excellent level he showed on the pitch and even off the pitch he showed great discipline,” Bazola said of Samatta.

“Samatta's ability to perform well alongside TP Mazembe's star players was no mean feat and even when he was voted as the best African player I was not surprised as he had a good season.”

“Hard work and dedication are his qualities and that is why he has come to where he is now unlike many players he played with in DR Congo League.”

The presence of a big number of DR Congo players in well-known clubs in Tanzania, especially Yanga, has impressed Bazola.

Yanga this season brought in five Congolese footballers, they are Djuma Shabani, Jesus Moloko, Fiston Mayele, Yannick Bangala, and Heritier Makambo.

Bazola said the move is good for Tanzanian football.

“Most Congolese players are expensive and most of them have high standards, so what you see in Tanzania's NBC Premier League proves that the league is lately popular,” the midfielder noted.

“It is also the reason for me to accept coming here as some of my teammates have already laid the foundation and done well on their teams, something that will make me not feel very lonely.”

## Mtibwa Sugar set to unveil coach Joseph Omog's successor

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MTIBWA Sugar's management is expected to officially announce the side's new head coach to succeed Cameroonian, Joseph Omog, who terminated his contract with the side on Monday.

The NBC Premier League club's Information Officer, Tobias Kifaru, pointed out at any time the leadership will come out with the name of the new head coach and announce it publicly.

He said the process of finding a new head coach for Mtibwa Sugar has turned out to be difficult, with many prominent coaches filing applications to replace Omog.

The Cameroonian tactician left Mtibwa Sugar after the team had experienced a string of less impressive results in this season's domestic top flight.

Mtibwa Sugar had yet to post victory in 2021/22 NBC Premier League by the time the gaffer was exiting the club.

The Manungu-based outfit tasted its first league win on December 12, clobbering Bishara United 2-0 at Manungu Stadium.

Kifaru moreover stated he cannot comment on the coach, Salum Mayanga, who is said to have terminated his contract with Tanzania Prisons so he can join Mtibwa Sugar.

The official noted: “As for Mayanga, I cannot confirm that rumour as he is an employee of the Mtibwa Sugar factory and is only allowed to go and lead another outfit. When his contract with the particular club expires, he can return to his post at the factory.”

“At the moment we are continuing to analyze the names of local and foreign coaches and in the next few days we will officially announce the new Mtibwa Sugar head coach.”

Kifaru further said Omog will officially leave for Cameroon and they have already booked him an air ticket.

According to the Information Officer, Mtibwa Sugar is now temporarily led by assistant coach, Awadh Issa, assisted by Shaban Nditi who was the club's former captain.

Mtibwa Sugar has so far won



Joseph Omog. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

just one fixture in eight outings in this season's NBC Premier League and is sitting 15th with five points.

Cameroonian Omog is familiar with Tanzanian soccer,

the tactician had also trained other popular clubs, Azam FC and Simba SC.

He was in charge of the Azam FC technical bench from 2013-2015 and he moved

to Simba SC in the 2016/17 season.

The tactician's most memorable success was a Mainland Premier League triumph with Azam FC in the 2013/14 season.

## Simba SC head coach bemoans striking force's inefficiency

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC head coach Pablo Franco has said much as he is proud of his squad he keeps on working on the shortcomings of the outfit's striking force.

The Spaniard coach pointed out Simba SC's striking force has yet to have the quality he

needs.

Simba SC last weekend settled for a goalless draw with the age-old rival, Yanga, in an NBC Premier League tie which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

So far Simba SC has scored eight goals in as many games, conceded

twice, settling for a draw in three outings, and winning five games.

Franco said his players are doing well in all departments but they lack focus when they get scoring chances.

The gaffer stressed he will continue to work on such shortcomings.

Franco revealed: “We play well, we enjoy

a large percentage of possession, we create chances that we do not use properly, so I have started working on this issue.”

“I am not worried about my team's showing and I believe we will defend the league title.”

“Although we are two points behind the league leader, that does not

stop us from achieving our goals,” the tactician noted.

“There are still many games to play so we have to make a big effort to ensure that our plan is successful,” he said.

He noted: “We ought to make sure we emerge victorious in every game and make our fans happy.”

## Msuva unfazed by Wydad's opponents in CAF Champions League Group Stage



Simon Msuva

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN forward, Simon Msuva, who plies his trade at Morocco's Wydad Casablanca, has said he is unperturbed by teams that will be drawn with his club in the Group Stage of 2021/22 CAF Champions League which is expected to kick off in February next year.

The draw for the Group Stage of the premier continental club tournament is expected to take place in February at the Confederation of African Football (CAF) headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

Msuva said Wydad Casablanca is ready to face any team in Group Stage believing that a famous soccer outfit of Wydad's caliber has to show quality

against a tough opponent.

The attacker pointed out: “When you talk about the African soccer giants, Wydad is one of them so we have no reason to be anxious about meeting any team.”

Msuva noted: “We are soldiers who are ready for battle at any time no matter the quality of our opponents.”

The speedy forward has been instrumental in Wydad Casablanca's progression to this season's CAF Champions League Group Stage.

The Tanzanian striker, who as well turns out for senior national side ‘Taifa Stars’, has scored two goals for Wydad Casablanca in the second preliminary round games.

Overall this season Msuva

has been involved in nine goals in 13 games in all competitions for Wydad Casablanca.

The Morocco football big guns have the daunting task of defending its silverware in the Morocco Premier League, nicknamed Botola Pro.

Msuva has also put in a stellar showing for his side in Botola Pro, scoring six goals and providing three assists.

This season's premier continental club tournament's Group Stage will see 16 teams challenge for the title, including debutant, Botswana champions, Jwaneng Galaxy.

The teams are Al Ahly and Zamalek (Egypt), Al Hilal and Al Merreikh (Sudan), Mamelodi Sundowns and Amazulu (South Africa), CR Belouizdad, and ES

Setif (Algeria), Esperance and Etoile du Sahel (Tunisia), and AC Horoya (Guinea).

Jwaneng Galaxy (Botswana), Petro Atletico and Sagrada Esperanca (Angola), Raja Casablanca and Wydad Casablanca (Morocco) complete the list.

Wydad Casablanca was knocked out of last season's CAF Champions League last four after going down 1-0 to South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs.

After losing 1-0 at the home venue of Stade Mohammed V, Wydad Casablanca could only post a 0-0 draw with Kaizer Chiefs at the FNB Stadium in Soweto to give the South African outfit room to make it to the showdown's final for the first time in its history.



## Grealish clicking in Guardiola's system has Man City looking ominous

MANCHESTER, England

MANCHESTER City enjoyed themselves against Leeds United on Tuesday night, and so did Jack Grealish.

Pep Guardiola's side were 3-0 up after half an hour at the Etihad Stadium, eventually winning 7-0 to move four points clear at the top of the Premier League table.

A seventh league win in a row, it was the type of performance that showed why City are still favourites to win the title ahead of Liverpool and Chelsea.

Grealish, meanwhile, offered up a reminder about why they were willing to part with a British record £100 million for his services.

By his own admission, it's not been an easy start to life in Manchester after leaving Aston Villa in the summer. Things haven't always seemed to come as easily as they did at his boyhood club but against Leeds the swagger was back.

He scored City's second of the night and could have had more.

By the middle of the second half, Leeds had resorted to kicking him as high into the air as they could only to see him jump back up, collect the ball, and burrow forward again and again.

He was a central part of a City display that ranked among the very best of Guardiola's reign and with it proved beyond any doubt he belongs at this level.

"He was exceptional," Guardiola enthused after the match. "I don't judge players for their goals. I want to see how they behave and their decisions."

"Congratulations to the team, it was a good performance for us."

"We did a good performance, the vibes of the stadium was nice today -- it was sold out and the supporters were incredible."

"We did a really good game. We dropped five points against Leeds last season with the same guys and we can not forget it."

"When you get these results it's because individually they [the players] are brilliant."

It's a sign of how Grealish's first four months at City have gone that it wouldn't have been a huge surprise had he been left out against Leeds.

It's not that he's been bad; more that he's competing with Kevin De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva, Riyad Mahrez, Phil Foden, Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus and any dip in form is amplified because others, usually, are playing well.

Substituted early against Wolves on Saturday, and at Watford a week earlier, Grealish might have feared the worst when Guardiola came to name his team against Leeds, but he was given another opportunity and took it.

As early as two minutes in he was flying forward, dazzling Luke Ayling with a couple of step-overs before smacking a low shot at Illan Meslier. Two minutes later he bounced a pass off De Bruyne on the edge of the box and almost got on the end of the return.

It is the type of thing Guardiola wants to see more often. His system can be quite rigid, but Grealish has been reminded more than once there is still freedom within the structure. The boiled down message has been to keep doing the things he did so well at Villa and Guardiola's idea isn't to squeeze the life out of the England midfielder, rather to get him in better areas more often.

Against Leeds, it worked and for large parts of the game -- Marcelo Bielsa's team couldn't cope.

It was a night of eye-catching runs and touches, but Grealish's best moment came in the 12th minute. A City corner ended up back at the feet of Mahrez and when the Algerian whipped a cross into the box, Grealish was there to head in from six yards out to score his first league goal since August.

It was a striker's goal from a team without a striker.

By then it was already 1-0 after Foden had scored City's 500th Premier League goal under Guardiola in just 206 games. There were five more before full-time from De Bruyne (2), Mahrez, John Stones and Nathan Ake and yet Leeds walked off looking relieved it wasn't 10.

Bielsa said afterwards his team "had never played so badly in these four years."

Only five points above the relegation places, their safety this season isn't guaranteed and a brutal night in Manchester will do nothing for their confidence ahead of back-to-back games against Arsenal and Liverpool.

While Bielsa said there "was nothing to take away from the game," there were plenty of positives for Guardiola.

He will, as always, value the overall dominance of his team more than any individual performance but, after all the questions about Grealish since his move, there will have been a quiet satisfaction in seeing him look so at home as a key cog in that familiar, slick machine.

Back in the dressing room after the final whistle, Grealish went on Instagram to post the message "perfect night at the Etihad."

It was hard to argue with his assessment.

# Xavi must tread carefully to break Barcelona's defeatist mentality

By Graham Hunter, Spain writer

**E**V E N while Real Madrid have been imposing a magnificent stranglehold on LaLiga's title race, it has been fascinating to see and hear Xavi Hernandez's early attempts to coax and even taunt a reaction out of Barcelona, as they languish seven places and 18 points behind their eternal rivals. To put it mildly, Xavi has been daring, even high-risk, with his vocabulary.

When Bayern thrashed Barcelona in Munich last week, sending the Spanish giants from the Champions League at the group stage for the first time since 2003-04, they were done an important service when Thomas Muller spoke the unpalatable, but pinpoint, truth that the Camp Nou squad aren't in physical or athletic shape to play the brand of football needed at the elite level right now. The irrepressible, haughty, ultra-demanding World Cup and Champions league winner commented: "Barcelona can't withstand our intensity of play. In terms of technique they've still 'got the lot,' great players at both a technical and tactical level. But they are incapable of competing with the maximum intensity at the most demanding level of European football."

It was not only a plain and simple fact; it also gave Xavi an olive branch. The incoming Barcelona coach could have said something along the lines of: "I've inherited a squad that's had both injury and fitness problems; I'm reshaping our entire approach to competitive intensity; I've already upgraded our medical department significantly ... but to expect a huge change in physical preparation mid-season when we're playing three times a week, most weeks, is unrealistic."

Instead, he flat-out disagreed with Muller and began to unpack his feelings about a lack of psychological strength, confidence and attitude among some of his players.

Dangerous, dangerous ground.

Having given an absolute rocket of a lecture to the squad both at half and full-time in Bavaria, the Catalan coach spoke ahead of Sunday's 2-2 draw at Osasuna about having seen a "lesser" Barcelona against Bayern, and about how he felt he was fighting against "defeatism" becoming instilled at his club.

"There's a better level here in my squad than we're showing," Xavi said. "I'd followed Barcelona's season before I joined, but now I'd say that the players are more down in the dumps than I'd believed. It's more a psychological problem than a football one. Excellence is needed here, not 6- or 7-out-of-10 performances. Against Bayern there were football



Xavi Hernandez

failings, but I think what weighed upon us most were psychological aspects."

Then, after a hugely improved performance against Osasuna in Pamplona when (it's also true) Barcelona relinquished the chance to win and, according to their coach, ignored specific tactical demands he'd drummed into them on Friday and Saturday, he resumed his theme of players shrinking under the ongoing stress.

"We're in a negative dynamic," Xavi said, "one that it's going to cost us to escape. The positive, and at the same time negative, aspect is that it was players of 17, 18 and 19 who were making the difference here. They were the ones putting in huge shifts for us, so we have to be much more demanding of some other players."

It's an interesting discourse from the fledgling Barca boss, one that undoubtedly describes some of the difficulties Frenkie de Jong, Marc-Andre ter Stegen, Oscar Mingueza, Philippe Coutinho, Sergino Dest, Luuk de Jong and others are going through right now. But the risks of highlighting problems of confidence, or hinting at his team's fragility, are significant.

To tell the players, as a group, that they are shaky psychologically carries the threat of some of them, out of pride, switching off completely; it also runs the risk of sinking some of the underperformers further into whatever subconscious funk they're feeling. To say such things in public needs not to be a product of frustration and anger, and choosing which dressing-room "truths" to reveal in the media is a significantly treacherous path -- one where the benefits, if you get the message, timing and impact right, are potentially catalytic (in a good way) while the negatives can be catastrophic, long-lasting and divisive, serving as nectar for your enemies.

For anyone who's been watching either Xavi or Barcelona closely over the past quarter-century, this maelstrom of psychological revelations is doubly interesting.

Xavi burst through

into the Barcelona team as a midfielder at 18, ultra-talented and just about to win the Under-20 World Cup with Spain in Nigeria. But his first club match was a Spanish Supercup defeat to Mallorca. His first Champions League campaign included exit at the group stage to Bayern Munich and Manchester United -- echoes of this season -- and while that squad, led by Louis van Gaal, won the Spanish title in Xavi's first season, both he and the club then entered a negative spiral, with Barcelona not winning a single trophy for the next six years.

Just let that that figure roll around your brain for a moment. Six seasons.

Intriguingly, over the winter of 2002-03 the club's managing director, Javier Perez Farguell, conducted an exhaustive internal audit that concluded that there was a "defeatist mentality" at the club. He also reckoned that "with a low-profile, low marketing and sponsorship impact," players like Xavi were expendable. He even gave permission to at least one intermediary whom I know of to seek out a new club for the young midfielder.

"Defeatist mentality" is essentially a phrase from 2002 that has resurfaced this past week, summing up the malaise Xavi says he's now trying to avoid/cure at the club he has inherited.

Meanwhile, as a player back then, Xavi had to suffer being booed onto the pitch when he replaced club hero, Pep Guardiola. The club atmosphere was toxic, the debt was growing out of proportion, and the first team was populated by

Dutch and South American players whose time had come and gone, even though the club had done nothing intelligent to deal with this fact.

Remind you of anything?

The point is: there are parallels. Xavi has been in precisely this type of situation before, and he survived thanks to two central characteristics: he was hugely talented (like Gavi, Nicolas Gonzalez, Ansu Fati, Pedri, Abde Ez-zalzouli, Ronald Araujo and Alex Balde), and he was so deeply stubborn that he simply refused to be pushed out of the club he cared about so much. We're dealing with a guy who's now not only a talented coach, a brilliant communicator and a disciple of precisely the brand of football his emerging youngsters have previously been taught to play during their academy years. But will his approach to the "shock therapy" of speaking openly about the psychological and confidence deficits in his squad work well?

There are scores of examples of how trying to deal with the mood/confidence/winning mentality of a group is fraught with challenges.

How about Xavi's mentor, Guardiola himself? His point of view is essentially "I need time but, as soon as possible, we must create team spirit. That is the most important thing. Afterwards you can work on tactics, but first we have to create something special among ourselves."

Unai Emery, winner of four Europa League titles at two different clubs (a competition in which it's now imperative for Xavi and Barcelona to triumph this season, having been drawn against Napoli in the knockout playoff round -- at two different clubs is a good guide.

Villarreal's coach reckons that "the main thing is knowing how to earn the trust of the players: to lead, set an example, apply what you demand of them ... dedication, commitment, respect, fair treatment ... all that is leadership. Your players will trust, and follow, an idea if they are convinced of it. That implies management, teaching and discipline.

"Trust is built day by day. It's very difficult to establish a climate of trust and, at the same time, it's very easy to break. You do a hundred things where you generate trust, but with just one where you create

mistrust, you can ruin the other 100."

Maria Ruiz de Ona was a sports psychologist at Athletic Club, particularly in their academy, for many years and is now associated with Aspire Academy in Doha. "The first important step, if we want to transform and improve an organizational culture, is having a common language: What does it mean to 'compete' in this club? What is 'success' in this club?" she said. "And that process doesn't just emerge on the pitch, but also in the corridors of the club, the changing rooms, in meetings, in conversations between players and coaches.

"Football needs coaches who understand that their role is not to put 11 little 'soldiers' on the field, who understand that these 'soldiers' have emotions: that they think, decide, learn. That understanding from the coach will generate a different type of relationship."

In terms of harshness of language and an unforgiving nature, Xavi is a few degrees less intense than his former teammate, former coach and long-time friend, Spain boss Luis Enrique. Throughout his successful career, La Roja's coach has always kept a sports psychologist, Joaquin Valdes, quite literally by his side. Whether in training sessions, news conferences, interviews or meetings, Valdes is like an extension of the Spaniard's personality -- he's always listening, assessing, advising and offering services to the players who will, or will not, make Luis Enrique successful.

The Spain boss himself reckons that "since Xavi took over, I've seen improvement -- maybe not what the fans yearn to see, but that's gonna take time. When you have a team where performance is so far from their potential, the principal cause is confidence. Xavi took over a team in which the players had very little of that because of the previous few months, and reinstating confidence isn't something you can prescribe a pill for: it takes time and patience."

Wise words. And perhaps advice Xavi, patently shocked and publicly frustrated at the mentality of some of his new pupils, could do with digesting.

Meanwhile, Boca Juniors beat Barcelona on penalties to claim the inaugural Diego Maradona Cup in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday af-

ter a 1-1 draw in normal time.

Goalkeeper Agustin Rossi saved Matheus Pereira's penalty before Guillelmo Jaime blazed over to hand Boca, who scored all four of their spot-kicks, the victory.

Ferran Jutgla had given Barca the lead early in the second half, but Exequiel Zeballos levelled with 15 minutes to go to take the game to a shootout.

The match, which took place at Mrsool Park in Riyadh, was arranged to honour the late Maradona, who passed away on Nov. 25 last year.

Maradona, considered one of the best players to ever play the game, played for both Barca and Boca in a professional career which ran from 1976 to 1997.

He played twice for Boca, between 1981 and 1982 and again between 1995 and 1997. He joined Barca from Boca in 1982, spending two seasons with the Spanish club before signing for Napoli.

Barca coach Xavi Hernandez took advantage of the game against the Argentine team to hand a debut to Dani Alves, who returned to the club at the age of 38 last month.

The Brazil international is not able to play competitively until January when the registration window opens re-opens in Spain, but he could play in Tuesday's exhibition.

Alves was one of 11 changes to the Barca side which drew with Osasuna on Sunday as Xavi opted to keep most of his squad fresh ahead of Saturday's LaLiga game against Elche at Camp Nou.

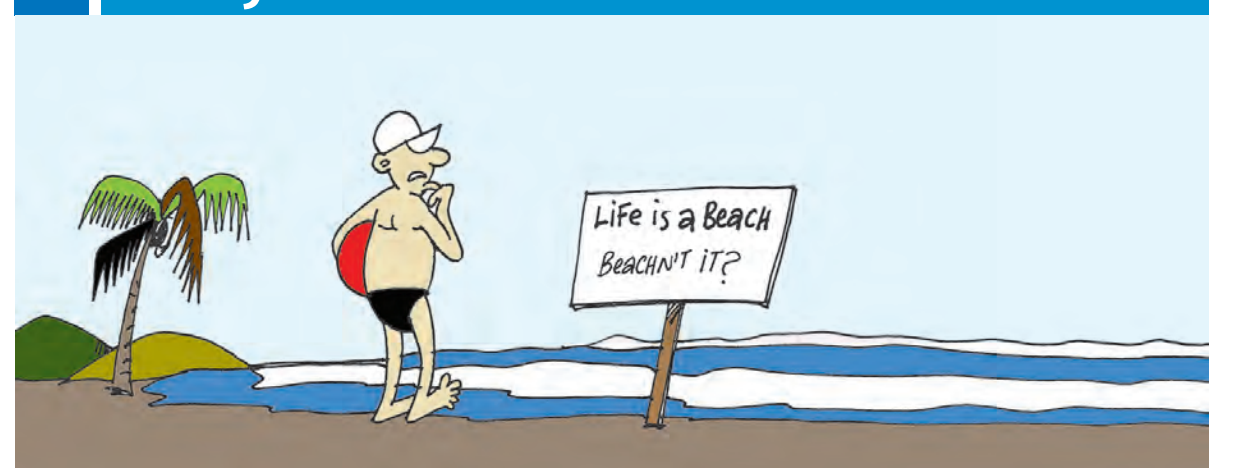
A cagey first half, in which Alves was the best player, opened up after the break, with Jutgla, a summer signing from Espanyol, opening the scoring in the 50th minute.

Philippe Coutinho handled an Alves cross but it was missed by the referee, allowing Jutgla to spin and fire in his first goal for Barca.

Ilias Akhomach and Jutgla missed chances to double Barca's lead, while Neto did well to keep out Sebastian Villa before substitute Zeballos's turned home Frank Fabra's cross to take the game to penalties.

Marcos Rojo, Carlos Izquierdoz, Cristian Pavon and Aaron Molina all scored for Sebastian Battaglia's side, with Matheus and Guillelmo missing for Barca.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Xavi must tread carefully to break Barcelona's defeatist mentality**

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## Dodoma hosts Tanzania Olympians Association election today



Tanzania Olympians Association (TOA) secretary-general, Mwinga Mwanjala.

By Joseph Mchekadona

**T**HE Tanzania Olympians Association (TOA) goes to polls in Dodoma today to elect new office bearers.

Mwinga Mwanjala, TOA secretary-general, said all preparations for the election are through and delegates will vote for chairman, vice-chairman, secretary-general, assistant secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and executive committee members.

She said all eligible and qualified former athletes are encouraged to compete for the posts in the election.

Mwinga noted: "All is set for Tanzania Olympians Association (TOA) election, this is a body made up of current and former athletes who represented the country at international events."

"The mandate of the

current leadership, headed by the chairman, Gidamis Shahanga, and vice-chairman, Suleiman Nyambui, ended."

"The election will also fill the gaps created by Samson Laizer and Peter Mwita who passed away," she said.

After TOA general meeting and the election, the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) will hold its annual general meeting.

TOC assistant secretary, Suleiman Jabil, yesterday said all preparations for the annual general meeting are

ready.

"All is set for the annual general meeting and delegates have started arriving for the meeting, we hope it will be a fruitful meeting with positive results coming after it," he said.

The annual general meeting will, among other issues, discuss activities which were undertaken in the just-ended year and plans for next year.

In a previous interview, Jabil said after the annual general meeting, TOC will host a three-day seminar that will involve delegates from all

local sports associations affiliated to the committee and government sports officials from both Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland.

He said at the seminar they will use a participatory approach. The seminar's instructors are Jabil and Henry Tandau.

"Among other issues, at the three-day seminar we will discuss the importance of sports to development, sports management, the way forward to competing in 2024 Paris Olympic Games," he disclosed.

He also said the seminar will clarify ways for selecting athletes that represent the country at the All Africa Games, Commonwealth Games, and Olympic Games.

"You will agree with me that of late they have been complaints from sports stakeholders, government and national sports associations of how the teams which represent the country at All Africa Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympics are selected, so at the end of the seminar people will know which format is used."

"It has now become a tendency that everyone blames TOC when the country is represented by few athletes at All Africa Games, Commonwealth Games, and Olympic Games."

"During the time ahead of those games we work closely with national sports associations and they know what to do for them to have many athletes at those games."

"After the athletes are selected and the government comes in the final stages, leaders of sports association start siding with the government accusing TOC of selecting few athletes, we know why this happens," he said.

**EATV THURSDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**#SalamaNa**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Bongo Hits  
13:00 Msozi Kitaani (r)  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
14:00 Ujenzi (r)  
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)  
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SalamaNa

**'SalamaNa'** is our new show in which Salama has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.

Every Thursday at 9pm

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06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Simba SC hails TFF for seeking to end misunderstanding

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC leadership has congratulated the officials of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) for agreeing to sit at the same table to end misunderstandings between the two bodies and the club.

The three parties were embroiled in controversy, following the decision by TPLB officials to prevent Simba SC Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, from accessing the stadium when the outfit confronted Yanga in this season's NBC Premier League match in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Barbara, according to TPLB officials, was alleged to have violated the VVIP entry procedures.

Simba SC Board of Directors' Chairman, Salim Abdallah, said it was gratifying to see the football authorities are ready to end the ongoing controversy.

According to the Simba SC leader, the misunderstanding could have tarnished the domestic football's image.

"Now we are going to find a solution, they have agreed to sit down and talk, so I urge Simba SC members and fans to calm down," he revealed.

"We will reach an agreement and, after our sessions, we will issue a straightforward explanation, now Simba SC knows that football leaders are addressing the issue," Abdallah disclosed.

He said this was not the first time Barbara had been prevented from accessing the stadium, as she and Simba SC's adviser, Crescentius Magori, faced the same issue.

Regarding the construction of Simba SC stadium, Abdallah pointed out they will sit in session and soon provide an arrangement for members to contribute for the project.

The incident involving Barbara is the one that sparked the sentiments of Simba SC fans wanting to contribute to stadium construction to do away with such a situation.

## Arusha Gymkhana Club players shine at Kijenge Senior Open tennis tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ARUSHA Gymkhana Club (AGC) senior tennis players have shined at the just ended Kijenge Senior Open tennis tournament which took place at Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) courts in the region.

AGC player, Omari Sulle, emerged as the tournament's winner and the club's other player, Frank Menard, was runner-up in the men's singles of the four-day tournament.

Esther Nankulange and Edna John, also from the same club, emerged as winner and runner-up respectively in the showdown's women's singles event.

Justine Massawe from Dar es Salaam's Kijitonyama Tennis Club and Sulle from AGC were winners in men's doubles while Menard and Goodluck Shelemo, both from AGC, was the event's runners-up.

The cash prize was handed over to winners, the men's singles event champion was presented with 400,000/-, the runner-up got 250,000/-.



Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC) tennis player, Omari Sulle.

Two semi-finalists walked away with 100,000/- each, the quarterfinalist got 50,000/- each.

In women's singles, the winner received 300,000/-, runner-up walked away with 200,000/-, two semi-finalists raked in 100,000/-.

Kijenge Senior Open tennis tournament's organizer, Jackson Mdee, stated 64 players featured in the tournament, which ended on Sunday.

He thanked all players and sponsors of the tournament, including main sponsors CPS, for making it very successful.

"This was one of the well-organized senior tennis open tournaments, we thank all players and sponsors for making it very successful."

"We hope we will arrange another tournament next time," he said, adding that they will need more sponsors.

The 64 players came from Dar es

Salaam Gymkhana Club, Morogoro Gymkhana Club, Moshi Tennis Club, Dodoma Tennis Club, Kijitonyama Tennis Club, and Kijenge Tennis Club.

Mdee said the tournament was staged after an outcry by many domestic senior tennis players who feel sidelined as many tennis events in the country are for juniors.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

