



### REVENUES



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### EMPLOYMENT



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# Pleasant surprise with Speakership clearly on horizon for Tulia Ackson

By Guardian Reporter

POLITICAL manoeuvring within the ruling CCM is now set to shift to who vies for the position of Deputy Speaker of Tanzania's National Assembly. This comes after the party yesterday endorsed the holder of the office, Dr Tulia Ackson (45) as its candidate for the Speakership. This follows the recent dramatic resignation of then House Speaker Job Yustino Ndugai (59) after he took exception to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's borrowing of 1.3trn/- from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), saying decisions of the kind "could one day see the country auctioned". The usually free-speaking Ndugai was however soon to disown the remarks and swiftly apologise to the president, suggested

that he had been quoted out of context. CCM Publicity and Ideology Secretary Shaka Hamdu Shaka said the party's central committee, which sat in the national capital Dodoma yesterday endorsed Dr Ackson's name from a list of 70 cadres who had collected and returned nomination forms for the position. "With effect from today, CCM legislators will back the candidate the party has endorsed for election as next Speaker of the National Assembly," he said. The election of the Speaker will be the first order of business when the House resumes its next sessions in Dodoma next month. Among the notable personalities who collected forms alongside Dr Ackson were former Pan-African Parliament vice president Stephen Masele, former attorney general

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi addresses journalists at Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport yesterday shortly after jetting back from a three-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates. Second right is his wife, Mariam Mwinyi. Photo: Zanzibar State House



## Mbeya, Zurich pact to combat stunting

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA City Council and the City of Zurich in Switzerland have agreed to work together in various areas including improving nutrition to combat stunting. This accord was reached at a virtual conference facilitated by Helvetas, a key Swiss non-governmental organization. Anna Schindler (pictured), the Zurich city development officer, said the pact was vital as it would go a long into addressing stunting among children in the southern highlands business hub, citing the fact that in the past decade close to half of the global population is now residing in cities, increasing nutritional challenges facing the community. This brings up the need for collaboration among cities to address the matter, where the agreement is aimed at helping Mbeya city to address stunting, a key illustration of intense nutritional challenges, she said. The official noted that the collaboration

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## Traders seek 75pc cut in stamp duty

By Francis Kajubi

MANUFACTURERS of excisable goods are pleading for a massive reduction of the tariff relating to the new electronic tax stamp (ETS) as it affects operational costs and lowers competitiveness. They want the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to make a 75 percent reduction on the new ETS rate pegged at \$18.37 (42,434/-) levied on every 100 stamped items that came into effect on Monday. Leodegar Tenga, executive director for the Confederation of Tanzania Industries

“What hurts is that the levied money goes directly to a foreign company that does the job while the government earns nothing”

(CTI) said at a press conference yesterday that the new rate is only an 8.15 percent reduction from \$20 (46,187/-) levied earlier. Manufacturers feel that this difference is minor and the stamp duty is a tax burden in operational costs, holding back local competitiveness in the East African market and at the wider stage. There is only a four percent reduction offered in the new rates across all beverages and alcoholic drinks from the previous ETS rates, he stated. "Our plea to the government is justified by TRA's own reports which show an increase in economies of scale due to the rise in the number of manufacturers registered with ETS from 57 when the system was adopted in late 2019 to 272 more recently," he stated, pointing out that findings indicate that alternative ETS providers provide that service at 50

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## 'Zanzibar's big projects will be people centred'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has declared that the government will consider interests of all groups when implementing big investment projects. Briefing journalists upon arrival at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport after concluding a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), he said the government takes account of people's economic activities including fishing in the Kizingo area, Unga Urban West Region where a big project is being implemented. The government will adhere to good governance methods and provide local people with areas for sports, while pushing for employment and training from this investment project and in various small islands listed for uptake of similar investment projects. Big companies had shown interest to invest here during his UAE visit, he asserted, noting that key areas include the construction of Mangapwani Port, where oil and gas drilling will branch off. A number of investors will establish fish processing factories in tandem with rising fishing farming meanwhile as tourism will be strengthened by constructing conference halls, to widen the range of tourists and other visitors wishing to come to the islands, he stated. The hotel investor at Kizingo area will similarly build a top echelon hotel at Matemwe, Unga North Region, the president indicated, affirming the readiness of that investor to invest in one of Zanzibar's small islands. The Zanzibar leader used the visit to revisit pledges of the UAE authorities to the phase seven government on the construction of Wete Hospital, building the Fumba-Kisauni road and delivery of \$10m youth empowerment funds, he stated, explaining that the money will be

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CCM national Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan chairs a special meeting of the ruling party's central committee in Dodoma city yesterday. She is with the party Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) Dr Ali Mohamed Shein. Photo: State House





## TPA approaches target as number of ships increases

By Carlos Banda

THE Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Atupele Mwakibete, has lauded the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) for reaching 50 per cent of its set target as the government works to boost its shipment handling capacity.

Minister Mwakibete gave the compliments earlier today in Dar es Salaam during his official visit to the port as part of his continued tour to public institutions that are directly linked to his ministry.

"This is the second day of my official visits in Dar es Salaam and I am now here at the Port authority and I have witnessed how they operate. I would like to specially congratulate the port's Managing Director and the Director General for their speedy initiatives. I also had the privilege to meet with the whole management and instruct them the direction to go with full knowledge that the Director General has had only 9 months since his appointment," said he said.

"I thank the president for appointing him to the position because we have witnessed how our ports authority's operations have changed and as I am speaking, they have managed to attain half of their set objective. If they continue performing better, they will contribute half of the money in the government's budget," added the Deputy Minister.

On his part, TPA Director General, Eric B Hamissi, stated that the port authority intends to achieve its set goal this year after attaining half of the objective last year while highlighting the increase in number of ships from an average of 50 ships per month to 70 ships from November.

"We had an average of 50 ships per month. But the average of ships coming into the country has where

as November alone we handled 70 ships and 67 ships in the month of December. So, you can see there is an increase in the number of ships docking at the port compared to the number we had previously," he said.

"Our key objective this year is to reach 18 million tons of shipment. Until December 31, 2021, we already reached 9.1 million tons. Therefore, you can see that we are already passed 50 per cent of the objective. We are positive that we will be able to surpass the objective of handling in the 2021/2022 financial year," said the TPA Director General.

Speaking on the challenges impeding TPA, the Deputy Minister highlighted that the president has already authorized the disbursement of funds that will assist the authority to purchase the necessary machinery needed for the port's operations.

"The port has several challenges but I would like to thank the president for starting to address the challenges. The president has authorized the disbursement of 210 billion for the machinery purchase. Our port is in a very strategic location, and if you look at on the map geographically, to us it's potential," he said.

"Therefore, 210 billion was disbursed. Some of the machinery has been bought and a total of 290 billion was in December summing a total of 500 billion. This is all for boosting out port so that it continues being the hub for central Africa and other countries that we serve," stated the Minister.

The Minister also emphasized and called on TPA to invest more in technology as it is something that is unavoidable highlighting that investment in information technology is the sole reason behind China, Singapore, and Shanghai's performances in maritime trading.



Superintendent of Police Patrick Matey Kimaro alias Sabasita (59), who is based in Manyara Region, pictured yesterday seated on what is said to be the grave he has built for himself - at his home village of Mbosho in Masama Central ward in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

## Pleasant surprise with Speakership clearly on horizon for Tulia Ackson

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Andrew Chenge and former CCM Women's Wing chairperson Sophia Simba.

The list also included one-time cabinet minister Ezekiel Maige, Emmanuel Mng'arwe, Azizi Mussa, Onyango Otieno, Dotto Mgasa, Prof Edson Lubua, Fikiria Said, Dr Itikija Mwanga, Peter Njenu, Mariam Kojia, Joseph Anania, Samuel Xsaday, Arnold Peter and Joseph Sabuka.

Other aspirants included long-serving legislator Mussa Hassan Zungu, former deputy minister Goodluck ole Medeye, legislator Joseph Kashoku (Msukuma), Merktion Ndos, Godwin Kunambi, Ambwene Kajula, Rahim Rashid Ismail, Alex Mwitwa, Semistocles Rwegasira and Gragrey Nyalohala.

Yet others who collected forms at the party's Dodoma and Lumumba

offices for the past five days were Esther Makazi, Mohamed Mmanga, Ndurumah Majembe, Godwin Maimu and Johnson Japheth.

Ndugai resigned earlier this month after coming under intense pressure to step down following his unprecedented public criticism of the president and her government.

His resignation meant that the House was to elect his successor and the eighth speaker since independence when it reconvenes in Dodoma next month.

A day later, President Samia

seemed to refer to him when she slammed those criticising her administration's focus on seeking external loans to pay for development projects instead of sourcing the funds locally by raising domestic taxes and expanding internal revenue streams.

The president said her government would not be discouraged from prioritising external loans over domestic taxes as the quickest way to complete the implementation of key projects already on track, citing the Standard Gauge Railway and Julius Nyerere Hydropower projects.

*His resignation meant that the House was to elect his successor and the eighth speaker since independence when it reconvenes in Dodoma next month*

## 'Zanzibar's big projects will be people centred'

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obtained soon.

The UAE has also agreed to restore suspended Dubai-Zanzibar air services by Fly Dubai and Emirates airlines, he stated, touching on the planned new city at Bwawani Hotel area where 260 hectares of land will be set aside.

Some investors expressed interest for further talks on investments expected to create hundreds of jobs, he said, emphasizing on the government's open door policy for investment, highlighting that the government has provided a plot for the construction of a UAE consulate on Sunday for a three day visit, witnessing the signing of accords for large investment projects, including property development by UAE's Eagle Hills Regional Properties.

## Traders seek 75pc cut in stamp duty

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percent of the new rate;

"What hurts is that the levied money goes directly to a foreign company that does the job while the government earns nothing," he declared, urging that "in the near future the government should consider awarding such tenders to local companies through open bids."

Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd managing director Unguu Sulay noted that last year when the ETS levy stood at US\$20 they paid 200/- to have one crate of 24 soda bottles stamped. With the deduction, they are since Monday paying 194/- a crate.

"We support the use of ETS on grounds that it ensures transparency in business operations and combats under-declaration and proliferation of illicit goods in the market. But the levy must be healthy for running our businesses," he said.

Paul Makanza CTI board chairman said that manufacturers appreciate the fact that in the new

changes the ETS shall be paid in Tanzanian currency but they are not encouraged by the fact that there has been an insignificant reduction in the rates.

"Based on the positive engagements we had with TRA and other government entities supported by an independent study on the execution of the rates, we are still left with an anticipation of significant ETS costs," said Makanza.

Manufacturers should be involved in the review process as key stakeholders, he elaborated, demanding that the review alleviate the impact on industries that are already tasked with value-added tax and excise duty, plus fees associated with the industrial subsector.

Jose Moran, Tanzania Breweries Ltd chief executive officer said planning tax reforms should consider the fact that manufacturers are striving to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic impact in their businesses.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (R) has an audience with Rwanda's Ambassador to Tanzania, Maj Gen Charles Karamba, in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Dodoma Region has expressed satisfaction with the COVID-19 fund projects in the region, saying value for money is evident.

Addressing a press conference in his office yesterday, the bureau's Regional Commander, Sosthenes Kimbwengo said his office inspected a total of 596 projects, including classrooms worth 20,660,907,935/- and provided guidance on what to do on areas that had some challenges.

He said his office constantly remind members of the public to take the lead in following up development projects at their places in effort to ensure the money is spent as budgeted.

Kibwengo, who was issuing his office's quarterly report for the months of October to December, 2021 noted that bureau focused a lot

## PCCB satisfied with the COVID-19 fund projects executed in Dodoma

on public awareness campaign on corruption and its effects.

"PCCB in collaboration with other stakeholders made close monitoring classrooms built through COVID-19 support fund whereby in addition to classrooms there were a total of 596 construction projects worth 20,660,907,935/-" he said.

He added that during the tour to different parts of the region, his team reminded the public and those implementing projects that any project undertaken through force account to ensure that equipment are purchased at market price.

The regional PCCB boss added that during the quarter, they managed to follow up on some four projects that were not launched during the

2021 independence torch race for allegedly being sub-standard. He said three of the projects had minor irregularities that were discussed and solved while the other one showed that payment was made before actual implementation of the project, adding that his bureau is in collaboration with the responsible council to make a follow up on the matter. Kimbwengo explained that during the period under review, his office's investigation desk received a total of 106 complains of which 58 were corruption related. At least 19 of them have been filed, five already in court, making a total of 53 corruption cases in courts in Dodoma.

Other 106 complains reported were from different ministries

as president's office, regional administration and local government such as villages, wards and councils(36), lands(19), education(11), courts(9) health(7), finance(5) and other sectors(19).

According to the commander, his office has continued with youth empowerment to expand awareness on corruption through scouts and youth clubs. He said from January to March this year they will use public address system mounted on vehicles that go to different areas like villages, wards in Dodoma region.

Kimbwengo added that his office conducted 47 public meetings, 90 seminars, one show and strengthening 120 clubs of people fighting corruption.

## Mbeya, Zurich pact to combat stunting

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will be pursued as the Swiss city wants to work with the local city in various areas so as to serve the people better.

The city of Zurich is working on establishing collaboration with other cities to ensure that the sustainable development goals (SDGs) are achieved as projected by 2030, which needs debates and discussions to exchange experience on achievements reached or expected at any given moment.

Mayor Sheikh Dormohamed Issa said Mbeya city will benefit from the collaboration as it seeks to achieve

the goals intended. Mbeya residents depend on farming and small businesses, so the collaboration will help with training on how to establish small industries, he stated.

"We believe that the collaboration will help us address nutritional challenges among children under the age of five, a perennial challenge the city has been facing, he said, while city nutrition officer Amani Mwakipesile said research has shown that 25.5 percent of children under the age of five in the region suffers from stunting. The study was conducted in 78 streets of 25 wards where 3,211 children were involved, he added.





Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) customs officer James Mwasambili (L) briefs tax 'ambassadors' touring the Namanga One-Stop Border Post in Arusha Region yesterday. From-R: OSBP manager, Paul Kamukulu, TRA taxpayer services and education director Richard Kayombo, Pemba South Region Special Seats legislator Zulfa Omari and Coast Region Special Seats MP Subira Mgalu. Photo courtesy of TRA

## TRA tax 'ambassadors' visit northern regions to sensitise traders on why compliance crucial

By Guardian Reporter, Namanga

TAX ambassadors appointed by the Finance and Planning Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba are now in the northern regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga mobilising business people to pay tax voluntarily in order to increase government revenue.

The ambassadors have had the opportunity to visit the Namanga one stop border post in Arusha Region and met with some stakeholders and tax payers whom they encouraged to continue paying their taxes voluntarily and in time.

Speaking during the visit, they praised the government for establishing one stop border posts as they have done away with many

inconveniences that existed in the past at the border posts, and hailed the existing cooperation between TRA and business people that had assisted Arusha region surpass tax collection targets.

"At this Namanga border post, I have learnt about many things, including how the two neighbouring countries - Tanzania and Kenya had removed the red tape that had existed in the past.

As a tax ambassador, I will use the knowledge I have received from TRA to mobilise the people to build the habit of paying their tax in time for our country's development," said Edo Kumwembe, one of the tax ambassadors.

For his part, speaking at a joint meeting between tax ambassadors

and Arusha businessmen, tax ambassador Zulfa Omari who is a Special Seats MP from Pemba South Region said it was rare to find business people talking amicably with TRA officials but she has been satisfied to see Arusha taxpayers praising TRA for improving their services.

Another tax ambassador, Subira Khamis Mgalu, another Special seats MP from Coast Region said through the visit she has learnt about various procedures used when importing and exporting goods via Namanga One Stop Border Post.

"As tax ambassador, I now know in depth how systems work at the border post that is assisting the government to collect revenue from various sources.

"In regard to taxpayers and other TRA stakeholders we met in Arusha City, I can now say that the statement by President Samia Suluhu Hassan collecting tax without much coercion is possible has now been proven as it has been shown by Arusha Region surpassing its tax collection targets," she said.

She stressed upon the taxpayers to accord cooperation to TRA by voluntarily paying their taxes, pledged that all complaints they aired have been received and they will work on them.

Tax ambassadors tour to the northern regions include visiting factories, shops, border posts and meet with various business people to mobilise them to pay their taxes voluntarily and in time.

## TRC unveils commuter train railway network in six cities

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) has unveiled a plan to construct a rail network in six biggest cities to serve the increasing urban populations, projecting that commuter buses will be overwhelmed by 2030.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, TRC managing director Masanja Kadogosa named the cities earmarked for the project as Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mbeya, Mwanza, Arusha and Tanga.

While the commercial hub Dar es Salaam has an existing network that is partially functioning which will only be expanded and upgraded, feasibility study is currently underway in the capital Dodoma, he said.

Kadogosa unveiled the plan before the Deputy Minister Works and Transport, Atupele Mwakibete who made the one-day tour to see the performance of the corporation after recently being appointed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

TRC boss said the statistics show that by 2030, over 20 million people will need commuter transport while in cities which according to him, buses cannot serve them alone.

Citing the Dar es Salaam city for instance, Kadogosa said there was a plan to construct a rail network from Tegeta, Kigamboni and Kongowe to the city centre.

"All these ring rail networks will help commuter trains to carry passengers from suburbs in the outskirts of the city to the main stations," he said, noting that Dar es Salaam was a major transport hub for the East Africa region.

Dar es Salaam has an estimated 2020 population of 6,702,000 and is projected to grow by 100 percent to 13,383,000 in 2035.

The commercial capital has grown even faster, due to its essential role in the country's industry.

Kadogosa said feasibility studies

were undergoing in other cities, a move aimed to come up with a comprehensive plan that will help to reduce the city's demand in future.

Kadogosa further unveiled another future corporation plan of improving real estate to contribute to the corporation operation costs.

"TRC is not the first to come up with such an idea. Globally, we're not the first country. It is commonly used by many Asian countries like Singapore and Japan to collect more revenues," he added.

In his remarks, the Deputy Minister for Transport, Atupele Mwakibete expressed satisfaction on the progress achieved in the construction of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR).

"I would like to reaffirm the government's commitment to support the corporation to ensure all projects are completed on time as planned," he said.

He also directed the management to come up with friendlier technology that can allow all passengers, even those without smart phones to buy online tickets.

Mwakibete said currently, passengers who have no smartphone cannot buy an online ticket and therefore have to travel to the nearest stations.

About four three years ago, it was reported that Tanzania needs 20,000 kilometres from the current 4,700 kilometres of rail to link with the regional rail network that was necessary for competitiveness and global region integration.

TRC Managing Director Masanja Kadogosa disclosed to reporters in Dar es Salaam when explaining success achieved so far.

Kadogosa said both the SGR and the Tanzania - Intermodal & Rail Development Project (TIRP) aimed at improving a critical link in the regional rail network that was necessary for both competitiveness and improved regional and global economic integration.



### CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – EoI A CONSULTANCY WORK ON DEVELOPMENT OF MANUALS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATION PROCEDURES FOR THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MANGROVE NETWORK, ZANZIBAR

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### Background

The WWF is an International Non-Governmental Organization that deals with conservation of nature through environmental management and conservation programmes. Its mission is to stop the degradation of the Planet's natural environment and to build the future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) through Marine Programme is currently implementing a project titled "Save Our Mangroves Now (SOMN) implemented in Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, and Madagascar.

Project: SOMN project consists of three work packages (WP): (WP 1) International policy agenda setting, (WP 2) National and regional policy work in the WIO region, (WP 3) Building partnerships. The Project facilitated the institutionalization of the WIO Mangroves Network (WIOMN) in March 2021 with its Headquarter in Zanzibar.

The overall objective of the consultancy assignment is to strengthen the WIOMN through development of manuals for operational procedures. The consultant is specifically expected to:

- Lead the development process of WIOMN administrative manuals, including but not limited to the following:
  - WIOMN Financial and Administrative Procedures
  - WIOMN Procurement and logistic procedures
  - WIOMN Partnership and Fund-raising procedures
  - WIOMN Employment procedure (Scheme of service and staffing procedures)
  - WIOMN Information sharing & dissemination, communication and networking procedures
- National stakeholders' awareness workshop on the roles and function of the Network
  - (i) Organize stakeholders meeting to discuss key aspect to be included in the manuals for WIO states
  - (ii) Conduct consultative meeting to specific group of stakeholders as defined in item (i).
- Design appropriate protocol for data and information collection from related institutions/organizations to feed into WIOMN website. Some of the website products may include fact sheets, policy briefs, newsletter, brochures and various field stories.

**The duration: 6 months** (120 days spread within the proposed period) including contract signing date. The expected starting date is **February 15th 2022**.

Applicant Qualification: Advanced degree in marine sciences, fisheries management, natural resource management/governance, environmental sciences, or any other related discipline; (ii) Specialization in institution set-up; (iii) Demonstrated experience to undertake consultative meetings (iv) Proven experience in producing high quality technical report; (v) Evidence of similar assignment previously conducted by the consultant(s), (vi) Identifies and aligns with WWF core values: Courage, Integrity, Respect & Collaboration, (vii) Familiarity with Zanzibar government system is an added advantage

**Submission of Application Documents:** Application from interested Consultant (s) should include:

Letter of expression of interest; (ii) Technical proposal with a step wise consultative process on how to develop the manuals, (iii) Financial proposal; and (iv) A detailed CV describing a consultant's preparedness, experience & expertise in conducting such similar consultancy/activity in his/her previous similar assignments and at most 3 referees.

Interested applicant are required to submit their electronic copies of application to the procurement email, [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org). Address your applications to: Secretary, Procurement Committee, WWF - Tanzania Country Office, Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikochei, P.O. Box 63117 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Detailed Terms of Reference is accessible through [tanzania.panda.org](http://tanzania.panda.org) & <https://tanzania.panda.org/news/>

Evaluation of the tenders will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines. **Deadline for submission is Saturday 5th February, 2022 at 4 PM EAT.** Only successful applicant shall be contacted.



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[info@fezaschools.org](mailto:info@fezaschools.org)



## ARU, CCI in new study on youth employability

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CHIEF Executive Officer of the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport Agency (DART), Dr Edwin Mhede said yesterday that the majority of Tanzanian youth do not have hands-on skills that can enable them to secure jobs, something that contributes to increased urban poverty and inequalities.

Dr Mhede revealed this during a presentation of research findings conducted by Ardhi University (ARU) in collaboration with the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI).

The research titled 'urban equality and prosperity in low income settlements: knowledge and partnerships for policy and action' was conducted for four years in Mnyamani, Goba and Hananasif wards in Dar es Salaam Region.

He challenged academicians to conduct research that will come up with solutions to unemployment challenges among youth to enable them to use research findings to generate income and find employment opportunities.

Mhede who represented the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Administration said despite the decrease of unemployment problem in Tanzania from 3.4 percent in 2013 to 2.2 percent in 2020, the problem remains a major challenge among youth.

"I am particularly impressed to note that among other things, the research findings being shared today have co-produced a policy document focusing on 'co-production of basic infrastructure for employment and income generation,'" he said

Mhede said the research has uncovered ample opportunities to provide affordable sanitation solutions that can be used in many urban centres adding the government is pleased to receive and work on the provided output.

He said policy documents produced and real life undertaken on simplified sanitation projects to gather with other action areas

proposed are significant steps toward the direct direction.

"I wish to impress public institutions especially local authorities, parastatal organizations and agencies such as Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to critically reflect upon their approach to infrastructure delivery and construction projects," he said

He said the use of labour intensive technology in infrastructure delivery projects such as the construction and maintenance of roads, improvement of sanitation, water supply, storm water drains and construction buildings for schools and health facilities and others constitute important sources of employment and income generation. "The point I want to underscore here is that construction and delivery of high quality infrastructure is very important but not enough. Delivery of basic infrastructure services and other structures must contribute to income and employment opportunities which men, women and youth in the local community can identify with and count on," he said.



**I am particularly impressed to note that among other things, the research findings being shared today have co-produced a policy document focusing on 'co-production of basic infrastructure for employment and income generation'**



Ardhi University research professor Wilbert Kombe makes a presentation in Dar es Salaam yesterday on research conducted in collaboration with the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) in the city's Mnyamani, Buguruni, Goba and Hananasif suburbs on urban equality and prosperity in low-income settlements. He is with CCI director Dr Tim Ndezi (L) and Dar Rapid Transit Agency (DART) CEO Dr Edwin Mhede. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has set aside 631m/- for the construction of a grand water project at Itamboleo ward in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region where over 20,000 residents are set to benefit.

District Commissioner (DC), Reuben Mfune made the statement here at a meeting which involved residents in Itamboleo and the contractor who won the tender to implement the project.

He said the funds are part of the 1.3trn/- loan provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support Tanzania's efforts in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic by addressing the urgent health, humanitarian, and economic costs. DC Mfune said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has issued the

## 631m/-for construction of grand water project in Mbarali District

funds to implement the project and ensure that residents are supplied with enough clean and safe water.

Eng Samwel Hechei, manager of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Mbarali said the project is implanted in two phases where the first phase will involve construction of a 300,000-litre water tank, eight water supply centres, a banner and the construction of a 15.9-km pipeline network.

He explained that the second phase will be implemented in the villages of Matebete, Mbalino and Kapunga and will involve the

construction of a 72.2-km pipeline network, 200,000 litres as well as the construction of 19 water points. This will cost a total of 3.9m/-.

Mbarali District CCM Chairman Hashimu Mwalyawa commended the government for implementing the ruling party's Election Manifesto by bringing the mega water project at the ward as the area was facing acute shortage of water.

He urged the residents to show full cooperation in the implementation of the project and make sure that they protect it once completed by avoiding stealing its infrastructures.

Twalibu Lubandano, Itamboleo ward councillor said the area once completed, the water project will provide relief to the villagers who have for a long time been suffering due to scarcity of water.

He said the project will bring more joy to women as they are then ones who are forced to wake up early in the morning, travelling long distances to get the precious liquid.

The implementation of the project was signed on January 10, this year and is expected to be implemented within six months and once completed will benefit a total of 22,543 residents in the ward.



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (2nd-R) addresses a meeting at a children's home at Kikombo in Dodoma Region yesterday. She is with deputy minister Mwanaidi Ali Khamis (2nd-L), permanent secretary Dr Zainab Chaula (R) and deputy permanent secretary Amon Mpanju - all from the ministry. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

COMMUNITY development institutions have been challenged to strengthen partnerships with the communities around them to encourage, educate and devise strategies that will enable them to develop themselves and prevent children and youth from fleeing into urban areas.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Minister for Community Development, Gender and Special Groups made this yesterday when she visited the

## Team up with society to deter rural-urban migration among children, institutions told

National Children Home at Kikombo area on the outskirts of Dodoma city.

During the visit she was accompanied by the Ministry Management as well as the heads of colleges and Community Development Institutions in the country.

"On Monday we met children

living in dangerous situations here in Dodoma, in listening to them, there are some of them you can see they have direction but they have failed to guide them the right way so they have decided to escape from homes and flee to cities.

"But if our colleges see this and help the community we can reduce

the tide of children fleeing to cities" stressed Minister Gwajima.

Results from the 2012 population and housing census, its estimated 2.5 million children were living and working on the streets by that year, equivalent to 12 percent of all children in the country.

The minister added that the

government's plan is to remove vulnerable children and rehabilitate them through child shelters across the country where there are currently a total of 468 facilities.

She instructed the Permanent Secretary in her ministry Dr. Zainab Chaula, collaborating with private station owners and assessing the

capacity and readiness of all facilities to be part of the implementation of the exercise.

Deputy Minister Mwanaidi Ali Khamis, said the Social Welfare Officers at the Center should ensure that they care for the existing children in accordance with the values and procedures for the upbringing and development of the child.

"Our role here is to provide the upbringing that a child could receive from his or her parent," said the Deputy Minister

## Husband stabs his wife to death in Ileje - RPC

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

POLICE in Songwe Region have confirmed the killing of Subira Kibona (16), a resident of Ilanga village, Mlale ward in Ileje District who was stabbed to death by her husband with a sharp object and her body burned before throwing it in a valley.

Speaking to journalists at his office yesterday, Songwe Regional Police Commander, Janeth Magomi said the incident occurred on January 13 this year.

She said Kibona's neighbours reported on her disappearance to the police station whereas the force assigned its officers to start conducting investigations. She said that after a few days police recovered Kibona's burnt body in a nearby valley.

"Investigation reports indicate that her body was burned before it was dumped in a nearby valley. We also observed that the body was hit by a sharp object on the back. We are holding her husband for further

investigations; we want him to tell us why he took such actions," said the RPC.

Mlale Ward Councillor, Yotamu Ndile said the incident occurred on January 13 after the couple disagreed on some arguments. He claimed that the deceased was seven months pregnant.

Bulambya Division Officer, Joyce Chale urged the residents to stop taking laws into their hands. She called on the villagers to build a culture of reporting violence incidents to the police.

She said the village government will continue to educate villagers on the adverse impacts of gender based violence.



**We are holding her husband for further investigations; we want him to tell us why he took such actions**



## Rungwe residents want improved road to facilitate goods movement

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

RESIDENTS of Kyobo Juu and Kyobo Chini villages in Ikuti ward, Rungwe District have appealed to the government to help them complete construction of a road to facilitate transportation services.

One of the residents, Deus Mwaijumba said the available road which is rough and could not allow vehicles to pass through was engraved by their elders some years back.

He asked the government to consider allocating funds for its construction to allow vehicles to pass.

"The road connecting these two villages was carved by our parents some years back; it has never been constructed or repaired since Tanzania got its independence in 1961. We appeal to the government

to improve the road to facilitate transportation of agricultural goods between the two villages," said Mwaijumba.

He said villagers in the area engage in cultivation of various cash crops such as banana, coffee, and cassava, but they cannot take them to the main markets in town over lack of proper roads.

Lucia James said that women and children are mostly affected with the road challenges because some expectant mothers find it difficult to reach health centres for antenatal care as well as delivery services.

"Some pregnant women use motorcycles to go to hospital; they are not supposed to use vehicles to comfortably reach health centres," said Lucia.

Speaking on behalf of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA) Manager in Rungwe

District, Eng Senyange Kayoka said the state agency is responsible for improving all rural roads to facilitate transportation services.

He said TARURA will allocate funds for construction of the road in its coming budget in the next financial year.

"Our main role is to make sure all impassable roads become passable throughout the year; this road will be one of our priority projects in the coming budget," said Eng Kayoka.

Rungwe District Commissioner, Dr Vincent Anney promised to make a close follow up to ensure the road is constructed as per TARURA assurance. He said construction of the road would bring development to the people in Kyobo Juu and Kyobo Chini villages as they will be able to transport their crops to market areas across the district.

## Ndala residents complain about much garbage lying uncollected in the streets

By Guardian

Correspondent, Shinyanga

RESIDENTS of Ndala in Shinyanga municipality have complained over the garbage collection points near their homes which pose health risks.

They lodged the complaints at the meeting with Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Sophia Mjema who met with TASAF beneficiaries, at Mapinduzi Street, Ndala Ward, within Shinyanga municipality.

One of the residents, Rehema Mussa, said the dumping site was full of unsanitary waste at the time it was taken to the dump, where it was a foul smell of debris strewn across the area, threatening the safety of their health.

Mapinduzi Street chairman Zabibu Cosmas said the garbage collection point had been unattended to for more than three months, threatening the health of civilians with outbreaks of waterborne diseases, including cholera and diarrhea. "...My Street has a serious problem with the waste disposal, and it is located near human settlements that have been uninhabited for more than three months, and pollution has become a

threat to public health," he told the RC.

Shinyanga Municipal Mayor Elias Masumbuko said in the municipality there are many garbage collection points that do not collect waste on time.

"We've now set the procedure for bidders to collect the waste and send it to the dump sites," he said.

Shinyanga municipality acting executive director Rajab Masanche said the problem was due to the challenge of poor collection of garbage trucks, where

they have now put in place procedures to collect the waste in phases.

For her part, RC Mjema, instructed all councils in the region, that when installing waste disposal bidders they should ensure that they are able to dispose of the waste as well as have enough vehicles, so that wastes do not stay in the gutters for long periods and threaten people's health.

She also suggested the need for garbage collection points to be located far away from human settlements.

### NATIONAL INVESTMENTS PLC



## RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The National Investments Plc (NICOL) is a public listed company at the Dar-Es-Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), whose mission is to promote active participation of Tanzanians in the national economy, by utilizing investment resources derived both locally and internationally.

As a measure of NICOL's dedicated efforts to build on contemporary achievements and notable success in its investment portfolios, the company looks beyond the horizon with an ambitious expansion program towards unlocking long-term values driven by sustainable growth, compatible high level professional acumen and international best practices, upholding well established principles of integrity and governance. With that in mind, coupled with expansion projections entailing investment diversification beyond the equity market, the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of NICOL, which took place on 3rd December 2021, approved a Recommendation to increase the size of the Board to seven (7) Directors, commensurate with the rapid expansion of the company's business activities, and the recent increase in shareholder's value and profits.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Formulating and Embellishing NICOL's Vision, Mission, Objectives as well as Apprising its Strategy by Ensuring that the Company Survives and Thrives as an On-going Concern.
2. Developing, Promoting and Monitoring the Implementation of NICOL's Strategic Objectives, Plans and Structures.
3. Ensuring Observance of Regulatory Compliance and Good Corporate Governance Practices.
4. Carrying out Basic Board Responsibilities, including Appointment of Senior Executives of NICOL, as well as Overseeing, Reviewing and Evaluating Board and Management performance.
5. Keeping Abreast with NICOL's Activities by Regularly Attending Board and other Meetings and Actively Participating in Policy and Performance Assessment / Evaluation and Planning For a and Volunteering to Undertake Board Assignments.
6. Enhancing an Amicable Working Relationship with Other Board Members.

#### Requirements:

- (a) Holder of a Degree from a Recognized University.
- (b) Possessing Knowledge in Good Corporate Governance Practices.
- (c) Having Minimum Experience of Five Years as Board Director of a Major Company.
- (d) Possessing High Moral and Ethical Character, Unblemished by any Criminal Record

Or History of Bankruptcy.

**National Investments PLC (NICOL)** is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to promoting equality and diversity in the workplace. Applications are encouraged from all representative groups. Applications will be considered and appointments made solely on merit.

All applications should be marked "**APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT NON - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**" on top of an envelope and submitted to NICOL by Post or Courier (EMS, CUM, DHL) to the following address.

**Chief Executive Officer,  
National Investments Plc,  
3rd Floor, Mirambo House,  
50 Mirambo Street,  
P.O. Box 7465,  
Dar-Es-Salaam.**

Online applications are preferred with a cover letter quoting reference **NICOL INDEPENDENT NON - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** to [invest@nicol.co.tz](mailto:invest@nicol.co.tz). For more information please contact us through our email [invest@nicol.co.tz](mailto:invest@nicol.co.tz) or on 022 2111 399.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS IS 7th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 15:30 HOURS.**

**ENG. Magesa C. Bairi**  
15 Aug, 1954 - 21 Jan, 2021

Today Marks 1 year since you ascended to heaven, We are Forever thankful and grateful for your unconditional love to all mankind.

You are deeply missed and remembered by your dear wife Marcellin, your sons Samwel, and Daniel, Daughter-in-Law Ellyne, grandkids, Georgina and Charles Jnr as well as relatives and friends.

**Nimepigana Vita Vilivyo Vizuri,  
Mwendo Nimeumaliza  
Imani Nimeitinda."**  
2 TIMOTHEO 4:7



### PUBLIC NOTICE

## REQUIREMENT TO UPGRADE ELECTRONIC FISCAL DEVICES TO ALIGN WITH ELECTRONIC FISCAL DEVICE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**Dar es Salaam, 20 January, 2022**

Tanzania Revenue Authority reminds all traders who are using Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) that, they are required/obliged to upgrade their devices to abide with the improvements made on EFD system, in line with "QR Code" features that allows automatic verification of receipts and invoices issued by the devices.

Thus, all taxpayers are advised to contact their respective EFD suppliers to upgrade their devices and configure them with Protocol 2.1 that is in line with current EFD communication requirements for generation of verification code for receipts and invoices.

Further, take note that this Public Notice is a reminder following an earlier Public Notice issued on 7th December, 2020, through newsletters, on the improvements made on EFDMS and the requirement to upgrade the devices within the period of thirty days (30) from the date of the advertisement. In addition to that TRA announced another 30 days for those who have not complied with the requirement to upgrade or acquire new device which align with the improvement of the EFDMS.

After the given deadline, TRA made analysis and noted that implementation of the directive to upgrade their devices to Protocol 2.1 was not effectively effected by some traders.

This notice serves as a last reminder that 28th February 2022 is the new deadline for all traders who have not yet upgraded their devices. Please also note that, failure to comply with this new deadline will compel TRA to take administrative actions including but not limited to blocking the un-upgraded devices.

"Together We Build Our Nation"

**Issued by:  
DIRECTOR OF TAXPAYERS SERVICE AND EDUCATION  
TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY**





CHINA DASHENG BANK  
中華大盛銀行

## CHINA DASHENG BANK LTD

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

China Dasheng Bank Ltd is a fully -fledged commercial bank approved by the central Bank of Tanzania. It is the first bank in Tanzania established jointly by Chinese state -owned and private companies. The Bank has one branch located at ground floor, extelecoms house, Samora Avenue. Also, the Bank Head office is located at mezzanine floor, extelecoms house, Samora Avenue. China Dasheng Bank invites suitable applicants to fill the following posts:

#### 1) Job title: Head of ICT

**Responsible to: CEO**

**Duration of Contract: Three (3) Years**

**Duties and Responsibilities**

#### ICT

- Heading the ICT Department.
- Responsible to offer the first line of support for the core Banking system and all other systems for the entire Bank. This includes monitoring and execution of the functions of all ICT business enablers of the Bank and supervising officers in the ICT unit.
- Collaborates with appropriate departments to assess and recommend technologies that support Bank's organizational needs.
- Shares responsibility for the formulation and implementation of the Bank's strategic plan by active participation as an Executive team member in strategy planning forums as the digital and IT subject matter expert.
- Develops and executes the digital and technology strategic and operating plan to support and enhance Bank's strategic ambitions and business requirements, focusing resources so that cost effectiveness and optimum customer service experiences are achieved. Foster innovation, prioritizing IT initiatives, and coordinating the evaluation, deployment, and management of current and future IT systems
- Establishes and sets short and long-range objectives for the digital strategy for the Bank and gain buy-in of the various stakeholders and establishing criteria for monitoring progress and measuring success.
- Defines and executes a strategy for the core banking systems/platforms/networks that is cost effective, reduces complexity and improves speed to market of new product delivery.
- Communicates Bank's technology strategy to management, staff, partners, and stakeholders as and when appropriate.
- Oversees the management of customer service and support processes for technology-based services.
- Acts as an IT and digital pathfinder, interprets critical business drivers, conducts research, maintains an understanding of current banking/financial services industry trends, consults and participates in peer review in order to develop long-term plans and to provide a framework for decision-making in respect of Information Technology delivery.
- Ensure technology is accessible and equipped with current hardware and software.
- Advise and/ or negotiate with vendors and service contractors to ensure high level of return consistent with services rendered.
- Preparation of an ICT strategy to support business growth in line with the bank's Strategic plan.
- Create and maintain documentation for supported ICT systems in accordance with ICT policy standards.
- Ensuring adherence with software licensing laws and Oversee all technology operations including networks, compute infrastructure, Databases, Banking applications and deploy & operate them according to established goals.
- Advise and establish IT policies and systems to support the implementation of strategies set by the Board.
- Translate business needs to determine technology requirements.
- Responsible for BCP.
- Perform other duties as may be assigned by CEO.

#### Required Education & Experience

Degree in Computer Science with at least 10 years working experience 5 of which must be at Senior Managerial level.

#### 2) Job title: Head of Human Resources

**Responsible to: CEO**

**Duration of Contract: Three (3) Years**

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Heading the Human Resources Department.
- Serving on various CDBL committees as representative of the Human Resources Division and Assists the Chief Executive Officer in day to day Staff matters activities.
- Review and advise on training programmes, human resources and administrative policies and procedures, inventory and personnel records and data, staff leave, insurance cover security etc.
- Ensure maintenance of good public image of the CDBL through courteous staff and clear surroundings.
- Responsible for compensation claims, medical, disciplinary affairs and CDBL functions.
- Formulates, recommends and ensures adherence to Administrative and Human Resources Policies Procedures and Regulations.
- To prepare and implement manpower Plan, Policies, Administrative Budget and review of Incentive Schemes and Schemes of Services.
- Ensuring health and safety of CDBL staff.

- Processing recommendations for Staff Performance Appraisals, Promotions, Transfer and Salaries.
- In consultation with relevant heads of work places to process all Disciplinary Cases and Recommending Action to be taken.
- Keeping the CDBL well informed of labour legislations and directives relevant to the CDBL Management and Workers.
- In consultation with Head of Departments and Branches to assess Staff Requirements and Recruitment strategies.
- Developing and maintaining a standard system for staff records and files.
- Planning, Developing and administering social welfare, sports and cultural activities in the CDBL.
- Carrying out any other duties as assigned by CEO

#### Required Education & Experience

Degree in Public Administration, Human Resources Management, Sociology, Business Administration, or equivalent from a recognized Institution with 10 years working experience 5 of which must be at Senior Managerial level. Knowledge in basic chinees language is an added advantage.

#### 3) Job title: Head of Legal and Company Secretary

**Responsible to: CEO**

**Duration of Contract: Three (3) Years**

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Heading Legal Department.
- Participating in negotiations with outside parties.
- Providing legal advice on all aspects of the law in CDBL operations.
- Filing of documents in courts.
- Handling, negotiating and drafting of commercial contracts, leases, and other legal instruments
- Processing, probating and administering property for the CDBL.
- Appearing in court on behalf of the CDBL.
- Proper recording and custody of contracts implementation follow up and ensuring the contractual obligations are met under the contracts.
- Vetting all legal documents emanating from outside the CDBL in which the CDBL is/will be a party.
- Participating in and witnessing all contracts.
- Secretary to the Board of Director's meetings
- Secretary to all Management Committee meetings
- In charge of Legal Department and legal advisor to the CDBL.
- Drawing up prescribed legal forms, documents and policies.
- Indexing filing, registration of various Acts, Government notices and other legal documents.
- Preparing and giving legal opinion and clearance to agreements, leases, etc. as required by the superiors from time to time.
- Where necessary, consulting with outside legal counsel on any legal matters which require such assistance or representation.
- Drawing up departments' expenditure and staff budgets and controlling expenditure within the budget.
- Appraise staff performance in his department.
- Custodian of all CDBL documents and minutes of the CDBL concerning various meetings.
- Performs any other related duties assigned by CEO

#### Required Education & Experience

Degree in Law from a recognized Institution with a practicing certificate as an advocate with not less than 10 years relevant working experience in a reputable firm, 5 of which should be at Senior Managerial level.

#### 4) Job title: Head of Credit and Recovery

**Responsible to: CEO**

**Duration of Contract: Three (3) Years**

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Heading Credit Department
- Formulation of constant review of the Bank's Credit Policy and establishment of a regime of controls and discipline that ensures compliance with lending principles and guidelines laid down in the Credit Policy Document.
- Continually review sectoral ceilings, discretionary authorities; portfolio measures; including industry limit, tenure limits, risk rating, NPLs, risk acceptance criteria, security acceptance and credit risk metrics.
- Ensuring that provisioning policies are in line with Bank's Credit Policy Document, comply with Banking Act provisions and coordinate with Finance Division to ensure appropriate provisions and interest suspensions are affected in the Bank's accounting system.
- Management of Credit Appraisal system, ensuring that appropriate reviews of credit proposals are undertaken on timely basis.
- Ensure continued maintenance of quality portfolio risk management especially in line with CDB growth strategy.
- Implementation of automated process to minimize manual interventions thereby increasing efficiencies in delivery of credit products at both personal and corporate lending levels.
- Providing ongoing relevant training to all bank staff involved in lending business to address identified skill gapes.
- Identification and management of substandard and non-performing assets portfolio of the Bank in line with Credit Policy Document and recommend to the EXCO and the Board, which minimize losses and facilitate full recovery of any exposure taken by the Bank.
- Providing technical support to the EXCO on the management of

Bank's credit portfolio and the review and approval process for credit proposals.

- Management of the credit administration aspect of the portfolio, including ensuring that all requisite security documents are in place prior to disbursements.
- Organize, manage, and motivate the available human capital within Credit Department through establishment of suitable organization structure and implementing development programmes to optimize competence and productivity.
- Perform any other duties as may be assigned by the CEO.

Required Education & Experience

Degree in Banking, Economics, Finance, Accountancy or equivalent from a recognized Institution with not less than 10 years relevant working experience in Credit Administration in a reputable firm, 5 of which should be at Senior Managerial level.

#### 5) Job title: Branch Manager

**Responsible to: Head of Operations**

**Duration of Contract: Three (3) years**

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Ensuring efficient and economical administration of the Branch.
- Ensuring that safety and security of Branch assets is maintained all the time.
- Controlling overall activities of the Branch and ensuring efficient services to customers.
- Ascertaining that all branch returns including daily activities summary are prepared on daily, weekly and monthly basis and submitted to Head Office and Bank of Tanzania promptly.
- Carrying out CDBL policies and ensuring that all staff under him/her join in carrying out the instructions.
- Ascertaining that adequate staff rotation and on job training are carried.
- Promoting healthy relations between management and staff as well as maintaining sound public and staff relations.
- Opening and examining all mail from Head Office and signing all outgoing Head Office and other correspondences.
- Scrutinizing daily all branch vouchers and records to ensure that the day's activities have been properly carried out and accounted for.
- Carrying out periodic surprise snap checks of cashiers.
- Advising the Head of Operations on how to expand the CDBL business.
- Appraise staff performance in the branch.
- Ensuring that all drafts TTs, MTs and transfers from the branch account for customers who have sold for to the Institution are effected promptly.
- To ensure high risk situations are identified early and actions taken for proper intensive handling and recovery.
- Carrying out any other duties as may be assigned by the Head of Operations.

#### Required Education & Experience

Degree in Business Administration, Economics, Commerce or equivalent from a recognized Institution with 7 years relevant working experience.

#### 6) Job title: Trainee (5 Posts)

**Responsible to: Assigned Head of Department**

**Duration of Contract: Three months**

Degree in Business Administration, Economics, Commerce, Banking, Accounting, Law, ICT, Public Administration or equivalent from a recognized Institution with excellent knowledge in English language.

Duties and Responsibilities: All banking operations

#### MODE OF APPLICATION

Applications should include the following:

- Typed letter of application hand-signed by the applicant.
- Detailed CV.
- Photocopies of relevant Certificates.
- Two recent passport size photographs of the applicant.
- Name of at least two referees with complete contact details.

#### REMUNERATION

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate.

#### Applications should be addressed to:

**The Chief Executive Officer,  
China Dasheng Bank Ltd,  
P.O. Box 388,  
Dar es Salaam.**

#### Physical Address:

Mezzanine Floor, Extelecoms House,  
Samora Avenue, Dar es Salaam.

#### Closing Date:

Application should reach the Chief Executive Officer on or before 15th February, 2022. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.





Muheza constituency legislator Hamisi Mwinjuma alias Mwana FA (2nd-L) inspects the ongoing construction of new buildings of a 250m/- health centre in Kwafungo ward built with proceeds from mobile money transaction levy. He is with Kwafungo councillor Gabriel Mswagala (L); district works engineer Arafai Saidi (3rd-L); the MP's secretary, Omari Kidundai (4th-L); Majengo councillor Mukadam Sabuni; and the MP's assistant, Japhet Lugali. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## After war on extortion, WAJIKI now adds Covid-19 jobs mobilisation in its campaign

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

WOMEN community based organisation - "Wanawake Katika Jitihada za Maendeleo" (WAJIKI) among others, campaigns against sexual exploitation (sextortion) in students, it has added another campaign for mobilising the public to get Covid-19 vaccinations.

The organization's director, Janeth Mawinza told this paper that the campaigns are being conducted by the drivers of commuter buses (daladala) motorcycle (bodaboda) and tricycles (bajaj) who are WAJIKI members.

"As for now we are making face masks, sanitizers and soap that bear

the slogan "Protect yourself against Covid-19, fight against Sextortion," hence supporting the fight against the pandemic," Mawinza said.

She said some of these drivers are in Kinondoni, Ilala and Temeke districts who are WAJIKI ambassadors, they are mobilising the public to avoid sexual exploitation, and now they have another task in mobilising the public to receive Covid-19 jabs.

She explained that WAJIKI ambassadors have 108 groups with 3,741 drivers in the three districts campaigning against sextortion and mobilising for Covid-19 vaccination.

Mawinza said her organisation, is being sponsored by Women

Fund Tanzania Trust (WFT), with aim to wage the war against sexual exploitation and supports the government efforts in the campaign against Covid-19.

In regard to sexual exploitation, she said the vice was still quietly affecting the community as its commission involves two people in great secrecy, but its effects are long lasting.

She said: "It should be known that the drivers of these means of conveyance are involved in the vice that is why we decided to involve them in the war, as whenever a driver is attracted to a girl student, he uses his vehicle to transport her to the commission of the vice."

A PRODUCT OF  
The Coca-Cola Company

KILIMANJARO  
DRINKING WATER

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**BONITE BOTTLERS LTD** would like to inform the general public on our compliance of the government ban on the use of **plastic seals** on all **Kilimanjaro Drinking Water** bottle caps. This is inline with adhering to the ongoing government green policy on conserving the environment.



@kilimanjaro\_drinking\_water | kilimanjarodrinkingwater | kdw@bbl.co.tz  
+255 762628166 | +255 659785276 | +255 272754422



### PRESS RELEASE

## Manufacturers request Government to lower rates of Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS)

**Dar es Salaam, January 20th, 2022:** Manufacturers of excisable goods in the country have requested the Ministry of Finance and Planning and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to lower the rates of Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS) announced on Monday this week arguing that the rates are too high.

Speaking on behalf of the excisable goods industry at a press conference held today in Dar es Salaam, the Executive Director of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), Mr Leodegar Tenga, reiterated the private sector's support for use of the ETS but called for affordable charges agreeable by both the Government and the manufacturers.

"Manufacturers have categorically reiterated the fact that they support the government's initiative to implement Electronic Tax Stamps since it fosters a fair and competitive business environment that stimulates economic growth. CTI and its members support the use of ETS on the grounds that it ensures transparency in business operations and combats under-declaration and proliferation of illicit goods in the market," the CTI Executive Director said.

He further argued that the charges are not only an increased operational cost to the businesses but also have a negative impact to the sector's development and the economy in general.

He also said the sector had, in earlier engagements with TRA, submitted alternative ETS solutions which could significantly reduce the current costs. However, the request has not been considered in the rates released by TRA this week.

The CTI Executive Director went on to state the following recommendations that CTI, on behalf of industry presented to the Government for consideration in reviewing the ETS system.

The specific requests / recommendations by industries were that:

1. The cost of ETS should be reviewed downwards to alleviate the impact on industries that are already tasked with the requirement to pay VAT & excise duty over and above the other taxes and fees associated with the respective industrial sub-sectors. Industries had requested a reduction of 75% on the prevailing ETS rates. The reduction is justified by the reports by TRA which shows increase in economies of scale due to the rise in the number of manufacturers registered with ETS from 57 when the system was adopted to the current 272, and findings of the study by the Independent Consultant indicating

that alternative providers are on average about 50% cheaper than the current rate.

2. Manufacturers represented by CTI should be involved in the review process as key stakeholders.
3. The retendering process should be transparent and involve all reputable vendors/service providers based on global best practices.
4. Concrete plans should be put in place to localize the operations of ETS, soonest possible, in order to do away with externalization of funds. This is based on the understanding that ETS charges are paid to the external third-party vendor and do not go to the Government coffers.
5. The payment of ETS should be in Tanzania Shillings and not US Dollars.
6. Explore alternative ETS options that address the Government's industry-specific objectives while minimizing the burden on industries, Government and the economy as a whole. The identification of industry-specific objectives is essential in order to assess whether the costs of the proposed solution outweigh the anticipated benefits.

"We appreciate the fact that ETS shall be paid in Tanzania Shillings, but we are not encouraged by the fact that there has been an insignificant change in the rates. In fact, based on the positive engagements we had with TRA, and other government entities supported by the study conducted by an Independent Consultant, left us with an anticipation of a significant reduction in ETS costs. While manufacturers requested a decrease of 75%, the reduction offered by the new rates amounted to only 4% on average across all the products," the Executive Director said. (A comparison of the old and new ETS rates is herein attached)

The CTI Executive Director cautioned that failure to

address the high costs of ETS may lead to negative consequences including reduction in government tax revenue collection due to declined sales volume, acting as a barrier to entry for new local products, and fuelling illicit trade.

Finally, the CTI Executive Director urged the authorities to address the industry concerns to align with the aspirations of the 6th Phase Government aimed at fostering investment and improving the business environment.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) is a Business Membership Organisation that was launched in July 1991. It is an independent, self-financed, legally constituted organisation that

serves members by speaking out on their behalf and generally representing their interests.

CTI identifies key issues as its priority for advocacy including fiscal policy and taxation, the legal and regulatory framework, regional and multilateral trade arrangements, and infrastructure, mainly Electricity, Roads, Railways and Ports.

The main aim of CTI is to ensure that there is a conducive legal, financial and economic environment within which industry can operate effectively, prosper and contribute to national wealth and development. CTI has been very active in advocating for a conducive business environment for its members so that they can become competitive.

COMPARISON OF THE OLD AND NEW ELECTRONIC TAX STAMPS (ETS) RATES						
ITEM	OLD RATE (USD)	TZS EQUIVALENT	NEW RATES (TZS)	NEW RATE (USD)	REDUCTION (USD)	CHANGE IN PERCENTAGE (%)
Alcohol; Spirits, Liqueurs and other Spirituous Beverages	20	45,957.75	42,214.37	18.37	-1.63	-8.15
Wine produced from locally grown fruits	8.55	19,646.94	17,435.137	7.59	-0.96	-11.26
Cigarettes and other manufactured tobacco	20	45,957.75	42,214.37	18.37	-1.63	-8.15
Beer - Local	8.55	19,646.94	18,312.91	7.97	-0.58	-6.79
Beer - Imported	10	22,978.88	23,093.20	10.05	0.05	0.5
Fruit Juices - Local	3.6	8,272.40	8,082.62	3.52	-0.08	-2.29
Fruit Juices - Imported	6.61	15,189.04	15,264.61	6.64	0.03	0.5
Water	3.6	8,272.40	8,082.62	3.52	-0.08	-2.29
Sweetened/Flavoured Water	3.6	8,272.40	8,082.62	3.52	-0.08	-2.29
Other non-alcoholic beverages	6.61	15,189.04	15,264.61	6.64	0.03	0.5

BOT USD Exchange rate January 14, 2021		Average
Buying	2,286.4554	2297.89
Selling	2,309.32	



## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

## Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com

## '2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development' crying out for attention

WHEN it comes to rating progress in the realisation of set objectives, targets or goals, there is neither harm nor shame in reiterating time and again whatever has been said or has been done previously.

In this particular piece, The Guardian is doing precisely that: repeating, with renewed vigour and emphasis, what we said - in this very column - some four years ago.

We once had the global Millennium Development Goals - eight of them, and better known as MDGs. Their lifetime ran out, with some notable achievements having been made.

Through a declaration signed in September 2000, all 191 UN member states gave themselves until 2015 to achieve these goals.

They included eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empower women, and reducing child mortality.

Among the others were improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development.

Analysts were understandably divided on the degree of success realised at the implementation stage, but with all agreeing that it had been far from smooth sailing and many countries had not lived up to expectations.

Now we have the Sustainable Development Goals - 17 of them, and popularly known as SDGs. These are collection of global goals, each with a separate list of targets to achieve, again set by the UN - in 2015. The targets come to an awesome 169 in total.

Much like the MDGs before them, the SDGs cover social and economic

development issues, among them poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, urbanisation, environment and social justice.

Those who have not had occasion to make a close follow-up on these goals may wish to know that the formal name for the SDGs is: 'Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' - which has been shortened to '2030 Agenda'.

Perhaps even more importantly, the UN states categorically that the SDGs are not UN goals but, rather, ought to be owned and lived by the communities and nations in which they are expected to be achieved and make a difference.

Implementation of the goals is officially described as 'Localising the SDGs', which is meant to highlight the role of local institutions and local actors.

Encouraging progress has been reported from many parts of the world, including in the form of having fewer under-fives in Africa suffering from stunting and wasting.

It is noteworthy that here we are talking about ending poverty and hunger, improving public health and education, ensuring gender equality, making affordable clean energy and potable water available, and ensuring decent work and economic growth as well as stepped-up innovation in various sectors.

This also means making our urban areas and communities more sustainable, ensuring responsible production and consumption, working for enhanced peace and justice, mitigating the impact of climate change, etc., etc.

This remains a tall order. But as once aptly stated by Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General from 2007 to 2016: "We don't have plan B because there is no planet B!"

## Success of our envoys in economic diplomacy has much to depend on

AMBASSADORS and high commissioners representing Tanzania in foreign countries have a formidable task on their hands.

This includes striving to lure more tourists to the country's world-acclaimed wildlife sanctuaries and other conservation areas, while also attracting investors to various sectors and obtaining usable market contacts in those countries.

While there is an immense lot they can do and are already doing, judging by the inflow of foreign investments over the years, there are complications.

For instance, the world listens directly to pronouncements by national leaders and opportunities arising from there, with the envoys facilitating that motion without necessarily creating it.

The question is what they can precisely do to propel the dynamic already created, and whether that dynamic has the potential to fulfil the country's dreams and those of the national leadership for that matter - as well as whether those expectations reflect the situation in those countries or our optimism is exaggerated.

That is the sort of problem that may come up as the national leadership evaluates the performance of envoys, in that finally it has to do with the proper dynamic that it has created rather than the particular envoys' efforts as such.

Put rather differently, it is decisive to map out if our opening up to foreign countries has created a viable enough dynamic or that needs a boost or a push.

There is a preliminary question as to where foreign investors feature in our plan of things, that

is, whether they are auxiliary to our needs including where we offer plots of land for them to start own businesses.

If potential investors throw in sideline questions on the possibility of purchasing this or that company to use its market goodwill already existing, they should be met with grace and not otherwise.

There are matters of strategic importance and relevance on how we approach the issue of foreign investments, whether they are auxiliary to our needs and we wish for them as some kind of accolade or an allowance topping up a salary.

If on the contrary we believe that investors whether local or foreign are part and parcel of the economic fabric, we need to pay attention to their wishes and expectations, instead of keeping harping on the sort of ages-old opportunities that we can offer.

It is possible that so far we haven't put the matter into active enough discussion on the proper intentions we have with respect to investors. This is despite the fact that we are experienced enough to understand that we need them as part of the economic fabric and they are not merely an extra quantity where numbers don't count.

We may have to decide whether we need to better lay down the premise of discussion so that we disabuse ourselves of any illusions or fixed beliefs as to what investment is all about. That would help in complementing the efforts our ambassadors and high commissioners abroad are both supposed and expected to make in their capacity as economic crusaders.



By Joe Wang

## Views, counterviews on COVID-19: Goodbye pandemic, hello endemic?

IN early 1918, when World War I entered its final year, the H1N1 influenza A virus infected millions of people, causing the Spanish flu pandemic.

By April 1920, after four waves and almost 100 million deaths, the pandemic ended. H1N1 became much less deadly and caused only ordinary seasonal flu. It had become an endemic virus.

Will history repeat itself? After two years of the Covid-19 pandemic and four waves of different variants, will SARS-CoV-2 become an endemic virus?

### Looking good

After my recent opinion piece "Omicron May Help End the Pandemic This Winter" was published, readers asked if I could cite peer-reviewed publications to support my pandemic-ending claim. Well, since the Omicron wave is still ongoing, my projection can only be as good as an educated prediction. But things are looking pretty good.

In the past week, there have been a few related research works published that point in the same direction - that Omicron is fast-spreading but less pathogenic. None of them is yet peer-reviewed, and that's because the data are time-sensitive, so scientists choose to allow the public access to their research "live", as the peer review process takes time.

So what do the new data suggest? Could the spread of Omicron end the pandemic? Waves come and go - so, in order for Omicron to be the final wave, it needs to be able to stimulate strong and long-lasting immunity against potential future variants.

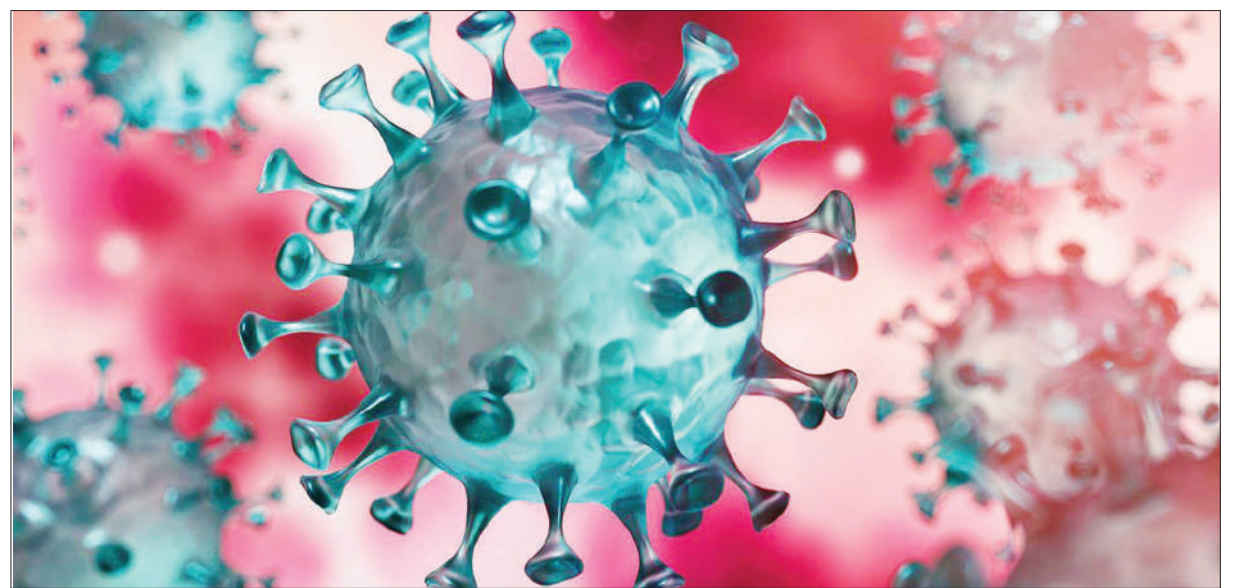
### T cell immunity and vaccination

The hope for long-lasting immunity relies on protective T cell responses. In my previous article, I quoted a University of Cape Town study showing that long-lasting T cell response, induced either by vaccination or by natural infection, cross-recognizes Omicron.

The authors concluded that well-preserved T cell immunity to Omicron is likely to contribute to protection from severe Covid-19 caused by other variants.

It turns out that not all T cell responses are the same, however. The Cape Town study didn't distinguish the types of T cell responses a natural infection induces versus that of vaccination.

We now know that although vaccinations with S protein-based vaccines stimulate T cell responses, the responses don't induce protection. That is why, even though the world had a high vaccination rate in November, the Omicron wave still arrived.



### Stronger protection

This January 10, the scientific journal Nature published a peer-reviewed article headlined 'Cross-reactive memory T cells associate with protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection in Covid-19 contacts'.

Submitted to Nature by Imperial College London scientists five months ago, the article looked at T cell epitopes (very small protein fragments) from different SARS-CoV-2 proteins (S, N, E and ORF1) in terms of their cross-reactivity to those of other species of human coronavirus OC-43 and HKU1, which cause the common cold.

The scientists found a pool of T cell epitopes from S, N and ORF1 proteins that were cross-reactive between SARS-CoV-2 and human coronavirus (hCoV).

However, the specific T cell response that induces protection is from the epitopes of the N and ORF1 proteins, and not the S protein (spike protein).

They then concluded that in the second generation of vaccines developed against Covid-19, non-spike proteins should be included.

When I read the paper, I was less interested in the scientists' recommendation on next-generation vaccine development than I was in their study of the non-spike proteins (N and ORF1) and their T cell epitopes' cross-reactivity between SARS-CoV-2 and hCoVs.

The reason for this was that this new information could shed light on detailed T cell immunity cross-protection between SARS-CoV-2 and hCoVs.

In other words, if the N-protein epitopes from the common cold could induce long-term protective T cell immunity against SARS-CoV-2, then Omicron infection with plenty of N-protein epitopes should also be able to induce similar T cell immunity and provide stronger protection against any future SARS-CoV-2 variant infections.

If you can recognize a distant cousin in a crowd, you can certainly spot your brother right next to you.

### Light at the end of the tunnel

For about a year now, scientists have been discussing the potential of SARS-CoV-2 to join the other four human coronaviruses as an endemic virus.

SARS-CoV-2 is the seventh coronavirus that infects humans. We have MERS-CoV causing Middle East respiratory syndrome, SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2 causing severe acute respiratory syndrome, and the remaining four (OC43, HKU1, 229E, and NL63) endemic viruses that cause the common cold.

In a peer-reviewed paper entitled 'Immunological characteristics govern the transition of COVID-19 to endemicity' published in the prestigious journal Science in February 2021, scientists at Pennsylvania State University and Emory University stated that all human coronaviruses elicit immunity with similar characteristics.

The Covid-19 pandemic is a consequence of a human population that hadn't seen SARS-CoV-2 before. Once widespread infection (such as the Omicron wave) occurs across the world, the virus will eventually circulate endemically, meaning that infections may still happen but with milder symptoms and much less mortality.

There are two reasons that the transition from pandemic to endemic didn't happen until Omicron: 1) all the widely used vaccines are based on the spike protein, which doesn't induce a protective long-lasting T cell response, and 2) natural immunity wasn't widespread.

The Nature paper disclosed that protective (IL-2 secreting) T cells are induced by SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Accordingly, we could foresee that a wider spread of Omicron

infection would induce a wider range of cross-reactive T cell immunity, subsequently offering more widespread protection against potential future SARS-CoV-2 variants. As a result, we are likely very close to being able to say goodbye to the pandemic.

Although we should be mindful that we're not out of the woods yet and people are still suffering, I remain optimistic that we're beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

We also must remember that even when we say goodbye to Covid-19, we probably won't be completely free of SARS-CoV-2.

Even the seasonal flu kills more than half a million people globally every year, according to the World Health Organisation. Another endemic virus will likely increase the burden on health systems around the world.

The good thing is, as I noted in my previous article, that Omicron can be viewed as a live attenuated vaccine enjoying a very good track record among all vaccines.

There have been some 11 diseases, among them measles, mumps, chickenpox and polio, that attenuated vaccines were widely used to combat. So far, none of these diseases has spread out of control after decades of vaccination.

Hopefully, Omicron will act like its other attenuated vaccine cousins and, with any luck, no other SARS-CoV-2 variants will emerge to become a pandemic in the future.

• **Joe Wang, PhD, was a lead scientist for Sanofi Pasteur's SARS vaccine project in 2003. He is now the president of New Tang Dynasty TV (Canada), a media partner of The Epoch Times, whose dispatch this opinion piece is. However, the views expressed in this article are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the views of The New York-based The Epoch Times.**



# Edible oil shortage: Where are the results of local solution measures?

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

**T**HE government has for years been promising to invest heavily in oil palm, sunflower and sesame crops so as to end recurrent shortages of edible oil in the country.

Also, the government has been encouraging investors to put up edible oil processing plants in the country to create jobs for workers and farmers of oil-producing crops.

The efforts are meant to cut imports which stand at over 60 per cent. Tanzania's annual demand for cooking oil is 570,000 metric tonnes while local production capacity is 205,000 metric tonnes. The deficit is being imported with palm oil alone gobbling up USD 120 million.

This writer wanted to know the situation in the central zone—the heartland of sunflower farming. A visit at Dodoma-based Sunshine Industrial Co. Ltd, producers of Sunbelt sunflower oil and was met with a grim reality—things are not moving in the right direction yet.

The plant worth USD10 million is struggling to get raw material from farmers, forcing it to produce only 2,500 tonnes per year, far below its 7,000 tonnes capacity.

"Since we established this factory in 2015, we have not been able to work at full capacity and poor supply of raw material is the reason for this below-capacity performance," said Upendo Mganga, Quality Assurance Manager at the factory.

She said the factory needs between 7,000 and 10,000 tonnes of sunflower grains for it to meet its set production target but it collects only less than 2,000 tonnes from farmers.



**Hu Xiao Long, an official at the Dodoma-based Sunshine Industrial Co. halted production last year due to zero-supply of sunflower by farmers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

"Last year the factory didn't produce at all due to absence of sunflower grains but the zero supply was partly caused by Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

She said the factory collects raw material from farmers in Singida, Manyara, Tabora and Dodoma but collection agents mostly return the money to the investor because there is nothing to buy.

"We sometimes even hold round-table meetings with government officials and discuss how they can assist so that we get unhindered supply

of sunflower from the farmers but sadly, we have not seen progress yet," she said.

Due to this unreliability, Mganga said the factory fails to deliver orders to agents and dealers in various parts of the country while also hampering export plans.

"Demand for edible oil is very high but we are unable to make the most of due to lack of raw materials. If there is steady supply of raw material, we can expand and employ more Tanzanians," she said.

Mganga said that in order to get

around the challenge, this year, the factory opted to purchase crude oil from other small-scale plants although that is not the aim.

"Although our prime focus is to process sunflower grains from farmers, this year we have been compelled to buy crude oil which we double-refine to get quality cooking oil," she said.

She observed that another challenge is that most of the farmers in the country fail to supply enough sunflower grains because they use unimproved seed varieties.

"Most of the farmers recycle seeds and that is why they harvest poor sunflower grains with low oil content," she observed.

She said sunflower grains are supposed to possess oil content of between 38 and 44 per cent but most of Tanzanian farmers harvest grains with 34 per cent and below.

Also, she said the factory has been receiving sunflower grains with high water content as well as contamination of unwanted solid materials.

In efforts to overcome the challenge of shortage of sunflower, Mganga said that plans are afoot for the factory to embark on large scale sunflower plantations to meet its demand for raw materials.

"We also have a plan to train farmers on better agronomic farming practices and use of improved seed varieties so that we have quality grains from out-growers," she said.

Hu Xiao Long, senior officer at the factory said that they have installed high-tech modern machines with capacity to refine oil six times.

"These machines are worth USD2.5 million and are specifically designed to suit nature of Tanzania's sunflower. We incur huge losses by not reaching our production targets," he said.

He underscored the need for relevant authorities to see how to come up with effective strategies to maximize cultivation of sunflower among farmers in order to allow local producers to meet manufacturing demands and thus increase their income.

"Our products are not of poor quality compared to those imported from other countries; the main problem is lack of raw materials," he said.

"In fact, Tanzania's sunflower is one of the best in the world."

## KARACHI

**T**wo years after Michelle, 15, was kidnapped, sold, forced to convert to Islam and married to a stranger, relatives still ostracise her.

"My aunts and uncles have left us, and my two older brothers, till a few months ago, were not even talking to me," said Michelle, talking to IPS over the phone from Faisalabad, in the Punjab province of Pakistan. They believe she has brought dishonour to them.

Her captors and even the cleric who officiated the marriage are free despite committing multiple offences, including abduction, trafficking and rape.

"There are several laws that can be invoked for tackling offences, such as kidnapping and abductions," lamented Peter Jacob, executive director of the Center for Social Justice (CSJ), a research and advocacy organisation. "But the prosecution has failed to do so."

Most of the young, female victims belong to the Christian (in Punjab) and Hindu (in Sindh) minorities and followed the same pattern.

Experts and activists demand legislation to prevent 'forced conversions' that are often associated with human trafficking, abduction and rape. The white poster on the left says: 'Forced conversion unacceptable'. The blue poster says: 'Underage marriage is a crime'. Credit: NCJP.

"This year, at least 62 such cases have been reported," he told IPS over the phone from the eastern city of Lahore, in the Punjab province.

In the predominantly Muslim nation of 220 million people, the Christians and Hindus in Pakistan are estimated to be 1.27% and 2.14%, respectively, according to the 2017 census.

Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, a member of the national assembly from the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, also the patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council, told IPS "hundreds of cases" remain unreported.

Rukhsana Khokhar, senior project manager at the Karachi-based non-profit, Legal Aid Society, agreed with Vankwani.

"The victim's family is hesitant to approach the police because of their harsh attitude," she said.

"The affected family is diffident to report the crime because of the repercussions from the powerful and influential another side."

Moreover, Khokhar said, the road to justice was tedious and complicated, but it was also expensive and often beyond their means.

In a majority of the cases, the adolescent girls from Hindu communities are uneducated, belong to poor families and are "surrounded by misogyny and patriarchy," she said.

However, the reason for the conversion of

# Human trafficking, rape, extortion behind 'forced conversions', say experts



**A woman hides her face with the poster protesting forced conversions during the Aurat March (Women's March) in 2021. Experts say 'forced conversions', usually of underage girls, involve abduction, rape, human trafficking and other serious offences. Activists and experts have called improved legislation. Credit: Aurat March Karachi**

educated Hindu girls belonging to well-off families was different. They want to seek escape from being forced into marrying uneducated Hindu men from their community. The only way out is for them is to convert to Islam.

Khokhar, who has been studying this issue for over a decade, believed that sensitisation was one way of overcoming the issue since societal prejudices remained the most significant barrier. This should include the clerics who officiate the nikah (the ceremony where the couple is legally wed under Islamic law), the investigating officers

working on such cases and the district administration.

According to Vankwani, many parliamentarians concede the issue persists, but it is not as rampant as to be of concern.

"I say, even if it's just one person who is forcibly converted, it becomes our responsibility to stop this practise through legislation," he says.

Over the years, there have been several attempts to regulate conversions through legislative means without success.

In 2019, the Sindh assembly, for the second time, rejected a bill criminalising forced reli-

gious conversions. The first attempt was in 2016.

In 2020, the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony had rejected the Protection of Rights of Minorities Bill, 2020, which recommended an age limit of 18 years for conversion.

The parliamentary committee shot down a draft of yet another anti-forced conversion bill opposed earlier in the year by the ministry of religious affairs even before it could be tabled in the national assembly.

The excuse made by the minister for religious affairs, Noorul Haq Qadri, was the "unfavourable" environment.

According to political and integrity risk analyst Huma Yusuf, the current "social, religious and political environment" was too oppressive in a Talibanized Pakistan for the law to find favour from any quarter.

"A key problem is that the term 'forced conversion' glosses over what's really at stake. Reportedly, some 1,000 girls from religious minorities, primarily Hindus, are forced to convert each year," Yusuf says.

"These conversions can involve abduction, rape, violence, human trafficking and extortion. They also enrich clerics who receive payments for solemnising such marriages, corrupt police officials who take bribes instead of investigating, and magistrates who look the other way. By rejecting the bill, our lawmakers are condoning these other activities. How does this serve Islam?"

The reasons for rejecting the most recent bill by the ministry and the parliamentary committee were the minimum age (set to be 18 years) kept for converting to another religion, a 90-day contemplation period before conversion and testifying before a judge.

The bill stated that the "age will be ascertained based on the child's birth certificate, school

enrolment certificate, or the official database. In the absence of all, the person's age may be determined through a medical examination".

"There are about 20 laws that place some or the other restrictions on a person below 18 years of age," pointed out Jacob, including getting a driver's license, voting or seeking employment.

"These are reasonable restrictions and enhance the scope of freedoms and protect the rights in those specific areas."

He also found the 90-day contemplation period logical for a "matter that is individually and socially important and should not be dealt with casually or hastily".

Further, says Jacob, testifying before a judge eliminates the possibility of covering the crime of kidnapping by marriage and will ensure that conversion is not under any duress, deceit, threat or fraudulent misrepresentation.

Terming the bill a "dam" that was drafted to "restrain the spread of Islam," Pir Abdul Khaliq, 66, who heads the century-old madressa Ahya Darul Uloom, in Dharki, in Sindh province's Ghotki district, was happy it was "rejected".

This madressa (a "hotbed" for alleged conversions), next to the shrine of Khanqah-i-Aalia Qadria Bharchundi Sharif, has a chain of nearly 200 seminaries spread across Sindh (140), Punjab (30) and almost two dozen in Balochistan.

Since he took over the reins of the seminary from his father 50 years ago, he says, he has converted scores of men and women of their "free will". Talking to IPS over the phone from Dharki, he conceded he was among those who had threatened the ministry that his followers would "come on the streets and hold protests" if the bill was passed.

Having converted entire

families, "from 80-year-olds to some as young as eight", he says no one ever objected to that, so why the need for a law.

"If an underage child converts alongside the parents or guardians, there is no objection," responded Khokhar. The objection raised was of the conversion of single adolescents like Michelle.

"Why are they never elderly women, why do they have to flee to another city to convert and why are the parents not allowed to meet them?" she asked.

"There is no age to conversion," responded Khalik, but insisted he "respected the age of marriage", which is 18 in Sindh.

However, many underage Hindu girls from Sindh are taken to Punjab, where the legal age of marriage is 16, says Khokhar. She believes it would help halt forced conversion if the age restriction of 18 years for conversion and marriage was "enforced uniformly" throughout the country.

In 2019, two Hindu sisters, Raveena and Reena, made headlines by going to the court seeking protection from their family, saying they had wilfully accepted Islam. The family insisted they were abducted.

The sisters were converted before their marriage in Sindh (where the age for marriage is 18) but married in Punjab (where the age for marriage is 16).

However, the court allowed the sisters to go to their husbands but sent a five-member fact-finding team to ascertain this was not a forced conversion.

The report recommended religious conversion be carried out through a "proper process and be formalised or registered in a court of law".

**This article is part of a series of features from across the globe on human trafficking. IPS coverage is supported by the Airways Aviation Group.**





## Request for Proposals

**RFP Title: Development, Implementation & Commissioning of a CSO Budget Expenditure and Tracking (CBET) System**  
**RFP Number: 2022-PACT/02/02**  
**Date of Solicitation: 21st January 2022**  
**Closing Date and Time: 4th February 2022, 11:00 am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)**  
**Questions and Clarifications: Due by 2nd February 2022**

### Introduction to Pact and ACHIEVE Project:

ACHIEVE aims to provide either short-term technical assistance or service delivery, which will help priority PEPFAR countries achieve and maintain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding (PBF) women, infants, children, and youth. To contribute to the global 95-95-95 epidemic control targets, ACHIEVE will provide comprehensive services through intensive household case management to prioritize sub-populations of OVC such as CLHIV, orphans who have lost their parents due to HIV, children whose biological parents are HIV-positive, and children of female sex workers. ACHIEVE will implement preventive interventions to reach at-risk boys and girls ages 9-14. ACHIEVE will also deliver DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) interventions to AGYW 10-14 of age.

Pact is a promise of a better tomorrow for all those who are poor and marginalized. Working in partnership to develop local solutions that enable people to own their future, Pact helps people and communities build their own capacity to generate income, improve access to quality health services, and gain lasting benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources around them. At work in more than 30 countries, Pact is building local promise with an integrated, adaptive approach that is shaping the future of international development. Visit us at [www.pactworld.org](http://www.pactworld.org).

The Adolescents and Children, HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination (ACHIEVE) project is a five-year, USAID-funded global project to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. ACHIEVE is implemented by Pact, in partnership with Jhpiego, Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER. In Tanzania, the project is implemented between October 2020 to April 2024 with a focus on three key strategic objectives: 1. To strengthen the capacity of the national and community-level social services workforce, systems, and structures to ensure quality services for OVC, at-risk AGYW, and people living with HIV (PLHIV). 2. To strengthen the capacity of local organizations to manage and implement USAID/PEPFAR OVC awards as prime implementing partners. 3. To deliver high-quality OVC services and DREAMS interventions for AGYW 9-14 years.

Pact Tanzania under ACHIEVE project intends to solicit a reputable consultant or software developing firm to develop a computer software for tracking budget expenditures and activities across its sub-grantees/Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

### Overall Objective:

The objective of the consultancy is to develop a responsive web-based computer software to provide real time CSO budget expenditures and tracking information to Pact Tanzania Senior Management Team.

### A. Requirement/ Scope of Work

Following will be the technical features of the software:

- 1) The software will be web based, responsive and browser & device independent.
- 2) The system will be able to send email & mobile SMS notification, and this should be configurable.
- 3) Users, Roles and Access management will be integrated as part of the software.
- 4) The system will be able to enforce all data validation during entry and at time intervals.
- 5) The software source code, must have sufficient comment and be delivered without encryption.
- 6) Developer must provide detailed development documentation (UI & UX designs, work flow diagram, data flow diagram, etc.)

### Scope of Work

The consulting firm will work closely with the Pact Tanzania ACHIEVE Project CBET System Committee to elicit requirements and manage the software development life cycle including capacity building and knowledge transfer. In particular the scope of the work will be as follows:

- 1) Gather requirements and develop user stories/use cases: In discussion with the Pact Tanzania ACHIEVE Project CBET System Committee, gather details of the requirements and develop user stories; prepare a Software Requirements Specifications (SRS) and get signed off by Pact Tanzania ACHIEVE Project CBET System Committee. Tentative requirements and expected features of the software are highlighted in section D above.
- 2) Develop and test the web-based application: Based on the requirements gathered, develop an application framework that includes user management, access control, security and workflow for publishing information. This application framework should be able to add modules in future and be able to share data with other applications. Test the application framework with the real users from Pact Tanzania and her sub-grantees/CSOs and gather feedback on the system.
- 3) Finalize the web-based application: Based on the feedback received from the testing by the real users, finalize the web based application and prepare technical documentations and user manuals for orienting the users.
- 4) Hand over the software: Host the online software at a designated web server and hand over the documented source code, user manuals and training materials to the Pact Tanzania ACHIEVE Project CBET System Committee with a plan of regular maintenance.
- 5) Provide troubleshooting support: Provide troubleshooting support for at least 6 months after handing over the software. The support should be in person, over telephone and via email, as and when necessary.

At the end of the assignment, the CBET System will be a fully functional web-based application and Pact Tanzania ICT department will be able to maintain the software.

Interested vendors should request the full Terms of Reference (ToR) through email with the subject line "**TOR for Development, Implementation & Commissioning of (CBET) System**" to [ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org](mailto:ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org) before **2nd February 2022**.

All questions and requests for clarification should be directed to [ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org](mailto:ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org) with the subject line "**Request for Clarification: Development, Implementation & Commissioning of (CBET) System**" before **COB 2nd February 2022**.

### B. Eligibility

To be considered for the award, vendors must currently be legally operating in Tanzania, and the quotation must include all of the following information:

- Ability to meet or exceed the requirements/technical specifications outlined in Section A;
- Ability to deliver the items/services specified in Section A no later than the date(s) required.

### C. Submission Instructions

The following information is to be included by a vendor in the proposal:

- Detailed methodology, detailed work plan, a cover letter/ motivation letter explaining why you are the most suitable for this assignment, and a detailed budget.
- Quote valid for at least 90 days
- Current company profile.
- Delivery time (estimated work completion timeline after receiving an order).
- Copies of registration, certificate and address of their registered office, valid business license, VAT, TIN certificates, Tax clearance certificate, and any industry-relevant license or certificate.
- Evidence of similar/relevant assignments, and at least two (2) names and addresses of client served.
- Current Audited financial statement for 2 consecutive years.
- Payment terms.

Vendors who wish to answer this RFP should send their proposals in sealed envelopes to Pact Tanzania Head Office by **4th February 2022, 11:00 am**. All sealed envelopes need to be marked as: "**Tender for Development, Implementation & Commissioning of (CBET) System.**"

**Office Address:**  
**The Tender Committee**  
**Pact Tanzania**  
**74 Uporoto Street, Victoria**  
**P. O. Box 6348, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

PACT will open all bids on **Friday 4th February 2022 at 11.30 am** in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

Quotes must be in Tanzania shillings and include taxes separately:

- Proposals submitted through emails will not be considered.
- Quotations received after that time or at a different address may not be accepted.



## Request for Proposals

**RFP Title: Monitoring Delivery of Educational Subsidies and Re-Usable Sanitary Kits**  
**RFP Number: 2022-PACT/02/01**  
**Date of Solicitation: 21st January 2022**  
**Closing Date and Time: 4th February 2022, 11:00 am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)**  
**Questions and Clarifications: Due by 2nd February 2022**

### Introduction to Pact and ACHIEVE Project:

Pact is a promise of a better tomorrow for all those who are poor and marginalized. Working in partnership to develop local solutions that enable people to own their future, Pact helps people and communities build their own capacity to generate income, improve access to quality health services, and gain lasting benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources around them. At work in more than 30 countries, Pact is building local promise with an integrated, adaptive approach that is shaping the future of international development. Visit us at [www.pactworld.org](http://www.pactworld.org).

The Adolescents and Children, HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination (ACHIEVE) project is a five-year, USAID-funded global project to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. ACHIEVE is implemented by Pact, in partnership with Jhpiego, Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER. In Tanzania, the project is implemented between October 2020 to April 2024 with a focus on three key strategic objectives: 1. To strengthen the capacity of the national and community-level social services workforce, systems, and structures to ensure quality services for OVC, at-risk AGYW, and people living with HIV (PLHIV). 2. To strengthen the capacity of local organizations to manage and implement USAID/PEPFAR OVC awards as prime implementing partners. 3. To deliver high-quality OVC services and DREAMS interventions for AGYW 9-14 years.

ACHIEVE aims to provide either short-term technical assistance or service delivery, which will help priority PEPFAR countries achieve and maintain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding (PBF) women, infants, children, and youth. To contribute to the global 95-95-95 epidemic control targets, ACHIEVE will provide comprehensive services through intensive household case management to prioritize sub-populations of OVC such as CLHIV, orphans who have lost their parents due to HIV, children whose biological parents are HIV-positive, and children of female sex workers. ACHIEVE will implement preventive interventions to reach at-risk boys and girls ages 9-14. ACHIEVE will also deliver DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) interventions to AGYW 10-14 of age.

Pact Tanzania under USAID ACHIEVE project will provide Education Subsidies Kit (comprises School bag, Mathematical set, Pens, Pencils, Eraser and A4 Exercise books) and Re-usable Sanitary Kits (comprised of sanitary pads, underwear, bar soap, plastic storage bag and cloth bag) to in-school girls age 10-14 in 11 DREAMS Councils. A separate vendor will be selected to procure and distribute these items to CSOs implementing the DREAMS intervention.

### Overall Objective:

The overall objective of this assignment is to monitor the distribution of educational subsidies kits and re-usable sanitary kits procured by other selected vendors to DREAMS girls age 10-14 at their schools within the targeted councils and ensure each girl receive intended service. Note that the schools are scattered within the council.

Table 1: Locations and Number of AGYW monitoring distribution of educational subsidies

MONITORING DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATION SUBSIDIES AND SANITARY KITS										
Cluster	Region	Council	CSO Name	FY22 Target	# of targeted schools	Consultant Team (@ team verify 500 bags) for 5 days	# of Verification days	# of school per day	Consultant Team to support Distribution (each consultancy person will support one team)	# of Distribution days
North Western	Shinyanga	Kahama TC	SHDEPHA+ Kahama	5,360	54	2	5	4	4	13
North Western	Shinyanga	Msalala DC	SHDEPHA+ Kahama	5,838	58	2	5	4	4	15
North Western	Shinyanga	Ushetu DC	SHDEPHA+ Kahama	7,605	76	3	5	4	4	19
North Western	Shinyanga	Shinyanga DC	NEUCO	7,889	79	3	5	4	4	20
North Western	Shinyanga	Shinyanga MC	NEUCO	4,159	42	2	5	4	4	10
South Western	Mbeya	Kyela DC	ADP - Mbozi	8,470	85	3	5	6	6	14
South Western	Mbeya	Mbarali DC	ADP - Mbozi	9,514	95	4	5	6	6	16
South Western	Mbeya	Mbeya CC	ADP - Mbozi	7,638	76	3	5	6	6	13
Lake	Kagera	Muleba DC	HUMULUZA	13,966	140	6	5	6	6	23
Lake	Mwanza	Nyamagana MC	MOCOSO	7,515	75	3	5	5	4	15
<b>Total</b>				<b>77,954</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>31</b>			<b>48</b>	

Above is a tentative distribution plan. The contractor should show flexibility and be open to accommodate minor changes on the distribution plan above.

### A. Requirement/ Scope of Work

Specific scope of work includes but should not be limited to the following:

1. Submit final report detailing methodology for monitoring educational subsidies and sanitary kits, including workplan, for approval by Pact.
2. Meet with the respective CSOs and conduct a verification of the list of names for DREAMS Girls eligible to receive educational subsidies and sanitary kits by comparing to the list of eligible DREAMS girls provided by Pact M&E.
3. Conduct an inventory check at the CSO office together with the CSO Youth Interventions Officer, Assistant youth Intervention Officer and Pact Youth Officer to verify the educational subsidies and sanitary kits brought by the vendors prior to distributing the items to the girls in the schools.
4. Work side by side with the CSO staff and Pact Youth Officer to distribute these items to the DREAMS girls in the schools by ensuring the list used to receive the materials is Pact M&E list and only girls in the list receive the items.
5. Develop a system that will provide real time data on the distribution progress so Pact can track distribution daily.
6. Submit copies of Educational Subsidies and Sanitary Kits Receive forms for each girl aligned with Pact M&E list (ensure the names and IDs in these 2 lists match).
7. Submit final report of monitoring exercise to Pact Technical Advisor-Youth Intervention at the end of the exercise.

Interested vendors should request the full Terms of Reference (ToR) through email with the subject line "TOR for Monitoring Delivery of Educational Subsidies and Re-Usable Sanitary Kits" to [ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org](mailto:ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org) before **2nd February 2022**.

All questions and requests for clarification should be directed to [ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org](mailto:ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org) with the subject line "**Request for Clarification: Monitoring Delivery of Educational Subsidies and Re-Usable Sanitary Kits**" before **COB 2nd February 2022**.

### B. Eligibility

To be considered for the award, vendors must currently be legally operating in Tanzania, and the quotation must include all of the following information:

- Ability to meet or exceed the requirements/technical specifications outlined in Section A;
- Ability to deliver the items/services specified in Section A no later than the date(s) required.
- Legally registered in Tanzania.

### C. Submission Instructions

The following information is to be included by a vendor in the proposal:

- Your organization capacity statement or CV,
- A proposal detailing your understanding of the ToR, methodology for monitoring the education subsidies exercise, how you plan to execute the assignment, tentative workplan and timeframe. Include proposed budget in TZS.
- Current company profile.
- Copies of registration certificate and address of their registered office, valid business license, VAT, TIN certificates, and Tax clearance certificate
- Current Audited financial statement
- Quote, valid for at least 60 days
- Delivery time must be specified.
- Payment terms 100% after delivery
- Evidence of similar assignments, and at least two (2) names and addresses of client served

Vendors who wish to answer this RFP should send their proposals in sealed envelopes to Pact Tanzania Head Office by 4th February 2022, 11:00 am. All sealed envelopes need to be marked as: "Tender for Monitoring Delivery of Educational Subsidies and Re-Usable Sanitary Kits"

**Office Address:**  
**The Tender Committee**  
**Pact Tanzania**  
**74 Uporoto Street, Victoria**  
**P. O. Box 6348, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

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# South African influencers reveal how unemployed youth can cash in on social media

By Thabo Makwakwa

**T**HE social media revolution has just begun and its usage has become one of the most popular online activities. In research conducted by Statista Research Department, it was discovered that in 2020, over 3.6 billion people were using social media worldwide, a number projected to increase to almost 4.41 billion in 2025.

With unemployment sky-rocketing, social media can provide much-needed income for young people, who spend hours on social media every day. Some of the most influential social media content producers and influencers, who used the platform to generate income.

Social media influencer Daniel Marven, known on Twitter as @danielmarven, said youth had a chance to use social media as a tool that could eradicate unemployment.

Big brands were advertising their products using social media accounts with huge followings, he said.



African youth hungry for connectivity

"Instead of having to wait for some of the favourite television programmes to air, big brands advertise their products on social media - it is quite cheaper than traditional advertising where billboards, radio, and television are used.

"More clients do not have time to go through normal advertising processes, so it is important to evolve and introduce new

ways of doing things. Young people with ideas must understand that the content they produce on social media can be paid for if due processes are followed, and they monetise their content. Everyone should familiarise themselves with social media, and take advantage of the opportunities."

Oriphulusa Nyadzhiwa, 20, known as @Ori\_DeBig Beats on Twitter, is one of the

most famous influencers on social media. Nyadzhiwa emphasised that social media was a chance to fight unemployment, through various promotions and campaigns from brands.

"To be eligible to make extra money using social media, you must post on your social media pages regularly that will attract a lot of people, and make them follow and

engage, which will result in the growth of your influence.

"As the influence grows, some brands start to notice you and approach you to be their ambassador or to perform tasks for a specific amount of money. Sometimes you send direct messages to these brands to propose your ideas of working with them. "Another quick way to use social media as a source of money is to have profiles at third-party platforms like TheSalt, Webfluential, Humanz app, Indahash, and other popular platforms to make money just from posting and tweeting," said Nyadzhiwa.

A report by Statista Research Department showed that on average, internet users spend 144 minutes a day on social media and messaging apps.

"Market leader Facebook was the first social network to surpass 1 billion registered accounts and now boasts close to 2.5 billion monthly active users. In June 2020, the top social media apps in the Apple App Store included WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger, and the app version of Facebook."

By Guardian Reporter

**F**OR effective implementation of any strategy, data are chief assets. Accurate and reliable data will determine how well a chosen solution is performing, and whether or not the approach needs tweaking in the long run.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), in most countries, statistics and data on reproductive health are incomplete and unreliable, even for priority issues such as maternal mortality.

In developing countries, the lack of tools and resources for managing information and surveillance systems further complicates the problem, and Tanzania is not sheltered in a cocoon from this malady.

There are existing initiatives to collect sexual reproductive health (SRH) data by different stakeholders, both public and private, but significant gaps still remain. To help address the situation, United Nations agency, UNFPA, introduced the Accelerated Initiative, Modern Technology, Universal access to SRH for Adolescent and Youth (AMUA) Accelerator in 2017.

Since then the program, which is implemented by UNFPA in collaboration with Sahara Ventures, a Dar es Salaam based local firm, has not only been generating innovative solutions but also nurturing the SRH data ecosystem as well as creating new innovative data solutions to address data challenges in the country.

In early December 2021 during the AMUA III demo day, Head of Reproductive and Child Health in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Felix Bundala, said that they are aware of the dilemma they are facing in the health sector regarding data quality, access and use.

"There are cases where those with data don't use them, those who want to use them have no data or access to data and those with access to data don't know how to interpret them. Other groups that suffer in this scenario include data disruptors, analysts and the like," he said.

He also concurred that there is evidence of availability of multiple platform that hold data within the country and in the government but sometimes these platforms do not speak

## Reliable data crucial to implementation of SRH strategies



A representative from one of the startups that partook in the Demo Day presents her pitch.

to each other.

"There are challenges on data collection and dissemination through available platforms including at the local government authorities and sometimes where there is available of these data, stakeholders have inadequate competence to analyse and make rational decisions," he added.

He thus said that the program has come at the right time, noting that calling for solutions to solve challenges related to SRH data is noble and that the government is ready to support the adaptation of the solutions that are derived from the initiative which are viable and feasible to be implemented in its

departments.

The UNFPA Innovation Accelerator is a mentorship-driven acceleration program supporting young entrepreneurs with seed funding, training and skills development to generate innovative solutions in response to challenges related to SRH services, sexuality education, family planning, maternal health and other population development issues in line with UNFPA's mandate.

Through acceleration programs, young entrepreneurs are given seed funding and matched with top industry experts who can help them develop core skills as well as evaluate and commercialize their ideas for innovative ventures.

The process has involved young innovators from both mainland and Zanzibar and support has been in the form of resources (people and money), mentors, connections and knowledge.

UNFPA Program Specialist - Health Systems and Innovation Focal Person, Felister Bwana, said that innovative approaches are needed to turn SRH challenges into social and economic ventures that can make a positive impact.

"The traditional ways of working will not be sufficient to achieve the transformative results and Agenda 2030 principle of leaving no one behind," she said.

Bwana said UNFPA will promote

innovation to improve programming by creating innovative solutions with partners to address development bottlenecks; scaling up innovations that have proven to be successful; partnering with innovators from the public and private sectors; and institutionalizing a culture of innovation in UNFPA.

She said that through ecosystem mapping they will be able to identify and engage ecosystem stakeholders, through donor mapping they are able to identify sources of funding for innovation in the country and through mapping of bottlenecks they can identify challenges in mandate areas that require innovative approaches.

AMUA III Accelerator Project Lead, Adam Mbyallu said that the initiative aims at solving data challenges by opening call to innovators to come with innovative ideas and solutions that will help in addressing data challenges.

He said that following the SRH stakeholders' innovation day organized by UNFPA and Sahara Ventures to reflect on different issues affecting SRH interventions, stakeholders identified lack of data tools for ease of data access, data management and effective utilization being among the core problems in SRH programming.

"The accelerator adopts principles of digital development whereby the approach towards the solution will involve direct collaboration with the users. The idea is to find solutions that address data challenges to NGOs, development partners and the public sector in programming," he added.

AMUA Accelerator III is the third round of UNFPA Innovation Accelerator and the demo day was held in early December after identifying several challenges including the need to enhance accessibility, availability, protocols and procedures, and timely data access from multiple data platforms.

Other challenges identified were the need to enhance unified, safe way of exploiting existing data platforms, supporting local government authorities (LGAs) in data collection and digitization through their existing platforms, enhancing user-friendly data analysis and interpretations to increase data consumption for decision-makers around SRH and embracing data consumption and interoperability from new innovative data platforms on formal data collection platforms that the government adopts.

Four startups that were finalists during AMUA III Accelerator will receive seed funding in the tune of US\$6,000 each to scale their ideas to workable solutions.

Mbyallu said that the finalists would not only benefit from the seed funds but also get access to further support from Sahara Ventures accelerator programs and network of stakeholders and investor database.

"That includes getting access to Sahara Sparks annual event which has thus far become one of the largest in Africa," he said.

Last year's finalists were Digitiza, Afya Intelligence, Kadi Hai, and IMR. Digitize Project Lead, Karim Maghimba, said that the startup came up with the idea of digitalizing family planning client study which will act as a backup tool to access information.

Kadi Hai Project Lead, Abdallah Machano, their idea involves digitization of maternal reproductive and child health card which will also help in storing information, reduce service providers' workload and improve service delivery to mothers.

The Project Lead for Impact Mortality Rate (IMR), Vedasto Biyaka said that their idea is to collect timely data from hospitals on mortality rate which will be updated every three months and integrated to other stakeholders.



# Somalia on the path to recovery, but real challenges remain

MOGADISHU, Somali

I arrived in Somalia in September 2019, two decades after having worked here previously. I knew that I was taking up a challenging assignment, but I was also looking forward to seeing Somalia's progress.

Afflicted by decades of conflict, recurrent climatic shocks, disease outbreaks and poverty, Somalia was often called a 'failed state.' The narrative is now changing, and although fragile, Somalia is on a path to stability and the resilience of the Somali people is second to none.

That said, we are not under any illusion: significant challenges remain, and we must work even harder to preserve the gains made to date.

Somalia's upward trajectory is evident in the construction boom, as one analyst noted – the sound of the hammer is replacing the sound of gunfire in Somalia's capital.

The UN has been closely supporting the Somali people since the birth of the Republic in 1960. Currently, the UN's various mandates are implemented through 26 Agencies, Funds and Programmes (both resident and non-resident), one political mission (UNSOM) and one

logistical support mission (UNSO).

The UN's commitment towards the Somali cause is articulated in detail in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2021-2025), mirroring the priorities of Somalia's Ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9).

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN marshalled support to help the Somali government respond to the virus outbreak. We continue to support the Somali authorities in seeking to defeat this pandemic and encouraging people to get vaccinated.

Elections are also on-going in Somalia. The UN is supporting the process to ensure that elections are held in a peaceful and transparent manner, while at the same time advocating for 30 per cent women's quota in the Somali legislature.

While these are encouraging signs of progress, we must not forget Somalia's long-standing challenges. According to UN's projections for next year, an estimated 7.7 million Somalis (nearly half of the country's population) will require humanitarian assistance and protection.

Women and children continue to bear the brunt of Somalia's complex humanitarian crises, especially among the inter-



A Somali woman goat-seller in Hargeisa livestock market. Photo: Credit: UNDP / Said Fadhye

nally displaced communities. In light of the current serious droughts, the Somali government declared a humanitarian state of emergency on 23 November.

Yet, neither the government nor the humanitarian com-

munity has adequate resources to respond. With a few days remaining in the year, the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan which seeks US\$1.09 billion remains only 70 per cent funded. Additional resources are urgently needed to pre-

vent the dire humanitarian situation from becoming a catastrophe, so we continue to engage partners on this subject.

In this regard, I undertook missions to Europe in October and to the Gulf in Sep-

tember. Throughout my interactions with partners, I stressed the need for additional funding to address Somalia's escalating humanitarian crisis and elaborated on how inaction not only risks a reversal of the gains but puts the lives of millions of Somalis in jeopardy.

Through my field visits in Somalia, I have also seen first-hand the grim realities of adverse climate conditions. Somalia is no doubt on the front-line of climate change. The recurrent droughts and floods are driving widespread displacement, rapid urbanization, hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Climate change is also increasingly seen as the driver of conflict and a threat to the country's security as the struggle over meagre resources deepens divisions. In addition, the loss of traditional livelihoods makes people vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups such as Al-Shabaab.

Somalia is currently experiencing a third consecutive season of below-average rainfall, with nearly 80 per cent of the country experiencing drought conditions, water shortages and livestock deaths. One in five Somalis does

not have enough water to cover his/her basic needs.

On a positive note, as part of the efforts to mitigate the climate emergency, the government, with the support of the United Nations, has recently adopted an ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution to achieve global climate targets, in which Somalia committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent by 2030.

Somalia's crises are multifaceted, and they require comprehensive solutions from all stakeholders. It is our collective responsibility to support the efforts of the Somali people to cope with these crises and find lasting solutions that build resilience against future shocks. We must not fail the people we pledged to serve.

Adam Abdelmoula is Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia. He told a press conference in December that the UN and its partners have launched a nearly \$1.5 billion Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Roughly 7.7 million people in the country will need assistance and protection in 2022, a 30 per cent rise in just o

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 208 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: MEN, MRS, NIT  
 4 LETTERS: JUNE, USER, LOUD, DOME, NEED, WAGE, RAIN  
 5 LETTERS: AURAL, ROUND, ACORN, COLOR EVENS,  
 6 LETTERS: ANGOLA, SPACES, MANENO ANNUAL, T-SHIRT  
 8 LETTERS: MINERALS  
 7 LETTERS: SAMARIA  
 10 LETTERS: JOURNALIST

**CLUES: Across**

- an administration
- one less than ten
- insect infests human hair
- keep away from somebody
- no longer young
- express sorrow
- the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse
- things unacceptable
- a person appointed to select a team in a sport
- First man
- the possibility of suffering injury or harm

**Down:**

- a list of dishes in a restaurant
- magical power in Maori
- a state of feeling
- lie in a sheltered position
- at any time
- to heed
- enticed into sexual activity
- to tell someone firmly
- oedema
- a faintly blue gas obtained by the silent discharge of electricity in air
- not happy
- a boy

**WORD-FIT**

**CROSSWORD**

**SOLUTIONS**

MON: ONE, YUGANDAN, SKILL, ENGLISH, OMEGA, MAYOR, WASHAMAS, WATER, MASSES, ARE, REF, AP, SHAD, DE, RA, HP, RE, MA, LN

TUE: DODOMA, RIA, ISRAEL, EAST, ER, AT, N, A, W, ANZ, A, S, CAM, P, LE, CLEVER, O, ORANGE, P, I, V, S, L, EDDLE, SAYS

# RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:20 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:45 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:55 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:05 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:15 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:25 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:35 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:45 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:55 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:05 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:15 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:25 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:35 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:45 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:55 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:05 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM 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# SHELTER AFRIQUE SAYS DAR HAS DEFICIT OF THREE MILLION HOUSING UNITS

By Property Watch Reporter

**R**APID urbanization in the country has pushed demand for better housing units which is now estimated at three million in total, Nairobi based housing finance institution, Shelter Afrique has said.

In its latest annual report, Shelter Afrique's Chief Operating Officer, Alfred Nicayenzi said Tanzania joins Kenya and Nigeria as rapidly growing urbanisation countries on the continent. Nicayenzi said in the report that urban areas across Africa currently account for over 472 million people, and the numbers are expected to double over the next 25 years.

"Furthermore, these urbanization trends are taking place alongside a significant housing deficit across Africa with the shortage in Kenya and Tanzania estimated to be at 2 and 3 million units respectively," he said.

He said Nigeria is expected to add an estimated 189 million urban dwellers between 2018 and 2050 which will further contribute to significant housing shortage if investment is stalled. "With 2030 approaching, it is pertinent that



Shelter Afrique's headquarters in Nairobi.

we evaluate the possibilities of achieving the SDGs, particularly those directly related to housing provision," he added. SDG 11 states, "By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums."

Considering the exponential population growth rate across African cities and the ever-

growing need for decent and affordable housing in the region; the development and implementation of sustainable, and inclusive affordable housing delivery strategies has become even more pertinent, Nicayenzi stated.

Two areas are key to addressing Africa's housing challenges; expanding access to, and the

supply of affordable housing facilities and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. In Burundi, 12.5 percent of the adult population have access to financing services, and only one percent in South Sudan.

Additionally, as of 2010, an estimated 85 percent of Africa's urban population were unable or ineligible to secure formal

housing loans, according to UN-HABITAT. "Thus, expanding access to affordable housing finance to those at the bottom of the pyramid is critical to achieving the goals of sustainable development: As indicated in SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8 and 10 which focus on zero poverty, quality education, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities respectively," the SHAF COO added.

Meanwhile as the housing finance institution marks 40 years since establishment, CEO and Managing Director, Andrew Chemphondah said the number of members has increased from 17 countries to 44 plus two institutional members, namely; Africa Reinsurance Corporation and the African Development Bank.

"Our centre of excellence, a more recent and much-needed addition to the organisation, estimates that since its inception Shelter Afrique has been responsible for over 22,673 projects," Chemphondah said adding that in 2020, the financier delivered 5,101 housing units, housing 25,505 individuals which translates to 15,303 direct jobs and 20,404 indirect jobs created. "This is the real way we impact livelihoods and improve the quality of life in Africa," he noted.

## Third batch of NMB 'MastaBata' winners take home 10m/-

By Property Watch Reporter

A third batch of 100 NMB Bank Plc's clients have won 10m/- in total through the third season of 'NMB MastaBata' campaign as it entered third week.

The 100 lucky winners who each got 100,000/- on Thursday this will take the tally to 300 who have won a combined 30m/- since December 2021. The bank has set aside a record 200m/- to reward over 1,000 customers during the 10 weeks campaign which is aimed at encouraging use of MasterCard and Masterpass QR payment modes.

Speaking after the draw, NMB's Senior Card Business Officer, Saidi Kiwanga urged clients to continue using the digital payment modes to stand a chance and win cash prizes of up to 3m/- at the climax of the campaign.

"For the past three weeks, 300 lucky customers have won a combined 30m/- by simply paying for goods and services using their MasterCard or Masterpass QR systems," Kiwanga said saying digital payment solutions are secure and efficient compared to cash.

"We still have a lot more till the 200m/- is exhausted so keep on paying using your MasterCard and Masterpass," he advised saying during the grand finale in March, 30 winners will take home 3m/- each.

Gaming Board of Tanzania Inspector, Elibariki Sengasenga assured the public that the lottery is conducted in accordance with rules and regulations governing the industry. "As GBT, we supervise all lottery and betting activities in the country to ensure that rules and regulations are followed," Sengasenga said.



NMB MasterCards on display.

# Africa airlines' concern on Covid certificate travel rule



Kenya Airways planes at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi.

NAIROBI

African Airlines Association (AFRAA) wants states to abolish the use of the Covid-19 certificate as a means for admitting travellers into their countries until when there will be reasonable accessibility to vaccines globally.

AFRAA says the travel industry is reeling from the adverse impact of the re-introduction of travel restrictions and implementation of blanket travel bans since the onset of the Omicron variant.

Kenya is among the countries that only admits travellers with

Covid-19 certificate whether they are international passengers or locals returning home. The airline lobby also wants governments and stakeholders to harmonise the health protocols, reconsider the bans and adopt a risk-based approach in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

"States should not impose Covid-19 vaccination certificates as a mandatory travel entry and exit requirement until there is satisfactory access to vaccines globally, reasonable vaccination coverage is attained, and sufficient guidance on the use of the

vaccine for travel is available based on recommendations of the WHO," said AFRAA secretary general, Abdérahmane Berthé.

He said 2021 marked the dawn of recovery with positive trends in air transport activity being witnessed across the globe pointing out that as of October 2021, African airlines had reopened 81.3 percent of their international routes that had been closed due to the pandemic.

"African cargo capacity grew by 33 percent since 2019 and cargo load factors improved by 9 percent from pre-pandemic levels," he said. "The travel

restrictions and blanket bans are a huge risk to the gains made in the recovery of the travel ecosystem. Furthermore, air transport connectivity and economic sustainability of airlines' operations will be negatively impacted."

AFRAA, he said, recognises that a risk-based approach and the safe reopening of borders are critical for the efficient restart of aviation but urged the governments to remove border restrictions and open their markets to restart the industry.

AFRAA recommends that States continue with pre-departure testing until vaccines become widespread, with States transitioning to the use of Rapid Antigen Testing as an alternative to PCR, some of which have been proven to have similar reliability to PCR, is significantly cheaper and takes within 30 minutes for results.

To address credibility of test/vaccination certificates, AFRAA wants Governments to continue to adopt digital Covid-19 test/vaccination certificates wherever possible as verifiable health credentials and as a trusted platform for traveller information.

The agency wants States to implement rapid roll-out of vaccines across the continent to facilitate the restart of economies and Air Transport. "To date, less than six percent of Africans are fully vaccinated. Vaccination will mitigate the greatest risks of the spread of the pandemic," said AFRAA.

AFRAA says it remains committed to support the travel ecosystem recovery and continues to engage in collaborative efforts with stakeholders on initiatives that "will form a strong foundation for the transformation and development of air transport." Last week extended the suspension of inbound flights from United Arab Emirates in retaliatory move after the Middle-Eastern state suspended Kenyans

from travelling to Dubai indefinitely.

In what appears to be a bold move by Nairobi, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority in its updated travel advisory said flights from Dubai to Nairobi have been banned for a further seven days beginning Monday mid night.

Kenya Airways suspended passenger flights to Dubai in December in line with the directive but it still operates freighters on the route. The suspension came days after Dubai introduced new travel requirements for direct flights from Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

In addition, travellers were to self-quarantine until they received a negative Covid-19 test certificate issued within 48 hours of arrival in Dubai. The move is the latest restriction on global travel by UAE aimed at limiting the spread of Covid-19 in the wake of the Omicron variant.

# Gold at highest since November as traders seek inflation hedge

SINGAPORE

Gold rose to the highest level in almost two months amid demand for an inflation hedge, while the bond market sell-off stalled and US equities continued to retreat.

President Joe Biden said it's the Federal Reserve's

job to rein in the fastest pace of inflation in decades, and supported the central bank's plans to scale back monetary stimulus. The yield on 10-year Treasuries slipped from the highest level since January 2020, while the S&P 500 fell 1% Wednesday.

Geopolitical tensions are

also supporting demand for the haven asset. Biden said he thinks Vladimir Putin will "move in" on Ukraine after amassing more than 100 000 troops on the nation's border, although he suggested a full-scale invasion may not be in the Russian leader's plans. The US president also said this

week that he's not ready to lift tariffs his predecessor imposed on Chinese imports.

Gold is making a push higher into the \$1 800s an ounce level after dropping for the first time in three years in 2021 as central banks globally started dialing back on pandemic-era stimulus.

Still, bullion's traditional role as an inflation hedge and the sell-off in technology stocks is supporting demand as investors seek refuge in the haven asset, according to Fawad Razaqzada, an analyst at ThinkMarkets.

"Gold is finally responding to high levels of inflation around the world," said

Fawad. "It remains to be seen whether the latest breakout attempt by gold can be held, but now there are more compelling reasons why the bulls might hold their ground."

Spot gold was little changed at \$1 840.77 by 11:30 a.m. in Singapore, after rising earlier Thursday as

much as 0.2% to \$1 844.15 an ounce, the highest intraday level since November 22. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index was flat after dropping 0.2% in the previous session. Silver and platinum edged higher, while palladium declined.



# EXCITEMENT AFTER MBARALI RESIDENTS GET CUSTOMARY TITLE DEEDS FOR LAND

By Friday Simbaya, Mbarali

**M**ORE than 4,000 residents of Mbarali district in Mbeya region have been given Certificates of Customary Right Occupancies thanks to an exercise being implemented by Tanzania Land Tenure Assistance Company Limited.

Villagers from Itamba, Ilongo and Ukwama in Mbarali became the first batch of CCROs which they said gives them confidence and financial security as the certificates can be used as collateral when seeking credit from financial institutions. Director of Tanzania Land Tenure Assistance, Mustafa Issa said the certificates have been issued under a land tenure assistance project being implemented by his company.

Issa said the main objectives of the project are to help Tanzanians get their land surveyed so that they can formally own such property through customary arrangements to solve regular conflicts. "We are doing this exercise in Iringa and Mbeya regions in collaboration with Ministry of Lands, Housing



Mbarali district executive director, Misana Kwangura (2nd R) presents a customary title deed to a couple for joint ownership of their land at a ceremony held at Ukwama village in the district earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

and Human Settlements Development and district councils," he said.

He explained that under the agreement, his company has been surveying land but also help villages prepare land use plans. "The biggest challenge we have been facing in the second phase of the project is people's contribution to cover part of the costs of the exercise after the USAID funding was

completed," Issa noted. The TLAT official further noted that in collaboration with district councils, the public has been convinced somewhat to contribute towards meeting costs of the project following the donor departure.

"Today we have issued customary land tenure certificates to more than 4,000 people who managed to pay the fee but our target

was 6,000," Issa added while stressing that the exercise is ongoing hence requested people to raise cash and pay for the certificates.

In all, more than 100,000 villagers in Iringa and Mbeya regions have been issued with the CCROs mostly from more than 65 villages. As for Mbarali District Council which has 102 villages, only 11 have been surveyed and three

have completely been awarded the CCROs. Currently, our goal is to ensure all villages in Iringa and Mbarali get land tenure certificates.

One of the beneficiaries of the project, Athumani Hamis from Ukwama village in Mbarali district, commended the government for coming up with the exercise because after getting his land surveyed and the certificate, he can

comfortably conduct farming activities.

Hamis also said with the certificate, he can now access agro-inputs loan to invest on his farm and increase both quality and quantity of commodities. "I thank the government and other stakeholders for providing us with land ownership documents which gives everyone peace of mind," he said.

He was optimistic that when all villagers get their CCROs, all land conflicts will be solved at Ukwama village hence allow people to concentrate on economic production to get rid of poverty.

Hamis' observation was backed by Itamba village resident, Chezalina Mbinga who said the documents will play a big role in enabling them to fight poverty because they can now access bank loans to invest on their farms. "But this will also help us reduce regular conflicts with neighbours but also investors," he intoned while commending authorities for the fruitful project.

A widow from Ilongo village in the same district, Ritta Kanjeli said the document has surprised her because she never thought such a development would happen soon. "For us as women, this is emancipation because the government has formally recognised us as legitimate property owners," Kanjeli said.

## Zimplats granted licence to set up own solar plants

HARARE

Zimplats, the Zimbabwean unit of Impala Platinum, has been granted licences to generate its own power as firms in the southern African country seek ways of cushioning operations from an intermittent power supply.

Zimbabwe does not generate enough power to meet demand and has perennially relied on imports from neighbouring South Africa and Mozambique. The southern African country has a total installed capacity of 2 382 MW, but in recent days its power stations were generating a combined 1 055 MW against a maximum demand forecast of 1 650 MW resulting in load shedding that is crippling industry and plunging households into darkness.

The balance has to come from imports but due to limited foreign currency to pay for imports and power challenges in South Africa, in particular, Zimbabwe still faces a power supply deficit and has to resort to load shedding dealing a heavy blow to sectors such as agriculture, industry and mining.

Over the years, alternative power would be from generators, but with Zimbabwe diesel among the highest in the region, retailing at \$1.38 per litre currently, the cost of running mines on generators is not sustainable. Zimplats and other miners have now turned to solar power generation. The Implats-owned miner was last Friday granted two licences to generate a total 185 MW of electricity.

The Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) announced on Friday that it had granted Zimplats a licence to construct, own, operate and maintain a 105 MW solar photovoltaic power plant at Ngezi Mine in Mhondoro in Zimbabwe's Mashonaland West Province.

"The purpose of generation and supply of electricity is for own consumption at Ngezi Mine but connected to the grid," reads part of ZERA's public notice.

A similar notice was also published but this time for the generation of an 80 MW solar photovoltaic power plant at Zimplats' Selous Mine in Chegutu, Mashonaland West Province. Zimplats says setting up the two power plants will cost the company as much as \$201 million. Giving an update early December 2021, Zimplats chief executive Alex Mhembe said the miner was investing in a 185 MW solar plant "to augment power supplies and enhance ESG performance metrics."

## Qatar Airways chief touts destination Dar es Salaam as it clocks 15 years of operations

By Property Watch Reporter

QATAR Airways has announced plans to expand its flights aimed at connecting travellers from around the world to Tanzania and experience wildlife safaris as the carrier marks 15 years since its debut flight between

Doha and Dar es Salaam.

The airline said in a statement the huge potential the Dar es Salaam route has shown throughout the years, further solidifies relationship between Tanzania and Qatar. This was especially the case at the height of the pandemic, when



A Qatar Airways plane at JNIA in Dar es Salaam.

Dar es Salaam was on high demand by both cargo and passengers.

"We look forward to many more years of connecting travellers from around the world to experience Tanzania's unique cultural offerings and wildlife," said Hen-

drik du Preez, the airline's Vice-President for Africa.

Du Preez said in the statement that the Doha based airline first launched scheduled flights to Tanzania twice weekly in January 2007, and that due to demand the carrier operates

19 weekly flights backed by a combination of Boeing 787 and Airbus A320 aircrafts. "The national carrier of the State of Qatar continues to rebuild its network, which currently stands at over 140 destinations, including Killimanjaro and Zanzibar," he

said.

As part of celebrations to mark the 15 years, the airline held an event at Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) last week where staff distributed gifts to all passengers flying on both flights QR1499 and QR1476, with two lucky winners getting complimentary tickets.

Steeped in history and culture, Dar es Salaam is well known for its vibrant live-music and spice-laden cuisine as it is for its rich maritime history and picturesque seaside harbour. As one of East Africa's fastest-growing cities, visitors to Dar es Salaam can immerse themselves in its vibrant arts scene or lose themselves during a stroll along one of its white sandy beaches.

## Centum subsidiary sells stake in land-rich Two River

NAIROBI

Listed investment firm Centum will sell a stake in its Two Rivers Development Limited (TRDL), a subsidiary with major landholdings and a mall, by April to raise new capital and cut debt.

Centum CEO, James Mworia said the firm has entered talks with several investors interested in taking up a stake in the subsidiary. The company is still determining the structure the deal will take, which depending on the valuation agreed with the investors could be in form of a straight equity sale or a convertible instrument.

Centum's shareholding may or may not be diluted, depending on how the transaction will be structured. He, however, declined to disclose the size of stake Centum is looking to sell and the amount they hope to raise, although he had earlier said the proceeds would help re-

tire some of the debt held by TRDL.

"There is investor interest in TRDL because the development rights in the company is entirely serviced with infrastructure and we have been able to validate three different development models ranging from high-end, medium-income and affordable housing," said Mr Mworia.

"We are engaging with several investors and will hopefully close soon. The target holding post-deal depends on the valuation we agree on and structure, which might either come in as straight equity or a convertible facility. In the next three or four months, we should have a signed agreement." Centum currently owns 58 percent of TRDL, with AVIC International holding 39 percent and Kenya Development Corporation three percent.

TRDL in turn holds a 50 percent stake in Two Rivers Lifestyle Centre, which owns

the mall and office tower, with Old Mutual Properties owning the other half. Therefore, Centum has an effective stake of 29 percent in the mall and tower complex. The success of the proposed equity sale deal will therefore dilute Centum's ownership in both the mall and surrounding housing and land rights developments.

Last month, Centum also said that TRDL would convert a Sh4.5 billion loan into a security that will see an undisclosed lender earn dividends and get a share of the shopping complex if the owners decide to sell it, in a plan to reduce interest expenses.

The debt was part of \$96 million (Sh10.89 billion) secured during the construction of shopping and office complex. The disposal of part of its ownership in TRDL is among several transactions Centum has lined up to raise cash and monetize a section of its assets.



Two Rivers Mall in Nairobi.



## CONSTRUCTION

# The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

## RELIANCE TO ACQUIRE 73PC STAKE IN MANDARIN ORIENTAL NEW YORK FOR \$98M

## NEW YORK

**R**eliance Industries, the Indian conglomerate controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, has agreed to buy an indirect 73.37 per cent stake in Mandarin Oriental New York for \$98.15 million as it seeks to expand its investment portfolio beyond its petrochemicals business.

Reliance Industrial and Holdings Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries, entered into an agreement to acquire the entire issued share capital of Columbus Centre Corporation, a company incorporated in the Cayman Islands and the indirect owner of the stake in the luxury hotel, the company said in a statement on Saturday to the Bombay Stock Exchange where its shares are traded.

The transaction is anticipated to close by the end of March 2022 and is subject to customary regulatory and other approvals, according to the filing. The company said it also plans to buy the remaining stake from other owners at the same valuation.

"In the event that the other



Set up in 2003, Mandarin Oriental New York is a luxury hotel at 80 Columbus Circle, adjacent to Central Park.

owners of the hotel elect to participate in the sale transaction, RIHL would acquire the remaining 26.63 per cent, based on

the same valuation used for the acquisition of the indirect 73.37 per cent stake," Reliance Industries said. This acquisition

will add to the group's consumer and hospitality footprint, Reliance said.

The group already has investments in Indian ho-

tel operator EIH Ltd (the Oberoi Group's flagship company), Stoke Park in the UK and is developing a convention centre, ho-

tel and managed residences in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex business district, the company said in the statement. Earlier this week, Reliance Industries bought a 25.8 per cent stake in Bangalore-based delivery company Dunzo for \$200m in a move to boost its retail portfolio.

In the event that the other owners of the hotel elect to participate in the sale transaction, RIHL would acquire the remaining 26.63 per cent. Set up in 2003, Mandarin Oriental New York is a luxury hotel at 80 Columbus Circle, adjacent to Central Park.

The hotel has won many influential awards including that of AAA Five Diamond Hotel, Forbes Five Star Hotel and Forbes Five Star Spa, among others, according to the exchange filing. The property had revenue of \$115m in 2018, \$113m in 2019, which fell to \$15m in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reliance Industries raised \$4 billion from a three-tranche US dollar bond

issuance this month to re-finance its existing debt. It raised \$1.5bn in a 10-year tranche, \$1.75bn in a 30-year tranche and \$750m in a 40-year deal, Reliance told the Bombay Stock Exchange.

The latest announcement from Reliance comes as the company plans to expand its operations globally to boost growth. Last year, it formed a wholly owned subsidiary in the UAE that will trade oil, petroleum, petrochemical products and agricultural commodities. Other recent investments by the company include \$144m in US energy storage company Ambri along with other investors including Paulson & Co and US billionaire Bill Gates.

Reliance New Energy Solar, a wholly owned unit of Reliance Industries, will also buy the UK's Faradion, a sodium-ion battery technology business, for an enterprise value of £100m (\$135m). It also bought a stake in a high-end fashion brand owned by Indian designer Manish Malhotra last year as part of its expansion plans.

## UK electric car sales accelerate in 2021 as wider market stalls



Tesla's Model 3 was the top selling electric car in the UK in 2021, with 34,783 cars sold.

## LONDON

British sales of electric cars soared in 2021, accounting for one in every four motors sold, but the market as a whole staged a limp recovery from the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic.

More electric cars were registered in 2021 than in the previous five years, with 191,000 registered, a rise of 75 per cent on the 108,000 sold in 2020, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Meanwhile, the entire market saw 1.65 million new cars sold last year – a rise of just 1 per cent on 2020 and a 28.7 per cent contraction on 2019 figures.

"It's been another desperately disappointing year for the car industry as Covid continues to cast a pall over any recovery. Manufacturers contin-

ue to battle myriad challenges, with tougher trading arrangements, accelerating technology shifts and, above all, the global semiconductor shortage which is decimating supply," SMMT chief executive Mike Hawes said.

Britain's car industry was hammered by the pandemic in 2020, with new car sales suffering the biggest fall since the 1940s as Covid-enforced showroom closures took their toll with a decline in sales of 29 per cent on 2019.

However, the expected recovery did not materialise in 2021 as the supply chain crisis saw a global chip shortage that halted manufacturing in factories across the world as semi-conductors are vital components in modern cars with up to 3,000 used per vehicle.

The only bright spark in the last

year's figures was the rapid switch to electric transport with Tesla's Model 3 the top seller in its category, with 34,783 cars sold. Almost 18 per cent of all new cars registered in 2021 can be plugged in, which is in addition to the 147,246 hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) registered meaning 27.5 per cent of the total market is now electrified in some form. In December, petrol cars accounted for just 46 per cent of total sales in December, while electric cars took a 26 per cent share – its second-highest level behind the 33 per cent recorded in April 2020 – with Tesla making up 36 per cent of all new electric car purchases with 9,300 sales.

The brand also lead the market overall with a 9 per cent market share in December, compared to Volkswagen's 8 per cent and Audi's 7 per cent. The switch to electric cars

will be welcomed by the government, which is banning the sale of petrol and diesel powered cars by 2030 to help the country meet its net zero target by 2050.

However, Mr Hawes criticised the government's decision to reduce the maximum value of a grant to bring down the cost of an electric car to £1,500 from £2,500. "It's a confusing message," he said. "It's a massive ambition to get the entire market to move to meet net zero by 2030/2035. Anything that brings into doubt that commitment doesn't help a consumer who might be wavering."

The trade body also raised concerns over the number on-street public charging points needed to meet the demand from new electric car owners. "We need to boost the roll out of public on-street charging with mandated targets, providing every driver, wherever they live, with the assurance they can charge where they want and when they want," said Mr Hawes.

Separately, petrol and diesel retailers have been criticised for not passing on wholesale price savings to consumers, according to the nation's main motoring organisation, the RAC. Prices in the UK ended the year below November's record-highs, but the drops in wholesale fuel costs in December have not yet been reflected in pump prices. Retailers are making an average of £0.16 a litre on petrol, instead of £0.06 pence as usual, the group says.

"The 10 pence extra retailers have added to their long-term margin of 6 pence a litre has led to petrol car drivers paying £5 million more a day than they previously would have," according to RAC fuel spokesperson Simon Williams. UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said the government has done its part. "I think it's important that retailers pass on these reductions as well," he added.



Wind turbines off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

## Private sector needs to boost financing efforts to speed up transition to net zero

## ABU DHABI

Public-sector financing alone is not enough to tackle the global energy transition and the private sector will have to drive the change if the world is to meet its 2050 climate pledge, the chief financial officer of Siemens Energy has said.

Meeting net-zero targets will rely on breakthrough technology such as energy efficiency solutions, carbon capture and hydrogen-based fuels, Maria Ferraro told the fourth edition of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Forum on Wednesday.

A huge amount of funding is needed to scale up this technology to a commercial level, and governments need to set up incentive programme for investors to help accelerate its development, she said. "The climate crisis can't be solved by public capital alone," said Ms Ferraro, who is on the executive board of Germany's clean energy technology company.

"A successful and sustainable transition also requires the mobilisation of private capital, and while the global financial community is rising to this challenge, an investment gap remains due to the supply and demand side finance issues."

About \$50 trillion in incremental investments are required by 2050 to achieve net zero goals and cut greenhouse emission from about 51 billion tonnes per year. Much of the existing emission abatement can happen with existing technology but to accelerate the transition, investment in "breakthrough" technology is needed.

"The transition to net zero is not just about mitigating climate change. It also represents huge economic opportunities for business and investors to fund more sustainable business models," she said. "This is absolutely necessary." Private-sector investments will help "co-create" new technology by taking advantage of some of the public sector incentives and governments' stimulus packages for instance, she said. In October, the International Monetary Fund urged the \$50tn global investment funds industry to step up efforts to finance the transition to a greener economy and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Sustainability-focused investments are on the rise, though, amounting to \$3.2tn in 2020, which is an increase of more than 80 per cent from 2019, according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

## Buffett's Berkshire pitches \$3.9bn Iowa wind and solar project

## IOWA

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. is proposing to spend \$3.9 billion to bring more wind and solar generation to Iowa in a project that could be among the renewable industry's biggest.

The "Wind Prime" renewable-energy project would bring 2,042 megawatts of wind generation and 50 megawatts of solar power, Berkshire's MidAmerican Energy Co. said Wednesday in a statement. That could produce enough to power about 600,000 homes. The firm is also planning to fund studies about technologies that could help with carbon capture,

energy storage and smaller nuclear reactors. The project would bolster Iowa's already significant wind market. In 2019, the state generated 41% of its total energy needs from wind, up from just 5.1% in 2006, according to the Iowa Utilities Board. Governor Kim Reynolds called the Wind Prime project a "commitment and investment on a whole new level."

Berkshire, overseen by Buffett as chief executive officer, has been building MidAmerican's renewable efforts in recent years. MidAmerican estimates that it delivered 88% renewable energy to Iowa customers on an annual basis in 2021.

Buffett has said that he expected the utility could achieve "wind self-sufficiency" in Iowa. MidAmerican said Wednesday that the Wind Prime project will help the utility provide renewable energy equal to its Iowa customers' annual usage.

"As MidAmerican continues to progress toward delivering 100% renewable energy to our customers, we are also preparing to meet an important milestone of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions," Kelcey Brown, president and CEO of MidAmerican, said in the statement.

Berkshire expects the project to create 1100 jobs during construction,

and another 125 for ongoing efforts. It can generate an average of \$24 million a year in local property-tax payments on the turbines and solar equipment, plus more than \$21 million in annual landowner-easement payments. Berkshire expects construction to be completed in late 2024 if the project is approved.

"This stands to potentially be the single largest wind project ever built in the US," Ethan Zindler, an analyst at BloombergNEF, said in an email. Still, projects of similar size have been announced and then never finished, so "there's a long way to go for this project."



## WORLD

## Millionaires group calls for wealth tax at virtual Davos

ZURICH

A group of more than 100 billionaires and millionaires has issued a plea to political and business leaders convening virtually for the World Economic Forum: make us pay more tax.

The group calling itself the "Patriotic Millionaires" said that the ultra-wealthy were not currently being forced to pay their share of the global economic recovery from the pandemic.

"As millionaires, we know that the current tax system is not fair. Most of us can say that, while the world has gone through an immense amount of suffering in the last two years, we have actually seen our wealth rise during the pandemic - yet few if any of us can honestly say that we pay our fair share in taxes," the signatories said in an open letter, published on the occasion of the World Economic Forum's "virtual Davos", which began on Jan 17.

Reuters reported last year on the staggering rise in billionaires' wealth in 2020,

as the world went into lockdown and the global economy faced its worst recession since World War Two, prompting the millionaires' group to call for higher taxes.

While that spurred more than 130 countries to agree a deal to ensure big companies pay a global minimum tax rate of 15 percent, aimed at making it harder for them to avoid taxation, the millionaires said the wealthy still needed to contribute more.

Over the course of the two years of the pandemic, the fortunes of the world's 10 richest individuals have risen to \$1.5 trillion - or by \$15,000 a second - a study by Oxfam this week showed.

## 'Part of the problem'

In the letter, the signatories including Disney heiress Abigail Disney and venture capitalist Nick Hanauer told Davos participants convening for a week of on-line power-broking and talks: "You're not going to find the answer in a private forum... you're part of the problem."

Over the course of the two years



The sign of the World Economic Forum is displayed at an entrance door at the congress center at the eve of the meeting in Davos, yesterday. AP

of the pandemic, the fortunes of the world's 10 richest individuals have risen to \$1.5 trillion - or by \$15,000 a second - a study by Oxfam this week showed.

A spokesperson for the World Economic Forum said paying a fair share of taxes was one of the forum's tenets, and a wealth tax - as exists in Switzerland, where the organization is based - could be a good model to deploy elsewhere.

In most countries outside a handful in Europe and some recent joiners in South America, the rich do not have to pay annual taxes on assets such as real estate, stocks or artwork, because they are taxed only when the asset is sold.

According to a study conducted by the Patriotic Millionaires together

with Oxfam and other non-profits, a progressive wealth tax starting at 2 percent for those with more than \$5 million and rising to 5 percent for billionaires could raise \$2.52 trillion, enough globally to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty and guarantee healthcare and social protection for individuals living in lower income countries.

The World Bank in 2021 published an article urging countries to consider a wealth tax to help reduce inequality, replenish state coffers depleted by COVID-19 relief schemes and regain social trust.

However, outside Argentina and Colombia, no new wealth tax schemes have been initiated since the start of the pandemic.

Agencies

## Novavax vaccine, oral COVID-19 treatments approved in Australia

CANNBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S medical regulator has approved the Novavax vaccine and two oral treatments for COVID-19.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration on Thursday announced Novavax's Nuvaxovid has been given the green light as a two-dose vaccine for the primary course of inoculation in Australia, meaning it has not yet been approved as a booster.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation will make a final decision on which age groups will be eligible to receive Nuvaxovid.

The federal government has ordered 51 million doses of the vaccine.

Recipients will receive their first and second doses three weeks apart.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said he was hopeful that the minority of Australians who have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19 will come forward for Nuvaxovid when it is made available "over the coming weeks."

"We have a first dose na-

tional vaccination rate of 95.2 percent, and we know that some people have waited for Novavax, and although we have encouraged everyone to proceed, we recognize that that's a fact. So hopefully this will encourage those people in the less than last 5 percent to come forward," he told reporters.

The TGA also announced approval for Pfizer's Paxlovid and Merck Sharp and Dohme's Lagevrio, making them the first oral medicines for COVID-19 approved for use in Australia.

Australia has ordered 800,000 courses of the medications, which Hunt said would be made available through prescriptions for people with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms.

Patients who are prescribed the antiviral pills will take two a day for five days, reducing their chances of developing severe symptoms and requiring hospitalization.

"A course of them will help the most vulnerable, particularly some of our older Australians who have always been



A health worker conducts a PCR test at the St Vincent's Bondi Beach COVID-19 drive through testing clinic on Dec 22, 2021 in Sydney. File photo

at more risk from COVID," Hunt said.

"They will help people who are at risk of going from mild to moderate symptoms and deemed by medical professionals to have the risk of progression to more serious con-

ditions," he said.

Australia yesterday reported more than 70,000 locally-acquired coronavirus infections and 60 deaths, 25 in New South Wales, 15 in Victoria, 11 in South Australia and nine in Queensland.

According to the Department of Health, there were 5,307 cases being treated in Australian hospitals on Wednesday, including 424 in intensive care units.

Agencies

## Putin, Raisi discuss economic ties, global issues in Moscow

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin discussed the development of bilateral economic relations and international cooperation with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Moscow on Wednesday.

Putin noted that trade between the two countries increased by over six percent

in 2020 despite the pandemic, and by more than 38 percent last year.

Turning to international cooperation, Putin said that Russia and Iran are able to assist the Syrian government in "overcoming threats posed by international terrorism."

"Relations between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) are devel-

oping, and we are actively working to create a free-trade zone between Iran and our association," the Kremlin said in a statement, citing the Russian leader.

Raisi in turn spoke in favor of further developing bilateral economic, trade, cultural, political, and military relations with Russia.

"In the current, very exceptional conditions, where

there is opposition to the unilateral actions of the West, including the United States, we can create synergy in our interaction," Raisi said.

Raisi said that Iran would continue to develop despite Western sanctions and threats, and would work on establishing mechanisms for the gradual lifting of all sanctions and restrictions.

The Iranian leader said it is

necessary to enhance trade and economic ties, praising the current cooperation between Iran and Russia within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the EAEU.

Raisi arrived in Moscow on Wednesday. He will address the State Duma or the lower house of parliament, and will hold a range of meetings.

## Betting Omicron has peaked, UK's Johnson to lift virus rules

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to end most COVID-19 measures introduced to curb the rapid spread of the Omicron variant in England as he looks to live with the virus and fully reopen the economy after an apparent peak in cases.



Britain was the first country to limit international travel over the Omicron variant, raising alarm bells about its mutations, and in December introduced work at home advice, more mask-wearing and vaccine passes to slow its spread.

But while cases soared to record highs, hospitalizations and deaths have not risen by the same extent, in part due to Britain's booster rollout and the variant's lesser severity.

Health minister Sajid Javid said on Tuesday Britain had likely reached the peak in both cases and hospitalizations, with the so-called Plan B measures due to expire in a week.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that we'll be able to substantially reduce measures next week," Javid said in parliament.

Johnson will address parliament on Wednesday on next steps for Plan B and hopes to reset his agenda following furore over the lockdown gatherings at his office, which has some in his party plotting to remove him.

Johnson admitted he attended a gathering in the garden of his Downing Street office and residence in May 2020 while social mixing was banned.

The lifting of Plan B measures, along with Johnson's navigation of Omicron without resorting to stringent lockdown, could help him appease vocal opponents of restrictions in his own party amid the party unrest.

"Decisions on the next steps remain finely balanced," a government spokesperson said.

"The Omicron variant continues to pose a significant threat and the pandemic is not over. Infections remain high but the latest data is encouraging, with cases beginning to fall."

Johnson has faced criticism for his handling of the pandemic overall, and Britain has reported 152,513 deaths, the seventh highest total globally.

## US to distribute 400 million free N95 masks in COVID-19 fight

WASHINGTON

THE US government will make 400 million non-surgical "N95" masks from its strategic national stockpile available for free to the public starting next week, a White House official said, as the Biden administration tries to curb the COVID-19 pandemic.

Snug-fitting N95 face masks, so-called because they filter at least 95 percent of particulate matter from the air, will be shipped to pharmacies and community health centers this week, the official said, and will be available for pickup late next week.

The US government is leveraging the "federal retail pharmacy program" it used for vaccines, the White House said, as well as federally funded health clinics that serve minority groups hit hard by COVID infections and deaths.

Retail chain CVS, which has nearly 10,000 US pharmacy locations including within Target stores, and Walgreens, which has over 9,000 stores, plan to distribute free masks, company spokesperson said.

The move comes after US President Joe Biden and his team faced criticism for not doing enough to foster masking or bolster testing as the Omicron variant rages across the country, and hospitalizations hit a new record.

The administration also made free rapid home tests available via a website that launched officially on Wednesday.

Multilayered masks like the N95 that form a seal around the nose and mouth are considered especially effective at preventing virus spread. Last week the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that Americans wear the "the most protective mask" they can.

Hospitals have recovered from the desperate N95 shortages of the early pandemic of 2020, but several executives told Reuters that healthcare supply chains remain fragile.

On Dec 29, there were 747 million N95s in the US government's Strategic National Stockpile, 59 times pre-pandemic levels, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services.

US mask makers told Reuters they have the machines to make millions of N95s each month, and that they prioritize healthcare workers.

3M, the largest manufacturer of N95 respirators in the United States, has the capacity to make more than 2 billion of those masks a year at factories in South Dakota, Nebraska and elsewhere in the world, spokesperson Jennifer Ehrlich said.

Agencies

## Chinese economy gets off to a good start in 14th Five-Year Plan period

IN 2021, the first year of China's 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), the country's GDP climbed to over 114 trillion yuan (about \$18 trillion), an increase of 8.1 percent year on year at constant prices.

Thanks to the efforts of the Chinese government and people, China led the world in terms of both economic development and epidemic prevention and control over the past year, said Ning Jizhe, head of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office on Jan.17.

While keeping the overall economic operation within a reasonable range and fulfilling the main development targets and tasks set

for the year, the country made new progress in building a new development paradigm and witnessed new results in pursuing high-quality development, noted Ning, who believes that the Chinese economy got off to a good start in the 14th Five-Year Plan period.

The first, second, third, and fourth quarter of 2021 registered average two-year economic growth of 4.9 percent, 5.5 percent, 4.9 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively, and the average two-year economic growth between October and December saw a slight increase quarter on quarter, Ning said, adding that China's economic operation is generally stable.

The country's job market re-

mained generally stable, according to Ning. As the economy continued its recovery and development momentum, pro-employment policies bore fruit, and new forms of employment flourished, the newly increased employed people in urban areas totaled 12.69 million last year, which marked the realization of the country's projected target of over 11 million new urban jobs for the year.

The surveyed urban unemployment rate averaged 5.1 percent, below the target of around 5.5 percent, according to Ning, who disclosed that the country's consumer prices grew moderately by 0.9 percent year on year in 2021, lower than the annual target of around 3 percent.

China achieved basic equilibrium in the balance of payments. At the end of 2021, China's foreign exchange reserves stood at about \$3.25 trillion, remaining above \$3.2 trillion for eight consecutive months and ranking first in the world.

In 2021, the nationwide per capita disposable income of residents rose 8.1 percent after deducting price factors, with the average two-year growth reaching 5.1 percent, which was generally at the same pace as the growth of the economy. The country achieved its projected target of realizing steady growth in residents' personal income.

Preliminary calculations suggest that China's energy consumption

per unit of GDP decreased by 2.7 percent from the previous year in 2021, close to the target of about 3 percent.

Besides, China's grain output reached a new high of 682.85 million tonnes in 2021, meeting the annual target of over 650 million tonnes.

China's GDP reached \$17.7 trillion last year, ranking second in the world. It is expected to account for more than 18 percent of the global economy.

The per capita GDP stood at 80,976 yuan, or \$12,551 at the average annual exchange rate, passing the \$12,000 mark.

As Ning pointed out, China's GDP grew by about 13 trillion yuan last year, or \$2 trillion at the average an-

nal exchange rate, which is equivalent to the annual GDP of a relatively large major economy in the world.

The country's GDP expanded \$3 trillion last year if the RMB appreciation is taken into account and its GDP in 2021 and 2020 is calculated in the U.S. dollars, Ning said.

China's industrial and manufacturing added value has remained the highest in the world for more than 10 consecutive years; its trade in goods and foreign exchange reserves rank first in the world; and the country scored the second place in the world in terms of service trade, outbound investment and domestic consumer market.

People's Daily



## Lavrov to hold talks with Blinken in Geneva, diplomat confirms

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will meet with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Geneva on January 21, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a news briefing yesterday.

"The negotiations between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will take place in Geneva on January 21.

Plans are in store to discuss the two draft agreements submitted by Russia on December 15, 2021.

The deal between the Russian Federation and the United States on security assurances and an agreement on security guarantees for the Russian Federation and the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization," she stated.

Zakharova added that Lavrov and Blinken are expected to discuss further moves based upon Russia's proposals on security guarantees.

"During the meeting it is expected to assess the results of the past negotia-

tions [in the format of] interdepartmental delegations of Russia and the US in Geneva on January 10, the meeting of the Russia-NATO Council in Brussels on January 12 and the discussions in the OSCE Permanent Council which took place in Vienna on January 13," the diplomat stressed.

"[It is also anticipated] to decide on possible further steps, taking into account first of all, the early presentation of a written response by the American side with article-by-article comments on the Russian documents [on security guarantees]."

On December 17, the Russian Foreign Ministry released a draft agreement on security guarantees between Russia and the United States and a draft agreement on ensuring the security of Russia and NATO member states. Consultations on the issue took place in Geneva on January 10, followed by a meeting of the Russia-NATO Council in Brussels on January 12 and a session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Permanent Council in Vienna on January 13.

Agencies

# Biden enters 2nd year in office with unmet priorities

WASHINGTON

THIS week marks one year since U.S. President Joe Biden took office, with plummeting approval ratings and unresolved key priorities.

A year ago when Biden spoke to a divided nation, weeks after the U.S. Capitol riot, he said he would bring back unity and do "great things." The country, however, witnessed one hurdle after another in 2021, with everything from a catastrophic response to the COVID-19 pandemic to the debacle in Afghanistan and from high inflation to surging gun violence across the country.

Biden, after succeeding in an intense presidential race, began his term with approval ratings of 56 percent, according to a RealClearPolitics polling average. But his approval ratings in January dropped to 40.9 percent, the lowest point since he took office.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its messy impact on the economy and society are reportedly the biggest weight on the Biden administration.

Although Biden has made it clear that taming the spread of the virus is one of his priorities, the country is still plagued with surging cases, a source of frustration for the president. As of Wednesday, more than 68 million COVID-19 cases were reported across the United States, roughly one fifth of the U.S. population, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

In addition, over 857,000 COVID-19 deaths have been reported in the country so far. And nearly 800,000 new cases and nearly 1,800 new deaths are recorded on



U.S. President Joe Biden

a daily basis, up significantly week by week.

The pandemic has not been the only factor causing Biden's poor approval ratings, with economic headwinds also denting his performance.

While the country's employment rebounded somewhat in the past year, with 6.4 million jobs added, total employment remains lower than its pre-pandemic level, local media reported.

Some U.S. industries have been confronted with a labour crisis, leading to supply-chain disruptions and rising inflation.

The country's consumer price index jumped 7 percent last year, the fastest pace since 1982, according to the country's labor department. Core consumer prices, which excludes food and energy, grew by 5.5 percent since last year, the

biggest 12-month rise since 1991, according to the Bureau of Labor statistics.

A CNBC and Change Research poll released earlier this month found that 60 percent of people disapproved of how the government handled the economy. Christopher Galdieri, an assistant professor at Saint Anselm College, told Xinhua that the biggest problem for the current administration is the relentless pandemic.

"The virus is disrupting the economy and daily life in ways that voters care about," more than the current low unemployment and high GDP growth, he said. Darrell West, a senior fellow of the Brookings Institution, told Xinhua that Biden's low approval ratings "do not bode well for the midterms." "People's votes in part are a referendum on the president.

So the more popular he is later in the year, the better Democrats will do," West said. West said the most important thing Biden can do is to reduce the spread of COVID-19, which "would make people feel less at-risk and would stimulate the economy."

"Raising economic growth is critical to future electoral success and how people judge his presidency," West added. To improve his popularity, Galdieri said, Biden "needs inflation to go down and the pandemic to recede to the point something like normal life becomes possible again - much as it was, say, early last summer."

Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua that the main object for Biden should not be focused on increasing his polling numbers. Rather, his goal should be to get something done besides passing the infrastructure bill that he signed into law in recent months, as well as to improve the quality of life for Americans, Ramsay said.

Xinhua

## US top court spurns Trump bid to keep Capitol records secret

WASHINGTON

The US Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected former president Donald Trump's request to block the release of White House records sought by the Democratic-led congressional panel investigating last year's deadly attack on the Capitol by a mob of his supporters.

The decision means the documents, held by a federal agency that stores government and historical records, can be disclosed even as litigation over the matter continues in lower courts.

Trump's request to the justices came after the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on Dec 9 ruled that the businessman-turned-politician had no basis to challenge President Joe Biden's decision to allow the records to be handed over to the House of Representatives select committee.

Democratic Representative Bennie Thompson, the panel's chairman, and Republican Representative Liz Cheney, its vice chair, in a statement called the Supreme Court action "a victory for the rule of law and American democracy." The committee has already begun receiving some of the documents Trump had hoped to withhold, they added.

A Trump spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump and his allies have waged an ongoing legal battle with the committee seeking to block access to documents and witnesses. Trump has sought to invoke a legal principle known as executive privilege, which protects the confidentiality of some internal White House communications, a stance rejected by lower courts.

The brief Supreme Court order noted that the weighty question of whether a former president can assert an executive privilege claim did not need to be answered to resolve the case.

"Because the court of appeals concluded that President Trump's claims would have failed even if he were the incumbent, his status as a former president necessarily made no difference to the court's decision," the unsigned order said.

Only one of the court's nine members, conservative Justice Clarence Thomas, publicly noted disagreement with the decision.

The House committee has said it needs the records to understand any role Trump may have played in fomenting the violence that unfolded on Jan 6, 2021. His supporters stormed the Capitol in a failed bid to prevent Congress from formally certifying Biden's 2020 presidential election victory over Trump.

Agencies

## UN chief upbeat about peace prospects in Ethiopia

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was on Wednesday encouraged by the prospects of a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in northern Ethiopia.

In a statement, Guterres said he held a telephone conversation with Olusegun Obasanjo, the African Union high representative for the Horn of Africa, to exchange views on the conflict in Ethiopia following Obasanjo's latest visit to Addis Ababa and Mekelle, the capital of the regional state of Tigray.

Obasanjo briefed him on the efforts being made by the government of Ethiopia and the Ti-



gray People's Liberation Front to move toward a resolution of the violent conflict. Obasanjo expressed optimism that there is now a real opportunity for a political and diplomatic resolution of the conflict, said Guterres.

"I am delighted that after over a year of armed conflict which has affected millions of people across Ethiopia and the rest of

the region, there is now a demonstrable effort to make peace," he said.

"Ongoing military operations in some parts of Ethiopia remain a challenge to the peace process and sour the confidence-building measures that we hope are being taken by all parties in the conflict. Let me reiterate my call on all parties to move rapidly toward cessation of hostilities as a critical step in the right direction for peace-making."

The United Nations stands ready to support an all-inclusive and nationally owned dialogue, peace, security, and reconciliation process in Ethiopia. The international community must

continue to emphasize the need for all parties to demonstrate sincerity and commitment to the peace process, said Guterres.

While the AU-led peace process offers hope, the United Nations remains concerned about the humanitarian situation in various parts of Ethiopia affected by the war, he said, calling on all actors in the conflict to support and facilitate local and international efforts to provide humanitarian aid to those in need.

Ethiopian federal government forces and the TPLF have been fighting each other in Tigray since November 2020. The conflict later spilled into neighboring Afar and Amhara regions.

# Western media reports on Beijing 2022 Olympics rejected -2

BEIJING

## No 3: COVID-19 testing during Beijing 2022 opens the door to manipulation

**The claim:** An international news agency reported that Wolfgang Maier, head of Alpine events at the German Ski Federation, said that a lack of clarity over COVID-19 testing at the Beijing Winter Olympics "opens the door to manipulation", as "you can take anyone out of circulation who gets in your way."

**Fact check:** Daily testing for COVID-19 and the "closed-loop management system" are the countermeasures outlined in the second edition of the Beijing 2022 Playbook approved by the International Olympic Committee.

Once within the loop, people will undergo daily testing for COVID-19 and will be unable to access the outside world for the duration of the Games.

COVID-19 countermeasures are key to the safety and success of the Games, said the IOC's Olympic Games Executive Director Christophe Dubi.

"By creating a secure environment, this will provide a unique Games-time experience, and help athletes fully focus on the fundamentals of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games - sporting competition," said Dubi.

More than 1,200 people from overseas have entered the closed loop since it has come into operation on Jan 4. IOC Olympic Games Opera-

tions Director Pierre Ducrey, who has arrived in Beijing and entered the closed loop, said the first impression of the system was "extremely positive".

"The loop is very safe and is a place that is very difficult to compare to anywhere in the world because we have a fully vaccinated and often boosted population which is being tested daily with a PCR," said Ducrey.

"We are in a place that is safe and the behavior of the people is very well understood and applied."

Ducrey added that pre-departure and arrival COVID-19 tests will help to block cases from entering the closed loop, and participants need to conduct daily testing and wear masks of a required standard inside the loop.

## No 4: Athletes are complaining about COVID-19 countermeasures and could "boycott" Beijing 2022

**The claim:** In a recent interview with IOC president Thomas Bach, a German media outlet questioned China's anti-virus policy, saying it has triggered complaints from athletes, coaches and supervisors who have participated in competitions in China over the past few weeks, as they described the policy as "unworthy, unreasonable and inhumane."

**Fact check:** Beijing 2022 has implemented a "closed-loop management system" in a bid to combat the threat of COVID-19 and to ensure

that athletes from around the world can compete in a safe environment.

"We know that the athletes are preparing for the Games with full concentration. We are not aware of any active athletes who call for a sporting boycott of the Games," Bach said.

"We can see that from the reaction of many athletes who are preparing for these Games, they are excited about the Games and also used to anti-virus measures from the qualifying and World Cup competitions. This is not pleasant, but athletes also recognize that such conditions are required amid the pandemic."

Many athletes and NOC officials who are heading to Beijing 2022 have voiced their support of BOCOG's vigorous COVID-19 countermeasures.

"For sure it's going to be a little bit inconvenient, but I think it's necessary to keep the Games safe. And I think as an athlete, I feel safe with all the precautions and I think it's going to work out. With all the measures, it should be a pretty safe event," said Swiss snowboarder Jonas Boesiger.

"The simple fact that we are having the Winter Olympics is a big success. COVID-19 is a big problem on the planet in general. We, the sporting family, are suffering a lot, so our approach is not to complain or to criticize the measures the organizers are taking, but to thank [them for] the opportunity," said Krisztian Kulcsar, president of the Hungarian Olympic Committee.

**Fact check:** Committed to delivering a "green" Games, Beijing 2022 organizers fully support the decision made by the FIS to ban the substance.



A person walks past a large television display inside the main media center at the 2022 Winter Olympics, on Wednesday, in Beijing. AP

Michael Ryan, emergencies director for the World Health Organization, said the organization was "confident" in the COVID-19 prevention measures implemented by Beijing 2022 and did not foresee any increased risk of disease transmission.

## No 5: No information on fluorinated wax control at Beijing 2022

**The claim:** FIS has admitted it is unsure "whether the Chinese authorities intend to carry out any controls regarding fluorinated waxes" at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, after several participating teams expressed their confusion.

**Fact check:** Committed to delivering a "green" Games, Beijing 2022 organizers fully support the decision made by the FIS to ban the substance.

In November 2019, the FIS Council decided that the use of fluorinated ski wax, which has been scientifically proven to have negative environmental and health impacts, will be banned in competition for all FIS disciplines from the 2020-21 season.

Research and development of a hand-held Fluorine Tracker system has been postponed due to the pandemic, as the system requires further testing and design adjustments to ensure absolutely fair and consistent results for all competitors. This leads to the FIS Council's approval of postponing the ban of fluorinated waxes until the start of the 2021-22 season, beginning on July 1, 2021.

BOCOG fully supports the FIS decision to prohibit the use of fluorinated wax, as it is made in terms of environ-

mental protection and falls in line with China's vision of staging a "green" Games, a BOCOG spokesperson told Xinhua.

## No 6: Cybersecurity is part of the risks for the trip to China

**The Claim:** According to an American business-focused daily newspaper, the USOPC sent out warnings to athletes that "every device, communication, transaction and online activity may be monitored" when they travel to China.

A German newspaper reported that the German Olympic Sports Confederation has asked members of its delegation not to download the "My 2022" app onto their personal phones which they have been advised to leave at home.

**Fact check:** "My 2022" is a multi-functional app that provides various information services on weather, catering, accommodation, traffic, event news and medal standings to the accredited people of Beijing 2022. The app also serves for epidemic prevention and control and is similar to that used at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

According to the second edition of the Playbook, all accredited overseas Olympic participants must submit their health status daily through the health monitoring system for 14 days before entry into China.

It is not compulsory to install "My 2022" on cell phones, as accredited personnel can log on to the health monitoring system on the web page instead, a BOCOG spokesperson told Xinhua.

Data collected is clearly stated in the user agreement and privacy policy of the app and has been reviewed by the International Olympic Committee.

"My 2022" will inquire about the user's consent to access phone features in pop-up windows when it is opened for the first time. The app won't access related phone features if not in use, and users can turn off the permissions at any time in the system settings without affecting the app operation.

Also, "My 2022" has passed the examination of overseas mobile application markets such as Google, Apple and Samsung.

Xinhua





Minister of State in the President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Governments, Innocent Bashungwa.

## Bashungwa's contribution in sports promotion still valued

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WHEN the Tanzania government's cabinet reshuffle was announced recently, one of the changes in the ministries I was eagerly waiting for was the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports to find out whether there will be changes in it.

This came about as I have been relying on great things from Innocent Bashungwa, who was, before the cabinet reshuffle, serving as Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports.

Whenever I heard him talk about sports, I did not see him do anything wrong beyond seeing his broad horizons and vision in those matters.

Even when he talked about culture, I saw clearly that he was not guessing. He was talking about issues he knew.

I found a more creative mind in tracking sports development, promoting and harmonizing sports and entertainment, issues that are very rare to hear from the lips of politicians.

But, if he dreamed of implementing the creative issues he had in mind, time was too short for him to implement them in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports.

But President Samia Suluhu Hassan has not completely ignored Bashungwa when the President went for the cabinet reshuffle.

She has referred him to the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Governments, which is the largest and has many issues that are closely monitored and followed by many citizens.

Education, health, transport, housing, and many more are among the issues that he will address to some extent in the new ministry.

But he will not give up arts, culture, and sports altogether because he has been sent to a ministry where those issues need to be strengthened as regional and local governments are the source of arts, culture, and sports.

Under it are cultural officers, who also oversee sports and the arts at the regional and district levels.

Below it is primary and secondary schools, where children are required to receive basic training in arts, culture, and sports.

Under it are teachers who, given the right tools to teach the basic principles of sports and the arts, can become great artists or athletes in the future.

Strangely, a player who reaches

the level of playing in either the First League or the Premier League does not know the basic rules of the game.

Tacticians of those top clubs have to spend a lot of time teaching those players the basics instead of focusing more on technique.

Today we hear artists whose lyrics can be likened to an ordinary conversation.

They have neither art nor vision, there are no either sayings or proverbs and no more parables.

The artists are composing songs for the sake of it.

And now the artists are defending themselves by saying this is what people want.

The singers do not have a solid foundation in literature and songwriting that we were once taught well in class, carefully following the skills of people like Shaaban Robert and Andanenga in poetry.

At times, teachers from a college like Malya came to our school and taught us the basics of sports such as soccer, volleyball, and netball for girls. Today such teachers are not there.

These are the issues that need to be taught from the lowest level where Bashungwa has been assigned to oversee.

The creativity that Bashungwa was talking about in his interviews with various radio and television stations could not die just because he had been transferred from the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports.

Those issues are still one of his responsibilities in his new ministry and so, it is expected the minister is set to start implementing one of the issues he was thinking of starting at the district level so that in the future we can get well-drilled athletes.

The key is to stay with the right people, with the right mindset and vision to know how to develop culture, sports, and arts while other important issues in the ministry move forward without being hampered by those efforts.

Some will say we should put more effort into high school sports, some will say that since Bashungwa has been given a new assignment then he will be able to manage the Taifa Cup well and others will come up with a lot of ideas.

But a thorough assessment has to be done. We wish Bashungwa all the best in his new office.

## AFCON finals blow the lid on online ranking of CAF leagues

By Correspondent John Kimbute

PUNDITS in radio stations' morning talk shows on the Premier League and other competitions around the world are coming round to realize that plenty of what the soccer public here has been fed concerning the quality of Tanzania's NBC Premier League was little more than advertising.

One could even say it was outright fiction as it is not possible to separate the quality of a league from its senior national side, the sort of players it can collect to form a squad, a trainable team that can compete with the best. It is the reality that is dawning on pundits.

A telling example is a way in which Comoros beat Ghana and the formidable West African side exited the African Nations Cup finals, whereas it is traditionally among the title favourites.

In the 2010 World Cup finals, Ghana reached the quarterfinal stage and was eased out by Uruguay on post-match penalties to underline its quality, as Uruguay usually has no fear even of either Brazil or Argentina.

It is possible the side does not have the same talents but has considerably diminished, implying that there is plenty of firepower and skill among the Comorians to be able to stand their ground, win against Ghana.

Comoros was in a position to seek a third-place best finish in the tournament, which was not assured but far above what anyone here would have dreamed about.

A major lesson there is the whole issue of dual citizenship as a source of 'fertilization' of what a country can do, whether it is in property purchases and uplifting economic prospects, or it is placing in substantial numbers of expatriate players and fly the country's flag higher in competitions.

Countries we always thought did not have as much soccer as



Tanzania's senior national soccer squad 'Taifa Stars' midfielder, Feisal Salum (C), negotiates his way past Libya's players during the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' tie in Dar es Salaam in March.

we do were in the finals and often did well as in this particular case, while others failed.

While the quality of national sides in the CAF finals tells something about the quality of their Premier Leagues, there is at the same time a dichotomy between the two that has not been examined in this dispute.

There is one area where the quality of the league is reflected in the national team even with many expatriate players, that is when they arise from that country and went outside to play.

It means they were raised and bred at the local scene, picked their talents and abilities there, and picked by scouts from foreign clubs for example in youth competitions. Leagues nurture good players if they are also good.

By contrast, there may not be much of a relationship between a league and a national side if it has a large number of foreign-born players who may have taken up citizenship to get a chance to play, or because in Europe one feels strongly about being African.

A country may have quite a few such individuals living outside and eligible to play for the national side, despite that they were raised outside even if parents come from that country, and in some cases, it is just one of the parents.

This may also explain Comoros' success, as Mayotte is French but not a member of CAF so they can play for the bigger ensemble of islands forming the Comorian Federation, as in every respect they are Comorians too.

That is one example while in other areas counties attain a metropolitan outlook because of exposure and thus a substantial expatriate population like Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, or others had many decades of assimilation policies and bread substantial communities in metropolitan countries, the Francophone bloc.

As West Africa is near to Europe, when immigration wasn't as stringent as it is these days, many travelled there for education or work, until the latest phase of technology, artificial intelligence, with robots taking

over from manual labourers.

But by this time diverse African communities had already come up.

Given the level of football that African countries are showing, even those whom we never knew to be soccer powerhouses, the longer we keep out dual citizenship the weaker our national side continues to be.

For instance, at the moment there is only one Taifa Stars player who features in the European Premier League circuit, namely Mbwana Samatta, who is not the best Tanzanian player outside, but we have shut out Yusuf Poulsen, who is a lot better than Samatta, as he not only plays for a powerful club, RB Leipzig in eastern Germany, and the Denmark national team.

Samatta is not able to scale such heights as his brief recruitment to the England Premier League more or less demonstrated - or more at home, how Clatous Chama failed to fit in the Moroccan Premier League but is a darling of legions of fans in Tanzania.

## Goodbye, Garbiñe: No. 3 Muguruza bows out at Australian Open



Garbiñe Muguruza of Spain walks from Rod Laver Arena following her second round loss to Alize Cornet of France at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday, Jan. 20, 2022. (AP Photo)

MELBOURNE, Australia

THE surprises started early at the Australian Open on Day 4, with No. 3 Garbiñe Muguruza becoming the highest-seeded player to exit the women's draw just minutes after No. 6 Anett Kontaveit lost.

Not long after, No. 2-seeded Aryna Sabalenka served a dozen double-faults in the first set and appeared to be on the brink of a second-round

defeat before recovering to hold off 100th-ranked Wang Xinyu 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Muguruza never managed to earn a single break point and made a whopping 33 unforced errors, more than twice her opponent's total, in a 6-3, 6-3 loss to Alize Cornet under a bright blue and cloudless sky at Rod Laver Arena on Thursday.

"A little bit surprised about my level. I am a little

disappointed, too," said Muguruza, who won the season-ending WTA Finals in 2021. "I feel like my shots weren't as accurate and precise. I feel, also, my aggressive game wasn't that aggressive today."

Here's how unexpected that result was: Muguruza is a two-time Grand Slam champion and a two-time major runner-up, too, including making it to the final at the Australian

Open in 2020.

And the 61st-ranked Cornet? She's appearing in her 63rd career major tournament - and 60th in a row - but never has been beyond the fourth round.

Cornet will get a chance to equal that showing when she plays Saturday, her 32nd birthday.

She called herself "a little bit (of) a dinosaur."

"I don't know how many years I have left," Cornet said. "Today was a perfect gift I could give myself and I really hope the journey's going to go even farther for me."

Sam Stosur's 6-2, 6-2 loss to No. 10 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova ended the 2011 U.S. Open champion's 20th, and last, singles campaign at the Australian Open.

"I've done more than I ever thought possible. I dreamed of winning a Grand Slam (singles title), and I couldn't have asked for anything more," Stosur told the crowd in Kia Arena.

Muguruza said she didn't feel at her best physically and noted that the start of this season was "kind of stressful," because COVID-19 spread through her support team and she was apart from them for two weeks.

Kontaveit, who lost to Muguruza in the title match at the WTA Finals, was beaten 6-2, 6-3 by 19-year-old Clara Tauson of Denmark.

"I just went in there believing I could win, but it wasn't like I have to win," said Tauson, who will make her debut in the third round at a major against 2019 Australian Open semifinalist Danielle Collins. "It was more: 'I can win, but we'll see what happens.'" AP



## No surprise this time as Egypt into last 16 at African Cup

YAOUNDE, Cameroon

EGYPT qualified for the knockout stage at the African Cup of Nations on Wednesday and put a stop for now to the run of surprise results that has shaken the tournament over the last few days.

Egypt saw off Sudan 1-0 in their final Group D game in Yaounde, confirming its place in the round of 16 after qualifying second in the group behind Nigeria.

Defender Mohamed Abdelmonem headed home a corner on 35 minutes after a period of sustained pressure from Egypt.

Nigeria won 2-0 against Guinea-Bissau in the other group game having already qualified for the last 16 as group winner.

Nigeria had second-half goals by Umar Sadiq and William Troost-Ekong and is the only team to come through the group stage with three wins. The goals delighted interim coach Augustine Eguavoen, who jumped off the bench and threw his arms in the air.

Eguavoen is due to give up the coaching duties after the African Cup but there might just be calls for the former African Cup-winning captain to stay if Nigeria keeps winning with him as coach.

Egypt would not doubt have had nerves jangling after seeing the fate of some of its fellow former champions in Cameroon.

Defending champion Algeria was beaten 1-0 by Equatorial Guinea on Sunday in a result that seemed certain to be the shock of the tournament until four-time winner Ghana's jaw-dropping elimination at the hands of tournament debutant and tiny island nation Comoros on Tuesday.

Egypt had underwhelmed in its start in Cameroon, losing to Nigeria and then only scraping past Guinea-Bissau in its second group game, thanks to Mohamed Salah's goal and a brilliant late equalizer by Guinea-Bissau being contentiously disallowed.

Egypt still isn't in top gear but there were better signs against Sudan.

Mostafa Mohamed and Abdallah Said were both denied by Sudan goalkeeper Mohamed Mustafa in the first half.

Salah showed some of his best skill this tournament as he weaved past defenders and let off a low shot that was saved by Ali Abu Eshrein, who came on in place of Mustafa.

Salah also set up Amr el-Solia in front of goal. El-Solia blazed his shot over.

The game is something of a derby because the two countries are neighbors. But they are not close on recent achievements. Egypt is a record seventh-time African Cup winner, while Sudan won the title in 1970 but has gone past the group stage just once in the 52 years since then.

There was a scare for Egypt – and Liverpool – when Salah went down clutching his leg after Sudan defender Mazin Mohamedine crunched into him with his studs raised in a tackle. Egypt's captain got up and finished the game, though.

The two results on Wednesday also meant Cape Verde and Malawi qualified as the first two of four best third-place teams. It's the first time Malawi has reached the knockouts at the African Cup.

The final two groups will be decided on Thursday, when Algeria, bottom of Group E, needs to win against Ivory Coast to avoid early elimination and a feeble defense of its title. AP

## Tottenham stages latest-ever comeback to win an EPL game

LONDON

TOTTENHAM staged the latest-ever comeback to win a Premier League game on Wednesday.

Manchester United's second-half turnaround was quite the surprise, too.

On a dramatic night in England's top division, Tottenham was losing to Leicester after 94 minutes and 52 seconds. Within two minutes, Netherlands forward Steven Bergwijn had scored two goals to seal a 3-2 win pretty much out of nowhere.

It sparked wild scenes as Tottenham's players clambered over advertising signs to celebrate in front of their fans, with stewards having to intervene.

"We showed today that we don't want to give up. Never," said Tottenham manager Antonio Conte, whose unbeaten league record at the London club was preserved.

As an extra reward for Tottenham, the victory took the team above fierce rival Arsenal and into fifth place in the league – only one point off the Champions League positions with games in hand.

The previous latest comeback to win came in arguably the Premier League's most famous match, when Manchester City scored in the 92nd and 94th minutes to beat Queens Park Rangers 3-2 and clinch the title in May 2012.

As for Man United, Ralf Rangnick's under-pressure team put in a wretched first-half display at Brentford and was lucky to be 0-0 at halftime, only for Anthony Elanga – with his first Premier League goal – Mason Greenwood and Marcus Rashford to score after the break in a 3-1 win. Ivan Toney pulled a late goal back for Brentford.

United stayed seventh but is one point behind Tottenham having played two games more.

With the title increasingly looking like heading again to Manchester City, which holds an 11-point lead, the race for the top four and qualification for the Champions League might be the most interesting aspect of the second half of the season. AP

# Real Sociedad's secret to LaLiga contention? Basque pride, soccer passion and a taste for life - 1

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain

IT'S raining in San Sebastian. It's nearly always raining here, or has just stopped raining, or is about to rain. Set around a curl of beach on Spain's northern coast, the compact city of elegant promenades is one of Europe's loveliest settings and has some of the world's finest restaurants. But nobody goes there for the weather.

The official statistics report that San Sebastian gets around 150 days of sunshine annually, less than half the national average. When I arrive at Real Sociedad's training grounds, which climb a hillside in the nearby town of Lasarte, a drizzle drips from a sky the color of chimney smoke. It's early-December, and it's the region's 18th straight day of precipitation.

The following day, when Real Sociedad will host PSV Eindhoven in a game that will eliminate one of them from the UEFA Europa League, will surely be the 19th. My quick and unscientific survey of the changing room reveals that precisely nobody minds. "The fact is, it's an advantage for us," says Mikel Oyarzabal, who was born a short distance away in Eibar. "We're accustomed to it and the other teams aren't."

Oyarzabal has spent his entire professional career at Real Sociedad. He shrugs when asked how he and his teammates cope with the perpetually somber skies. "I prefer it when the weather is bad," he says. "I don't know why. It just makes me feel comfortable."

By the time the players start walking up a hillside path in twos and threes, heading for a field of green so iridescent that it looks unreal, the rain is falling harder. Darker clouds are massing. Somewhere else, the training session might be moved indoors. Instead, nobody glances up. "It's just normal for us," says Ander Barrenetxea, a promising young winger who was born and raised in San Sebastian.

Much of the team is from here, the small hillside villages and stately cities of the Basque Country. Their surnames, with a proliferation of Z's and X's and K's, reflect their singular heritage: Zaldua and Zubimendi and Zubeldia; Oyarzabal and Barrenetxea and Dozagarat and Karrikaburu. As they kick a ball around a circle, I can hear them talking in Euskera, the Basque language.

Euskera is unrelated to Spanish or to the French spoken across the border just a few miles to the east. In fact, it bears no known relation to any language anywhere in the world. It's uncommonly difficult to learn; if you don't start speaking Euskera in your childhood, you almost certainly never will.

That can be intimidating for anyone who relocates to the region,



Real Sociedad lack the resources and the appeal to star players from around the world. Not to worry, though: they've got all the talent they need in Basque Country. (Agencies)

as Real Sociedad Nordic forwards Alexander Isak and Alex Sorloth have done in recent years, or even for another Spaniard like David Silva, who previously starred at Manchester City. Fortunately, their teammates understand. "They read the room," says Mat Ryan, the Australian goalkeeper. "If a bunch of guys are sitting around, they're probably talking in Euskera. But if one of us walks in, they'll nearly always switch to Spanish."

On the field, the secret language allows Real Sociedad's players to openly discuss strategy against any opponent, except one of the other Basque clubs. "Even in La Liga games," Ryan says, "nobody has any idea what they're talking about."

For centuries, the Basques cultivated their crops, tended to their flocks, overcame the elements and kept to themselves. "Short on words, but long on deeds" is how they are described in a 17th century play by the Spaniard Tirso de Molina. Today, that seems an apt description of their football teams: Athletic Bilbao, Osasuna and the second-division Eibar, but especially Real Sociedad.

San Sebastian's province, Guipuzcoa, is Spain's most compact. The city itself, called Donostia in Euskera, has just 185,000 residents. Forty Spanish cities are larger. Yet Real Sociedad has spent much of this season near the top of the LaLiga table. Earlier this year, it won the Copa del Rey. (This Wednesday, it will play Atletico Madrid in the round of 16 of this year's Copa.)

Six times during this century, Real Sociedad advanced to UEFA competitions. In 2003-04 and 2013-14, it played in the Champions League. The Basques have remained in the same corner of Europe since the Paleolithic era, making them the oldest surviving ethnic group on the continent. Their resistance to outside influence is a point of intense pride: the Basque Country was even the last area of Western Europe to

convert to Christianity. It was also the last place where the families from the countryside came together to form what we would consider towns. The Basques even have their own typographic font – the capital A resembles a card table, or maybe an antique telephone; the capital L could be a comfortable chair – adapted from the writing on their medieval tombstones.

This insularity helps Real Sociedad compete. In a sense, it's a neighborhood club, though the neighborhood extends across three Spanish provinces. "It feels like a brotherhood," says Merino. "We protect each other." Merino had stints in Newcastle and Dortmund before Real Sociedad brought him home in 2018. "I'm fortunate," he says now. "This is a very special place to live and play."

Toshack remembers arriving in San Sebastian in 1985. He had played there a decade before while at Liverpool and been impressed by the city. Now he had been hired to manage Real Sociedad following a second-place finish at Sporting Lisbon. Before that, he recorded the remarkable achievement of getting Swansea City

from England's fourth division to its first by earning promotions in three consecutive seasons. He was a hot commodity. Still, his appointment was greeted with incredulosity and even anger from a significant portion of Real Sociedad supporters. Throughout the club's history, which dates to 1909, each of

its managers had been Basque. "Hiring me was a huge step," Toshack says now. "One of the major newspapers in town was for the idea. The other one, if you weren't Basque, they were against you. That was also how the supporters divided. A lot of people in the city were against foreign coaches. I had some very, very difficult moments early on."

There was another formidable challenge for Toshack: his players were also Basque. All of them. For decades, only those who came from the Basque Country or had Basque heritage were allowed to play for the team. As the quality of Spanish football started to rise in the 1980s, this presented a distinct disadvantage. While most other clubs were drawing from a worldwide talent pool, Real Sociedad's was limited to the handful of elite players in a region with a population of less than 2 million. It also had to compete for those players with Athletic Bilbao, among other clubs.

Athletic played in the region's largest and most important city. It had a roster composed entirely of Basques, a policy that it continues to today. As a result, Real Sociedad rarely signed anyone at all; nearly its entire squad was nurtured by its youth system. Some of those players – notably Txiki Begiristain and Jose Maria Bakero, both of whom later won the 1992 European Cup at Barcelona – emerged as world-class. But plenty of others fell below the expected standard.

"You had to pick

players who probably wouldn't have been good enough at other clubs," Toshack says. "It seemed ridiculous that this club could keep playing in the first division under this setup."

Ryan, who was signed in the summer from Brighton and Hove Albion, is the latest outsider to join this small but curiously ambitious club. The first was John Toshack, who managed it three times beginning in 1985, followed by John Aldridge, a striker who came from Liverpool four years later. There are never many of them at once, which is a way to ensure its Basque culture remains intact. Yet Real Sociedad strives to compete with the top clubs in Spain and, occasionally, all of Europe.

Sometimes, it succeeds. As of late October, the club sat at the top of La Liga. That's when manager Imanol Alguacil cautioned that its chances of actually finishing ahead of Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Barcelona were quite small. Players grow uneasy even at talk of returning to the Champions League, though at the moment they sit in fifth place, outside the top four only by goal differential. "We want to be there, but we can't say we will be there," says Mikel Merino, a Basque midfielder who grew up down the highway in Pamplona.

The Basque way is to direct attention to the task at hand, whether that means patiently driving a herd of sheep into a pen or preparing for the next match. "Or

not even the next match, but the next training session," Merino says. "We don't pay attention to the future."

In his second season at Real Sociedad, Toshack guided it to the Copa del Rey, which it hadn't won since 1909. That was a turning point not just for Toshack, but for the club. He had been pushing to add a few players from outside and that trophy gave him the cachet to do so.

Aldridge was a Liverpool striker in Toshack's image. His signing was a success: Aldridge scored 40 goals for Real Sociedad over two seasons, leading the team. But it was also a failure. Aldridge never felt accepted by the club's loyalists. Even Begiristain, who had grown up in the Basque mountain town of Olaberria, described Aldridge's arrival as "sad." By then, Toshack had gone to Real Madrid and returned to Real Sociedad. He would manage the club for a third time later in the decade; eight seasons in all, spread over 17 years.

"You don't have to be too intelligent to understand that I really liked it there," he says. "It is one of my favorite places. Perhaps my favorite place."

After Toshack, Real Sociedad had seasons when it did well, and seasons when it didn't. During the worst of times, 2007 to 2010, it played in the second division. Nearly all of its managers since then have been Basque, with the memorable exception of David Moyes.

Now at West Ham, Moyes arrived in 2014, after sustained achievement at Everton and then frustration trying to follow Alex Ferguson at Manchester United. At Real Sociedad, he finished in 12th place, started poorly the following season and was replaced. He never seemed to understand the city or its people. In San Sebastian, his tenure is not remembered fondly.

The current manager, Alguacil, is far more popular. Raised in Orrio, a nearby fishing village, he started in Real Sociedad's youth system in 1988. He played for the senior team, managed the youth team, and then Real Sociedad's B team. In December 2018, he was promoted. He had never managed outside the Basque Country.

ESPN (TO BE CONTINUED)

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

No surprise this time as Egypt into last 16 at African Cup

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## Aga Khan Sports Club lifts Kazim Nasser League's Division A silverware



Aga Khan Sports Club's cricketers pictured with a trophy after confronting Alaf Aces Cricket Club in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A 50 Overs' final that took place early this week. Aga Khan SC cruised to a six-run win over Alaf Aces Cricket Club to lift the silverware. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

By Guardian Reporter

**A**GA Khan Sports Club has merged as the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A 50-Over League's winner, cruising to a six-run victory over Alaf Aces Cricket Club in the final that took place early this week.

A promising all-rounder, Arshaan Jasani, played a pivotal role in Aga Khan SC's success, considering the cricketer notched an unbeaten century which gave his outfit an edge.

The high-scoring final had Alaf Aces winning the toss, electing to bowl, and restricting Aga Khan SC to 331 runs dropping three wickets in the allotted 50 overs.

Openers, Abhik Patwa, and Jasani, put solid displays at the crease, with Patwa posting 85 runs and Jasani surpassing the century mark and notching unbeaten 158

runs.

Jasani proved to be a thorn in Alaf Aces Cricket Club bowlers' flesh, given the performer notched 19 boundaries and three sixes in his impressive outing.

There were, thereafter, brief spells top order performers Dhrumit Mehta and Vishal Patel experienced as Alaf Aces Cricket Club's bowling unit sought to prevent their opponents from notching an imposing score.

Mehta ended with 11 runs, Patel stayed a little longer to end with 15 runs.

Harsheed Chohan forged an unbeaten stand with Jasani, scoring 25 runs not out to significantly boost the score.

Aga Khan SC's score was further buoyed by 37 extras given away by Alaf Aces Cricket Club's bowling unit.

Experienced cricketers, Kibwana Salum, Ankit Baghel, and Mohammad Ali ended with a wicket each for Alaf Aces Cricket Club.

Alaf Aces Cricket Club, thereafter, put spirited performance as they sought to mount a successful chase, only to lose steam with 325 runs all out in 49.2 overs.

Opening batsman, Baghel, Ejaz Aziz, and Ally Mpeka had an impressive outing at the crease much as their squad's hopes of reaching the target ended up in smokes.

Baghel saw to it that his outfit enjoys a good start to the chase with well-

executed shots and was eventually eight runs short of a century.

The experienced all-rounder was ably supported by the promising player, Aziz that was deployed as a top-order batsman, and ended with 85 runs which included nine boundaries and three sixes.

Mpeka, lotted in as middle-order batsman, pushed Alaf Aces Cricket Club's total with his 66 runs which included two fours.

There was as well notable contribution at the crease shown by Jumanne Mohamed, slotted in at number three, as the cricket chipped in with 22 runs that consisted of two fours.

The other opener, Ali, and veteran cricketer,

Azim Thakur, ended with double-digit scores, notching 13 runs and 11 runs respectively.

Aga Khan SC's youthful bowler, Azhaar Premji, orchestrated his outfit's quest for preventing Alaf Aces Cricket Club's batting unit from chasing the total, as he notched three wickets in 10 overs.

Experienced spinner, Riziki Kise-to, was equally in good form, compounding Alaf Aces Cricket Club's woes after notching three wickets in 10 overs.

Aga Khan SC's Jasani was presented with the final's Best Player prize for scoring the unbeaten 158 runs.

The DC KNML Division A 50 Overs' Special Award went to Aga Khan SC's Premji, aged 13, for taking the three wickets and becoming the youngest player to play in a domestic tournament final.

The DC organizes the annual tournament under the auspices of the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) to boost the game's promotion in the country.

**5 EATV FRIDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

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20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

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## Australia call-up Grace after Beth's injury

ADELAIDE

GRACE Harris will replace injured batter Beth Mooney, called into Australia's Ashes squad hours out from the series opener in Adelaide.

Harris was confirmed as Mooney's replacement on Thursday, added ahead of Elyse Villani and Georgia Redmayne for the T20 matches.

Her call up is a further sign Australia will opt for a specialist opener alongside Alyssa Healy, after Mooney was struck in the jaw at training earlier this week.

The world's top-ranked T20 batter has since undergone surgery, with Australian officials unsure how long she will be out.

Rachael Haynes had loomed as a likely option to replace Mooney, but selectors have indicated they want her to play in the middle order.

If Harris does open in Thursday night's T20, it will likely create a middle-order squeeze and result in superstar all-rounder Ellyse Perry being left out.

Haynes did not play in the most recent India series, but is a certainty to return against England at No.4 or No.5.

Tahlia McGrath also stepped up in her absence, leaving Perry as the likely odd one out.

Perry would likely still be in Australia's best team for the Test and one-day components of the series.

Meanwhile the hard-hitting Harris last played for Australia in 2016, and has since developed a cult-hero status at the Brisbane Heat.

She made 50 and 15 in a warm-up match for Australia A against Australia earlier this week, convincing selectors she was the woman for the job.

"Whilst the injury to Beth is unfortunate it does provide an opportunity for someone else to step in to the squad," chief selector Shawn Flegler said.

"Grace has a great skill set for the T20 format and has the ability to play multiple roles if required."

AGENCIES

## Medvedev withstands Kyrgios, crowd to advance in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia

DANIIL Medvedev faced a hostile crowd and a full array of Nick Kyrgios' outbursts and tricks, and still remained calm for long enough to reach the third round at the Australian Open.

The 115th-ranked Kyrgios worked up the crowd, hit 'tweeners and drop shots, mixed up the pace of his groundstrokes and tossed in an under-arm serve in a bid to ruffle the second-ranked Russian.

Medvedev kept his composure, taking a quick trip to the locker room after losing the third set and recovering to win 7-6 (1), 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 Thursday on a rowdy Rod Laver Arena.

In an on-court TV interview with former champion Jim Courier, Medvedev was asked how he managed to stay so composed.

"That's the only choice when you get booed between first and second serve," he said, triggering some boos from the crowd.

Kyrgios usually likes to play on John Cain Arena, known locally as the People's Court because fans with ground passes can get in and the singing and chanting can get wild.



Daniil Medvedev of Russia gestures after defeating Nick Kyrgios of Australia in their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, on Thursday. AP

He managed to turn the all-ticketed stadium court into something more akin to a soccer stadium.

In the seventh game of the third set, Kyrgios got two break-point chances when he bunted away a backhand from Medvedev directed at his body and then took off on a circular run behind the baseline to celebrate like he'd scored a goal.

When he converted the break, he danced in the change-over and worked up the crowd.

Medvedev lowered the volume with two service breaks in the

fourth set to beat the talented but erratic Kyrgios for the first time in three attempts.

He served 31 aces to 17 for the Aussie, and converted four of his 11 break-point chances while saving seven of nine on his own serve.

Told later that he may have misheard the boos, and that Kyrgios' supporters were mimicking the "siiuuuu" sound that soccer fans yell when Cristiano Ronaldo scores goals, Medvedev said still "it's not easy to play against the crowd."

"But they stay as fun matches afterwards because in the end, yeah, we gave the crowd a big show," he said. "Probably Nick more, because, well, he's a big entertainer."

"I think it was a great match to watch. Already got a lot of messages, not just congratulations like usual, but like, 'Wow, what a match!'"

Medvedev was the runner-up last year but avenged that loss by beating Novak Djokovic in the U.S. Open final.

He is the quasi No. 1 now, anyway, because Djokovic was deported on the eve of the tournament for failing to meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination regulations.

Another contender in his half of the draw had a routine run, with fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas beating Sebastian Baez 7-6 (1), 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4.

Other second-round winners among the men included No. 5 Andrey Rublev, No. 15 Roberto Bautista Agut, No. 20

Taylor Fritz, 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic and No. 32 Alex de Minaur.

Australian wild-card entry Chris O'Connell upset 13th-seeded Diego Schwartzman 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-4.

Five-time runner-up Andy Murray only lasted two rounds. Two days after winning his first match at the Australian Open in five years, the former No. 1 lost to 120th-ranked Taro Daniel 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

There were plenty of surprises in the women's draw on Day 4, with No. 3 Garbiñe Muguruza the highest-seeded player to exit only minutes after No. 6 Anett Kontaveit lost.

U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu lost a night match to Danka Kovinic 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Kovinic has reached the third round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time and will next play two-time major champion Simona Halep.

AP

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

