

**National Pg 3**  
Diaspora urged to invest in Tanzania



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Revamping the tourism sector



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Services for persons with disabilities



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# Samia takes census, vaccines appeal to church anniversary

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega (C) pictured on Monday feeding fish being bred in a 'farm' Chinese company TanGreen has developed in a Mwanza section of Lake Victoria waters. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has called on religious leaders to conduct a comprehensive campaign to encourage people to get vaccinated against Covid-19 and mobilise their followers for next year's national population census.

The president issued this appeal yesterday when officiating at an event to mark 50 years of establishing the Anglican Church in Dodoma, and creating a platform for priests and bishops, hosted at the St John University here.

She urged religious leaders to add census issues in regular preaching ahead of its being held next August as it is a vital undertaking for the country's development.

"When the government comes up with a project then comes some clerics in the middle to protest initiatives that don't make sense because Scriptures don't lead him/her to do so. So I urge you to go and educate your followers on the importance of census," she cautioned.

The Head of State appealed to church leaders to conduct an intensive campaign on the Covid-19 pandemic and vaccine intake so as to build immunity and fight the spread of debilitating infections in the country.

"Religious leaders have a great role to play to educate the public on the importance of taking the Covid-19 shot as there are still many people who are reluctant to take the vaccines. They are unaware of the significance of Covid-19 while the vaccine strengthens the body's immune system," she explained.

"I have been told that there are some youth here who are working to produce a

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## State in grief after Ole Nasha's death

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has said she has received with grief the news of the death of William Tate ole Nasha, the deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments) who passed away on Monday, in Dodoma.

A State House statement said yesterday that the president conveyed condolences to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai, to be relayed to MPs, the family of the late Ole Nasha and the people of Ngorongoro.

Samia said the late Ole Nasha was a hard worker and a faithful public official who greatly contributed to national development, while Speaker Ndugai expressed grief at the news of Ole Nasha's death at his home in Dodoma.



"I convey my sincere condolences to the family of the deceased, the people of Ngorongoro, all members of Parliament and relatives of the late Ole Nasha," he said, pleading for fortitude and strength for the bereaved. His office was working with the government on funeral arrangements, he affirmed.

News of the death of the Ngorongoro MP in Arusha Region was confirmed by the region's CCM publicity secretary, Gerald Munisi.

"It is true, Ole Nasha died during the night, and we received the news with great shock," he said.

During his time, Ole Nasha served in various ministries, including Education, Science and Technology, and moved to Investments as deputy minister upon its being set up.

He earlier served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation and Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries.

## Govt handed fish farm plan for Lake Victoria

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

WAYS to make better use of Lake Victoria resources like identifying areas for fish farming blocks as well as protected areas for traditional fishing activities are being examined, top officials say.

Abdallah Ulega, the deputy minister for Livestock and Fisheries, made this observation during a visit to Tangreen Ltd,



Therefore you can see our efforts have resulted in having big investors in the sector, including Tangreen

a Chinese block fish farming company wishing to use lake resources for its business.

Implementing the plan would stop interaction of fish farming and traditional fishing activities in a move to strengthen the blue economy sector, he stated, noting that the plan will attract more investors to

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## Minister: RCs across EACOP belt must beef up security

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY minister January Makamba (pictured) has called upon eight regional commissioners hosting the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) to beef up security mechanisms, and ensure project opportunities benefit local residents.

Officiating at a three-day seminar for the RCs and senior regional administrative officials in Tanga city yesterday, he said



security was a key consideration for the project to be routed through Tanzania, which needs to be reinforced and assured.

Those who decided that the pipeline take this route should not have any regrets for the decision they made, the minister emphasised, thus the need to instill a wide understanding for regional officials in the project belt, set out plans for exploiting

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National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (L) exchanges greetings with the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic's Ambassador to Tanzania, Mahayub Buyema Mahafud, who paid him a courtesy call in his office in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: National Assembly

## Minister: RCs in EACOP belt must beef up security

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various opportunities as the project is implemented.

For his part, deputy minister Stephen Byabato urged regional officials to ease regulatory and other procedures for people to access opportunities in the project belt, namely Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga regions.

The legal cadre for those opportunities was part of terms of initialization of the holding agreement between EACOP and the host government, which identified some goods and services listed in reserved contracts for the host state where the pipeline passes.

The services include transport, food and drinks, accommodation, fuel for machinery and vehicles,

building materials, civil works and communication services, all sourced locally, he explained, elaborating that unlisted goods and services would be sourced by competitive tenders where capable local firms will participate in the tendering.

Dr James Mataragio, director general of the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC)

said TPDC responsibilities in the project include handling land issues, overseeing contracts execution with EACOP on the basis of 15 per cent holding and representation in the EACOP board of directors.

TPDC shall also monitor the collaboration of various stakeholders during implementation, he added.

## Covid 19: Africa's end of year vaccination target a 'pipedream'

By Special Correspondent, Windhoek

AS Africa records more than 8.3 million COVID-19 cases, the continent continues to suffer from a severe shortage of vaccines.

Less than 4% of the continent has been fully vaccinated and fewer doses are expected to be delivered through COVAX after the UN-sharing mechanism announced that it is forced to slash planned COVID-19 vaccine deliveries to Africa by 150 million doses this year. At the UN General Assembly last week, African countries pushed for unity and criticized vaccine inequality.

Steven Neri, Africa Regional Director at Project HOPE, made the following statement:

"Eighteen months is enough time to learn lessons. Today, it is well understood that as long as the virus spreads and mutates in some parts of the world, no place will be safe. Ending the COVID-19 pandemic should be a global top priority; it cannot be addressed country by country. Many high-income countries have already vaccinated more than 75% of their populations, while at least 14 African countries have not even immunized one percent of their respective populations.

"With just three months left in the calendar year, the global year-end target of fully vaccinating 40% of Africa's population has now become a pipedream.

"Millions of Africans continue to pay the price of vaccine hoarding and restrictions on export. Their lives are risked daily because they have not received adequate protection against the virus and its variants. About 150 million vaccine doses initially expected to be delivered through COVAX by the end of the year will not reach African countries. This is a huge blow to regional development and security.

"Good intentions and grand speeches don't save lives, actions do.

"While sharing vaccine is critical, the actual vaccine sharing

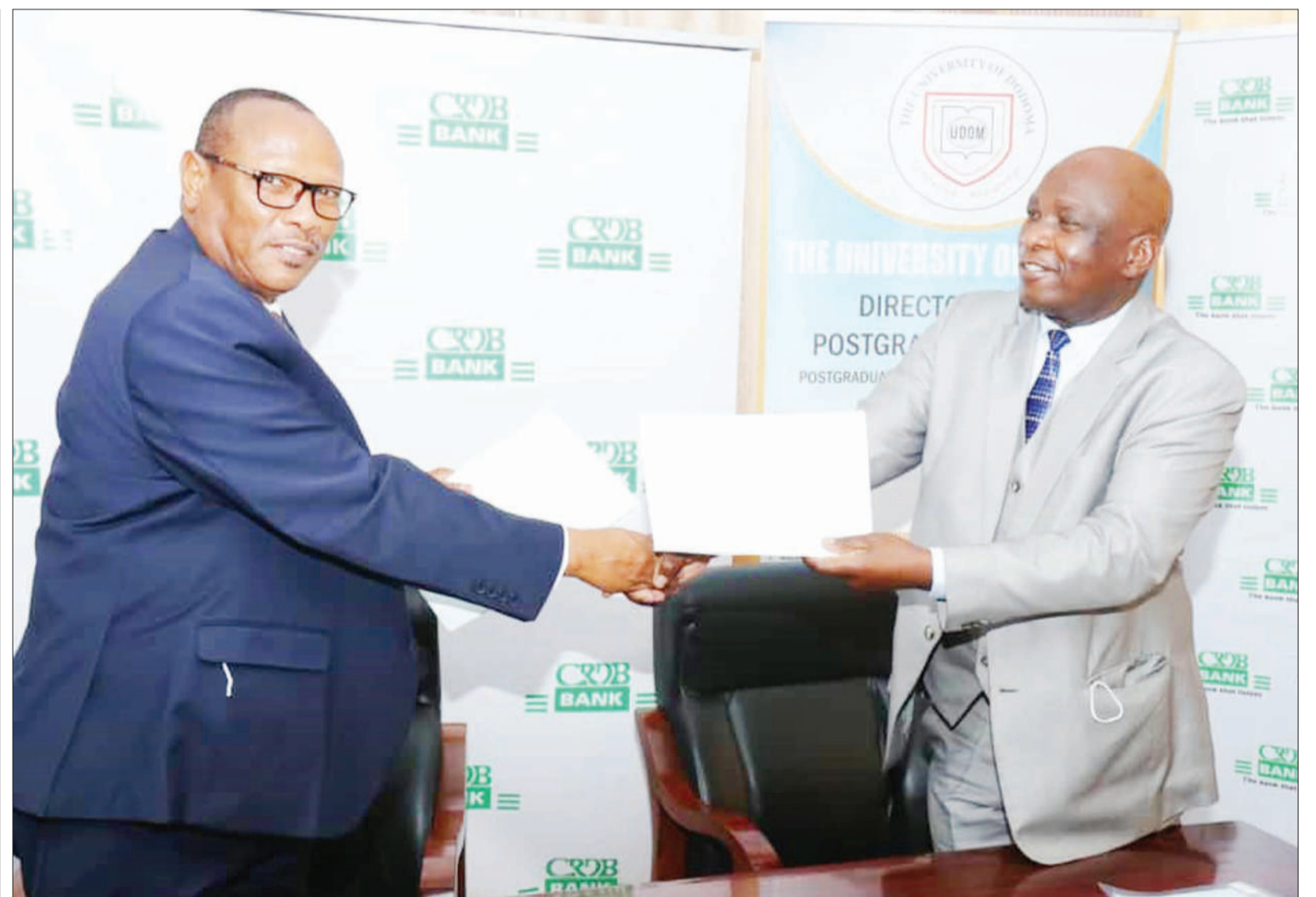
mechanism has showed its limitations. Out of 5.7 billion doses of coronavirus vaccines administered around the world so far, only 2 percent have been in Africa.

"It is time to rethink the options made available to middle- and low-income countries to more equitably access resources. Instead of providing a third dose of vaccine to fully vaccinated people, countries that have excess doses of vaccine should immediately ship them through COVAX. In the long-term, providing African countries with purchasing power so they can buy vaccine doses and increasing countries' manufacturing capacity across the continent so more doses can end up into people's arms should be seriously considered.

"Initiatives by the African Union / African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) and the A-CDC to pool countries' purchasing power and buy vaccine doses at cheaper prices have showed great success, but they must be scaled up and more countries should lend their support to these initiatives.

"Many countries have failed the test of global solidarity in the fight against COVID-19 and today African countries are left waiting for lifesaving vaccines while the virus continues to spread and mutate across the region."

**It is time to rethink the options made available to middle- and low-income countries to more equitably access resources**



University of Dodoma vice chancellor Prof Faustine Karrani Bee (L) and CRDB Bank Plc chief commercial officer Dr Joseph Witts pictured in Dodoma city yesterday exchanging copies of signed documents on an agreement under which the bank will install a 150m/- modern main gate at the university. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt handed fish farm plan for Lake Victoria

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the lake and the government was ready to welcome them.

"The government has in place friendly investment environment and just recently we have seen President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to advertise our country at the United Nations," he declared.

Tangreen is a blue economy firm engaged in fish farming, using navigational blocks. It expects to harvest 10,000 tonnes of fish each year, adding to the 22,000 tonnes of fish harvested from dams, which would bring Tangreen to produce nearly half of the country's fish

harvests through fish farming, he said.

The deputy minister asked Magu district commissioner Salim Mkali to make sure the investor is well protected and take steps on anyone who will be found to be hindering the firm's activities, underlining that there is still a shortfall in fish production. Current levels of fish harvests stand at 400,000 tonnes per year while actual demand is put at 700,000 tonnes, he affirmed.

For his part, Mwanza regional commissioner Robert Luhumbi

said the regional authorities are mobilizing to make the region a big fish farming centre.

The permanent secretary, Dr Rashid Tamatamah said the ministry along with various stakeholders was mobilizing for investment capital, where the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) was issuing loans to the fish farming sector.

"Therefore you can see our efforts have resulted in having big investors in the sector, including Tangreen," he said, underlining that the firm's investment was paying off. Three years ago it had 19 fish blocks but

now the number has risen to 473, with 77 per cent of its blocks sited in Lake Victoria.

Earlier, Tangreen veterinarian Dr Mugure Mariwanda set out the firm's operations, asserting that the firm intends to popularize fish farming technology, thus opening up opportunities for the youth.

"Despite these efforts, we face various challenges including the shortage of fish fingerlings, along with some fishermen invading the project zone to harvest fish and impairing company infrastructures," he added.

## Samia takes census, vaccine appeal to church anniversary

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preventive drug which I believe once completed and approved will help strengthen the immune systems of our people," the president remarked.

He assured the youth that the government will support their initiative by linking them with international institutions for further approval before being distributed to people as preventive medication.

Affirming that the government recognises the contribution of religious institutions in maintaining the country's peace and unity, she commended the Anglican Church for its contribution in fighting to end the slave trade, a global instrument for the denial of human dignity.

The Anglican Church has 40 health centres and 63 educational institutions, playing a big role in serving the public without discrimination, she stated, assuring the church that the government will continue providing needed support in facilitating smooth provision of the social services to the public.

This includes capacitating them with loans for students in religious-inclined universities, hiring more members of staff and providing resources for operational equipment, she elaborated, paying particular regards to efforts of the church to help strengthen safety in the country's border settlements with war-torn Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado.

She reiterated vows to elevate women socially, economically and politically as well as fight gender based violence, noting that the government is making these efforts not because she was female, but because women have the same rights as men. What separates them is their upbringing and beliefs, the president declared.

Tanzanian women make up slightly over 50 per cent of the population and if they are left behind no development will be properly achieved, she stated, objecting to attitudes of classifying women in lower levels of society. Elevating women was important and the Anglican Church can help with support for her efforts, she emphasised.

She expressed admiration for the work of the church in its spiritual and moral vocation, an aspect of religious leadership that in the large measure has contribute to the country's peace, solidarity and stability.

The government will continue working with the church in the provision of social services including issuing higher educational loans to students enrolled in church universities, she added.



**He assured the youth that the government will support their initiative by linking them with international institutions for further approval before being distributed to people as preventive medication**





Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja (L) pictured yesterday gifting Côte d'Ivoire Tourism minister Siandou Fofana a souvenir information kit shortly after the World Tourism Day ceremony held in Abidjan. Photo: Correspondent Happy Shayo

# TNBC urges diaspora to invest in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) has called on the diaspora to invest in Tanzania and persuade people of other nations to do the same.

Speaking in a special programme aired by the US-based Radio Kilimajaro, TNBC Executive Secretary, Dr Goodwill Wanga, told the Diaspora that Tanzania has a very friendly and pro-investment environment and that the climate for doing business has pragmatically changed.

"It is high time Tanzanians living outside the country realised this fact. Our Diaspora should be our ambassadors in popularising our business and investment attractions and persuade investors to invest in Tanzania so that the country can make big development and economic strides," he said.

Tanzania, he said, has investment and business opportunities in various sectors including tourism, physical infrastructure, agriculture, health centres, bus rapid transit infrastructure, business parks around airports. He called on the Diaspora to cooperate with the government and invest in areas of their choice to create jobs for Tanzania's youth and contribute to the growth of the national economy.

He explained that big strategic projects being built like the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) are meant to create conducive investment conditions for people interested in investing in tourism, hotels and other hospitality facilities.

The Chairman of the Tanzania Diaspora Hub (TDH), Mr Nassor Basalama, reported that members of the Hub are studying Tanzania's investment opportunities. He said the TDH has the responsibility of

making sure their members invest in Tanzania and contribute to national economic growth.

He thanked the government for effecting helpful and favourable investment reforms and pro-business changes. "We thank the government for making these reforms. They give us strength and vigour in persuading and encouraging our members and other people to invest in Tanzania," he said.

The Managing Director of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) said the TPSF is the link between members of the private sector and the government, explaining that the TPSF recognises the Diaspora as part of the private sector, adding that the foundation has already put in place a information system that enables the Diaspora to know investment opportunities in Tanzania and make informed decisions.

He called for cooperation between the TPSF and the Diaspora saying such cooperation will spur foreign invest flows into Tanzania for the good of the nation.

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

# Govt: There is need to address mercury crisis

An urgent call to action to free Tanzania from the impacts of mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining is very vital, the Office of the Vice President (Union Affairs and Environment) says rampart access to mercury has been an obstacle in controlling its use in the country.

The remarks were made here yesterday by the Director of Environment from the Office Dr Andrew Komba when closing a two-day seminar for journalists on the Minamata Treaty and the Task Plan aimed at reducing the use of mercury by gold miners.

He said the government has put in place laws and guidelines to control

the improper use of mercury, but due to its rampant access it has been hard to exercise control.

"Improper use of the chemical has adversely affected the health of humans and the environment, the effects that stays in them generation after generation," he said.

Komba said the government has been making great efforts to control its use including introducing an alternative technology in gold processing.

For his part, the Environment

Engineers from the VPO Office, Kamkuru Maganya, cited nine strategies for the reduction and abolish the use of mercury by gold miners.

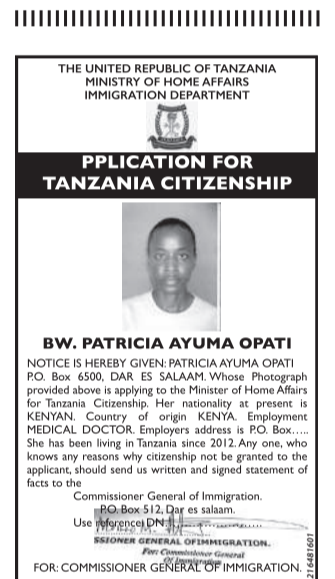
He said the strategies include the removal of improper methods such as heating up the gold and second processing of the mineral still with mercury using cyanide, which contribute to environmental degradation.

He mentioned another strategy is evaluating the actual situation

in the use of mercury by miners by establishing sectoral databases with reports of mercury that involve the health sector, the environment, minerals and employment.

"Another strategy is to formalise the small gold miners sector that will involve review of policies and laws governing the use of mercury," he added.

He further said they will introduce strict control of mercury trade by involving stakeholders.



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**Job Opportunity – HIV/TB Program Technical Lead**

<b>Location</b>	Dar es Salaam
<b>Application deadline</b>	October 6, 2021
<b>Start date</b>	November 15, 2021

**Background:**  
The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) is engaged in a five-year Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention- Tanzania (CDC-Tanzania) to provide strategic information, with a focus on improving data quality, and health information systems (HIS) technical assistance to the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) as well as the United States' President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and their implementing partners (IPs).

UCSF is recruiting an individual through our affiliated international NGO Global Programs to serve as an HIV/TB Program Technical Lead. This is a full-time 12-month position with the possibility of extension subject to continued funding. The position is expected to start on November 15, 2021 and will be based in Dar es Salaam.

**Main duties and responsibilities:**  
In collaboration with the HIS Director and the Analytics and Data Use Director, the HIV/TB Program Technical Lead will provide HIV and AIDS programmatic expertise to guide programmatically impactful data analyses, development of programmatically meaningful informatics products, indicator and dashboard development, SOP development, and visualizations, and to bring programmatic context to Global Programs' data quality work.

**Specific responsibilities include:**

- Guide the Global Programs Data Quality team to interpret data trends resulting from changes in programmatic guidance, programmatic successes, and programmatic challenges.
- Collaborate with Global Programs Informatics Analysts to translate programmatic needs into informatics products, such as improvements to health informatics applications and dashboard visualizations, and to integrate evidence-based programmatic strategies into robust data systems.
- Collaborate with Global Programs Informatics Analysts to assess stakeholder requests/needs and prioritize those with the most potential to improve HIV service delivery within the Tanzania context.
- Support development and roll-out of monitoring and evaluation related SOPs and training materials by providing a programmatic perspective.
- Support the analytics and data use team to ensure programmatically impactful data analyses that reflect programmatic priorities and will result in improved service delivery for PLHIV.
- Inform programmatic data dissemination and translation for program improvement.
- Proactively identify gaps and recommend solutions to align programmatic needs with data-related systems.

**Experience, skills, and minimum required qualifications:**

- Undergraduate degree in medicine, public health, epidemiology, or related field is required. MPH or Master's degree in a related field is strongly preferred.
- Minimum of five years of professional experience in HIV and AIDS related projects. Experience in HIV and AIDS projects in the PEPFAR setting strongly preferred.
- Demonstrable knowledge of routine HIV and AIDS health services at the facility level, including HIV care and treatment, testing, TB, PMTCT, and EID services.
- Robust understanding of evidence-based programming and how to inform data- related activities to improve service delivery.
- End-user experience with the CTC2, CTC2 Analytics, and other HIS applications required. Knowledge of routine PEPFAR and MOHCDGEC HIV and AIDS indicators preferred.
- Strong problem-solving, communication, and decision-making skills.
- Demonstrable experience working with a variety of organizations and stakeholders, including experience collaborating with implementing partners.
- Ability to work professionally and collaboratively in a multi-cultural, internationally based team setting.
- Fluency in oral and written English and Kiswahili are required.

**Other desired skills/qualities:**

- Ability to prioritize, work under deadlines, work with minimal supervision, and multi-task.
- Ability to summarize disparate information in a clear and concise manner.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Excellent computer skills, including word processing and powerpoint.
- Ability to travel in-country to support project activities (10% or less), pending the uplifting of COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

**To Apply:**  
All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed in the minimum requirements above with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.

All applications must include the following:

- A current CV with names and telephone numbers for at least 2 referees
- Copies of academic and professional certificates

Applications and supporting documents should be sent via e-mail to [info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org](mailto:info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org) and must be received by October 6, 2021.

**NOTE:** Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Beware of fraudsters!

Issued by:

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Fifty residents of Jangwani Ziwani village in Mto wa Mbu ward, Monduli District, affected by last season's floods pictured yesterday with Monduli town council Izack Copriano (in light blue shirt) shortly after receiving their title deeds for plots they have been allocated at Makyuni. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) will host to the 13th international scientific conference, which, among others, will discuss and look in depth wildlife research aimed at improving their biodiversity and the lives of the surrounding communities.

A statement issued yesterday by TAWIRI Director General, Dr Ernest Mjingo, said the meeting will be held in Arusha City from December 6 to 8 this year.

The meeting will bring together more than 300 participants from all over the world, including researchers, conservationists, policy and decision makers, the private sector, NGOs, development

## Tanzania to host world scientific meeting on wildlife conservation

institutions and other essential stakeholders.

"In understanding the world challenges facing sustainable conservation of the biodiversity and in support of the decade long UN efforts in sustainable development, TAWIRI has done various researches whose results are important and needed by various stakeholders on conservation in the sustainable development of the natural environment," he said.

Dr Mjingo said in the meeting, scientists will discuss various issues

on industrial development and conservation, policies on natural resources and good governance that crop up in conservation efforts and infrastructure development.

He said other issues to be discussed include the advance in technology, biodiversity conservation and wildlife habitats and the human-wildlife interaction, wildlife ecosystem and ecological interaction.

He said they will also discuss on the issue of wildlife populations as well as endangered species,

tourism and cultural areas, wildlife diseases, water resources and soil conservation.

For his part, TAWIRI Director of Research, Dr Julius Keyyu said the meeting has come at the right time, the period the Tanzania government is taking important steps in dealing with conservation challenges that reduces the sustainable development of the biodiversity.

He stressed that the issue also encompassed important knowledge needed to deal with conservation challenges.

## Research gurus agree, underscoring need for govt to make tourism subsector sustainable

By Correspondent James Kandoya

RESEARCHERS from in and outside the country have underscored the need for the government to come up with a robust strategy to stimulate the tourism sector which has been highly affected by COVID-19 pandemic.

Head of tourism and hospitality department at the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Dr Halima Kilungu made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a workshop brought together involving tourism stakeholders from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

She was presenting findings of the study entitled: "Post Covid-19 Recovery Framework for Tourism Sector in Tanzania" was conducted between July 2020 and mid this year.

Dr Kilungu said the study was conducted in collaboration between OUT and two researchers from Hull University, in the UK and researchers led by Principal Investigator for Tanzania Team, Deus Ngaruko.

Others were Dr Antonio Fierro and Dr Moses Onyoin from University of Hull, United Kingdom (UK) as well as Dr Mato Magobe and Dr Kilungu from OUT.

She said the tax relief and VAT rate reduction was very important if the country wants to stimulate the tourism sector.

The government must reduce landing fees, reduction of entry charges paid by the foreigner tourists at local destinations," she said. "During the pandemic, there was a revenue slump, erosion of trust with financial institutions and services disruptions. Therefore the only fastest way is for the government to reduce tax to cushion the effect caused by the pandemic,"

she recommended.

The don said the country and tourism sector must start rethinking market orientation and promotional strategy including diversification of service offerings and focus on non-traditional, domestic and regional markets.

She also recommended that business leaders along the value chain across the country should consider operating through collaborative business models.

OUT vice chancellor Prof Elifas Bisanda said the research on the post covid-19 recovery framework was conducted for the first time in the country adding that no one has come up with such recommendations.

"Our target as varsity is to come up with recommendations on how to revamp the sector. We can work together to mitigate the impact," he said.

In his opening remarks, the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Damas Ndumbaro hailed the researchers for the healthful document which will greatly help the ministry and government to plan better.

He said when the pandemic came into the country, the number of tourists dropped drastically from 1.5 million people to 0.6 million and the earnings dropped from US \$ 2.6 million to US \$ 0.75 million.

The minister said globally, over 100 million lost their jobs, 750.6 million said Tanzania among others was also highly affected by the pandemic.

"The government is ready to work with all tourism stakeholders to ensure the sector is vibrant and becomes productive hence contributing to the government revenue," he said.



Zanzibar Information Communication Technology Infrastructure Agency

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Zanzibar Information Communication Technology Infrastructure Agency (ZICTIA) would like to notify the public of the withdrawal of the Newspaper tender notice placed on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

The notice reflected **Supply of Fiber Equipment** tender no:

SMZ/P0116/G/NCB/2021-2022/22

and; **Supply of Wooden Poles and its tension hooks in a Framework Contract** tender no:

SMZ/P0116/G/NCB/2021-2022/25

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Tanzania Data Lab director Stephen Chacha (standing) addresses Tanga city councillors and land use stakeholders at a meeting held at the weekend. It was called to discuss ways to improve data students of Dar es Salaam's Ardhi have collected in Tanga Region for use in urban planning. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## EAC programme lakes back to school 2,500 children in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MEVT) has successfully brought back 2,500 children out of 35,732 children who drop out of school.

This has been possible through the project executed by Educate A Child (EAC)—a global programme of the Education Above All Foundation, aims to trigger significant breakthroughs and a material difference in the lives of children who have no access to primary education.

Most of these students are those who are the hardest-to-reach out-of-school children

realise the right to quality education.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, EAC project coordinator Mzee Shirazi said the children grew up in a precarious situation in the community and has successfully returned to school after a concerted effort by local government leaders and their parents.

He said that studies have shown that the majority of children who drop out of school are those who live in vulnerable situations whereby funds allocated to the project will cover them.

"We have managed to bring back 2,500 children to school in Unguja where more efforts are needed to ensure we support them

economically including providing them with school uniforms and notebooks," he said.

MEVT's planning, policy, and research director Khalid Masoud Waziri said that most children drop out of schools and get into fishing and other risky activities, noting that coastal areas are the highly affected areas with the challenge, whereby children get into fishing and sometimes escorts tourists.

"Our research has revealed that coastal areas including the northern region of Unguja and those that flourished in the development of the tourism industry have been badly affected where many children have fled the school and roamed the streets," he said.





A message from Dr. Donald Wright, U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania  
In honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peace Corps Tanzania program



Dr. Donald Wright  
US Ambassador to Tanzania

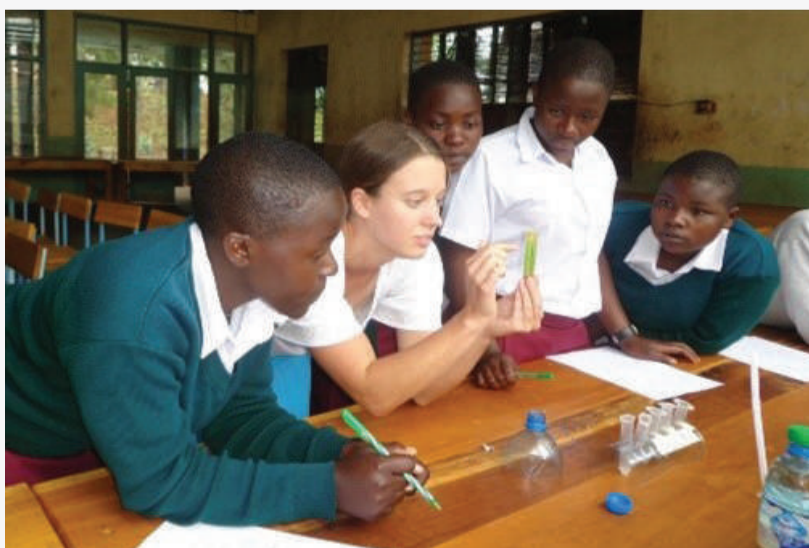
This year is special in the history of the friendship between the United States and Tanzania. We are celebrating three anniversaries that have had a profound impact on both of our nations. The first is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tanzania's independence. The second is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of U.S.-Tanzania bilateral relations. The third is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the Peace Corps program in Tanzania.

U.S. President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps in 1961, challenging young Americans to serve humanity by working for peace and development in countries around the world. Because of the close friendship between Kennedy and Tanzania's founding father Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Tanzania was selected as one of the first countries in the world to receive Peace Corps Volunteers. On September 29, 1961, the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers landed in Arusha, Tanzania.



Since 1961, approximately 3,200 Peace Corps Volunteers have worked alongside Tanzanians in 22 regions of the country to develop community-led solutions to address challenges in education, health, and agriculture. For example, in 2019, before the repatriation of Peace Corps Volunteers due to COVID-19, 107 Volunteers worked as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) teachers reaching 13,000 students. Sixty Volunteers worked to support agriculture extension and another 60 worked in community health. As a result, Peace Corps Volunteers reached over 6,000 individuals with Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training; 2,000 individuals received maternal and child health education; 2,000 received HIV prevention education; and over 3,000 individuals received malaria messaging. PCVs also worked with more than 1,000 farmers and assisted 300 communities with animal husbandry.

Peace Corps has had a positive impact on generations of Tanzanians and Americans. Many prominent Tanzanians speak fondly of their interactions with Peace Corps Volunteers. Foreign Minister Liberata Mulamula often recounts how she was encouraged at an early age by a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher at her school. In addition, Professor Palamagamba Kabudi, Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, and Professor Sospeter Muhongo, former Minister of Energy of Minerals, also had positive experiences with Peace Corps Volunteers. At the same time, the American Peace Corps Volunteers have equally benefited from the experience. Ambassador Johnny Carson was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Tanzania from 1965-1968. He went on to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Uganda and was the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa.



Of course, some Peace Corps Volunteers fall in love with Tanzania and remain life-long residents and entrepreneurs. Peace Corps has been instrumental in strengthening the bond between the citizens of both of our nations.

In the United States, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers talk of Tanzania's rich culture, history, and beauty with Americans. Similarly, many Tanzanians have gained a better understanding of the United States because they welcomed Peace Corps Volunteers into their homes; shared meals together, exchanged stories, and embraced friendships.

No Peace Corps Volunteer works alone, however, and without the support of host families, villages, counterparts, co-workers, and the talented Peace Corps staff, they could not have thrived and contributed to their communities. That is why I want to take this occasion to express my deepest thanks to all those who have supported the program throughout the years. I especially offer thanks to the Government of Tanzania for its unwavering support and partnership with the Peace Corps.

As we look ahead to what the future holds for the Peace Corps Program in Tanzania, I feel great optimism. We plan to have Peace Corps Volunteers return as soon as possible to continue their great work. The Peace Corps hopes Tanzania will continue to welcome the Volunteers into their communities.

This 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our trailblazing relationship serves as an important milestone in the cooperation between the governments and peoples of the United States and Tanzania. We hope you will join us in celebrating Peace Corps Tanzania's 60 anniversary. Pamoja!





## SMEs in Kigoma Region getting sensitised on free certification procedures and business registration

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

Entrepreneurs from various regions who are taking part in an ongoing national exhibition in Kigoma region have received awareness education on procedures to certify their goods under the free certification programme, registration of business premises and cosmetics.

They got the opportunity from officials of Tanzania Bureau of Standards during the national SIDO exhibition opened last week by Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, which is held at Kasulu district in Kigoma region.

TBS officials also provided services in the business clinic booth under Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), which aimed to serve the entrepreneurs more quickly without wasting time.

Speaking during exhibition, the Acting Head of TBS Western Zone, Rodney Alananga, counseled entrepreneurs to adhere to the production procedures and safety protection in order to avoid losing markets or found with substandard products.

He urged entrepreneurs to contact with standards watchdog offices every time in case they need professional assistance.

The TBS Head of Public Relations and Marketing, Gladness Kaseka, said the organisation provides education and various training through dialogue, seminars, campaigns, exhibitions, radio, televisions and social media.

"This is the beginning, the organization would make sure that the standards education reaches every stakeholders at the ground level," she said.

Apart from Kasulu, similar campaigns have been conducted at Kakonko, Kibondo districts in Kigoma region and over 70 districts

in Tanzania where public education and trainings were delivered, she said.

According to her, education and training to the public are offered free of charge through TBS financing, and the plan is to reach the whole country.

For her part the TBS Marketing Officer, Deborah Haule, insisted entrepreneurs whose products did not get quality mark, to apply for the free opportunity through Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), in order to be recognized as SMEs since most of their products fall under compulsory standards, hence are needed to adhere to the standard act.

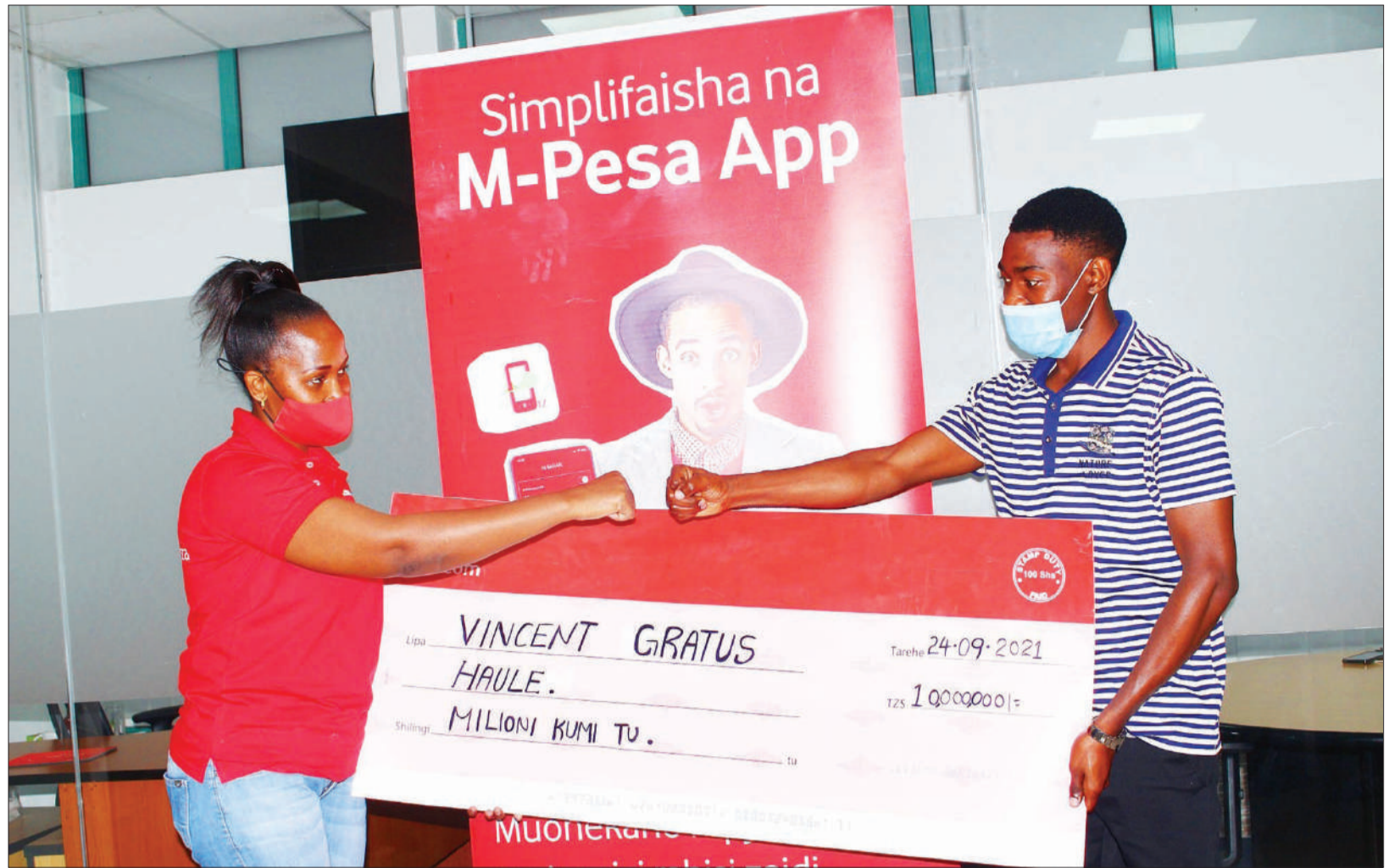
A citizen identified as Abdallah Shaban, applauded efforts done by TBS to ensure that different stakeholders become aware with standard issues so that they can access local and foreign markets.

However, he asked TBS officials to ensure that market surveillance particularly in rural areas is done so as to protect consumers from substandard goods or those expired or not needed in markets.

For their part entrepreneurs requested the government to make easy the availability of packaging materials which have been a long time challenge.

More than 700 SMEs have attended in this year's exhibition where they got an opportunity to display their products namely maize flour, water, juice, groundnuts, cosmetics, cooking oil, soap, cashew nut, wines, rice, furniture and different machines.

*"This is the beginning, the organization would make sure that the standards education reaches every stakeholders at the ground level"*



Vodacom Tanzania's Lake Victoria Zone retail lead Maryglory Mtika (L) pictured in Mwanza city yesterday presents a dummy cheque for 10m/- to Mwanza resident Vincent Haule, winner of the firm's 'Tusua Mapene' promotion for last month. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has expressed appreciation to stakeholder who supports people with disabilities, saying they complement efforts to ensure all Tanzanians get equal treatment.

Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office- responsible for people living with disabilities, Umyy Nderiananga made the remarks here yesterday, adding that some people with disabilities have complicated needs that the government alone cannot provide.

She said that the last population and household census showed that there are about 55.9 million people, 2.5 million being people with disabilities, most of whom face a lot of challenges in education and employment.

Umyy made the statement here

## Govt extends appreciation to stakeholders supporting PwD

yesterday while receiving wheel chairs for the disabled and walking stick for people with disabilities from ASA Microfinance Tanzania Limited.

ASA Tanzania a subsidiary of ASA International, handed over 55 wheelchairs and some 50 walking stick worth 13.9 m/-, being part of the corporate social responsibility contributions to the government.

The deputy minister appealed to other stakeholders to emulate ASA and help support the less fortunate members of the society, most of who are in dire need of help.

She added that the government's dedication to improving lives of

people with disabilities is evident in the provision of fee free education as well as financial assistance through revenues accrued at district councils.

"The government acknowledges efforts of various stakeholders working tirelessly to help people with disabilities," she said, adding that the government has in place process to support the disabled.

According to the deputy minister, the government's disbursement of ten percent of own revenue collections whereby people with disabilities get two percent in loan is one area of support.

Through the system people with

disabilities in the country have received 19bn/-. She said in the past, the loan was disbursed to groups of at least two people but now it is given to individuals.

Speaking before handing over the equipment, ASA Tanzania Microfinance Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director, Muhammad Newaj the organization is committed to supporting the needy and that is why it is providing financial loans to women. He said they provide microfinance loans for business purpose to low-income entrepreneurs with the objective to improve financial inclusion and realize socioeconomic progress.



Theresia Mpemba (R), a Standard Seven student at Dar es Salaam's Bethel Mission Primary School, presents a copy of the students' speech to International Mission Union chairman Rev Hildon Mbogela, who was chief guest at graduation ceremony held at the weekend. Looking on is deputy head teacher Charles Mangwe. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Go for Covid-19 vaccination, expectant, lactating mothers told

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

IRINGA Municipal Council medical officer Dr Jesca Lebba has called on expectant and lactating mothers to take the Covid-19 vaccine so as to strengthen their immune systems.

Dr Lebba made the call over the weekend here while mobilizing people in the municipality to vaccinate, saying that vaccination offers strong immunity which protects against the severe and deadly Covid-19.

"As you are aware, when a mother is pregnant or breastfeeding, the immune system has a tendency to decline due to increased body needs, so I urge all mothers to come forward for vaccination because this vaccine is safe and has

no side effects," she said. She also emphasized the need for people to undergo regular medical checkups particularly on non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, and high blood pressure to know their health and make significant decisions.

The physician said they are all at risk of being more affected when they develop Covid-19, so the issue of vaccination is very important, for them in parallel with taking all other precautions including regular hand washing, social distancing and wearing masks.

Dr Lebba said that her municipality is committed to implementing the plan by reaching out groups of people everywhere and already service providers are in various streets providing education and vaccinating citizens.

Iringa Regional Medical Officer (RMO), Dr Mohamed Mang'una said that Iringa has a small number of people who have been vaccinated adding the region is making sure the Covid-19 vaccine uptake is increased.

He said that 25 percent of people in Iringa have so far taken Covid-19 shots but the implementation of the plan accelerated plan for Covid-19 vaccination between the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and other stakeholders, will be able to increase the uptake of vaccine in the region.

Dr Mang'una clarified that the aim of implementing the health sector accelerated plan for Covid-19 is to

increase the uptake of pandemic vaccines. He described the challenge contributing towards the decline in uptake due to people in the Iringa Region lacking the right of information for immunization as many people do not get enough education on the importance of immunization.

In this area, we still need more public awareness programmes to change the negative attitudes which some people have towards vaccines, we appreciate the media has been doing a lot to educate the public," he asserted.

Dr Mang'una stressed that the general public should ignore listening to misleading information from people about the Covid-19 vaccines because they are all meant to disrupt them.

## NGO in initiative to ensure food security, poverty reduction in Kilimanjaro Region

By Correspondent James Lanka, Siha

MOSHI-based non-governmental organization-Kilimanjaro Women against HIV/Aids (Kikwakuki) has introduced a special project meant to assure food security and poverty alleviation in the region.

This has been possible through Rural Initiative for Participatory Agricultural Transformation project (RIPAT).

The NGO also launched special agricultural exhibitions at Fuka area, in Siha district, Kilimanjaro Region, a move that aims at improving food security and poverty eradication through organic farming among peasants in the region.

Speaking over the weekend in Siha District with the group members during the introduction of the project, Kiwakuki Programme Coordinator, Eglu Matechi said that apart from alleviating hunger and poverty for the residents of the district, the project also aims at producing nutritious crops which are also highly needed by the people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAS) in that district.

She added that, the project is not only helping the communities to get rid of the poverty line but it also enables Siha district residents to use the same method and approach to employ themselves.

"RIPAT-KIWAKUKI project which means Rural Initiative for Participatory Agricultural Transformation is instrumental in bringing a variety of technologies to rural farmers and thus enabling them to produce value-added harvests and generate income," Matechi explained in her speech.

The project coordinator also called on farmers to be an inspiration for others who are not in the project so that they can use the technique to increase productivity which is in alignment with the government's plan to reach the

middle class economy by 2025 through industrialization which also relies on agricultural raw materials.

She emphasized that the industry revolution in Tanzania depends on farmers to produce high quality crops.

Matechi also urged them to follow good agricultural practices and production methods to add value to their products which will help them earn high income in the market.

Some of the beneficiaries of the previous KIWAKUKI-RIPAT project from Kirua and Ivaeny wards in Siha district, as well as Old Moshi, in Moshi rural district and Mamsara in Rombo district, recounted how challenging the early days of the project were when many people around them laughed, especially when they saw them digging holes for planting banana plants that were produced using bottles, comparing them as the flowers but now they see how quickly those banana plants have grown and produced the best bananas they have ever seen.

"Today, all stakeholders are witnessing the tremendous successes experienced by farmers. There are many things that we had learned from the farmers showing that they have really understood and not just memorized the things this project had taught them and we believe that they will continue to benefit from the RIPAT-KIWAKUKI project through applying the knowledge in their farming operations even when the project will come to an end," said Victor Swai, a beneficiary farmer of KIWAKUKI-RIPAT project from Siha district. Rural Initiative for Participatory Agricultural Transformation is a programme that has goals and objectives of reducing poverty, hunger and under nutrition among smallholder farmers by improving agriculture and animal husbandry through the application of the principle of help to self-help.





Isaac Nchunda, Airtel Tanzania's mobile money director, speaks at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of an overdraft service called 'Kamilisha', a partnership between Airtel Money and I&M Bank meant to enable customers to make transactions even if short of funds in their Airtel Money wallets. He is with Dr Bernard Kibesse (C), Bank of Tanzania's deputy governor (Financial Stability and Deepening) and I&M Bank CEO Baseer Mohammed. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

## Ludewa villagers plead for govt's help in accessing mining licences

SMALL gold miners at Ibumbi Ward in Ludewa District, Njombe Region have appealed for the government help to provide the youth with mining licences to own gold mining blocks as a way to solve the existing conflict with one of licence holders in the area.

Kelvin Mbombo and Jeremia Haule, among the small miners told Ludewa Member of Parliament, Joseph Kamonga that they reached the step of asking for help from the government because they are often threatened by other miners.

"Sometimes they follow us with machetes, there are more than

seven mines and all are owned by one man," said Mbombo.

They also asked the government to establish a minerals market at Ludewa to relieve them from travelling great distances to access the market at Njombe.

For his part the miner who was the subject of complaints from other miners, Filibeth Kosimasi Kayombo said: "I received a mining licence last year but I fell ill soon after, and when others were mining, a lot of gold was being smuggled out of the

area by the same people who are now complaining, and that is why I stopped mining to see how things will go.

MP Kamonga called on the small miners to form groups so as to be provided with licences and asked the village mining officer to assist them in getting licences.

"In many cases those who discover the existence of minerals are the small miners but some are not well conversant in procuring mining licences," he added.

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole,

Tanga

## Tanga set to become smart city thanks to new initiative

THE Livinglab Initiative project which collects geospatial data from Tanga Region is expected to uplift the region globally making it smart in terms of environmental cleanliness and economic opportunities.

Implemented collaboratively by Tanga City Council, Ardhi University (ARU) and Tanzania Data Lab under the sponsorship of Foundation Botnar of Switzerland, the three-year project seeks to transform cities through data use and frontier technologies.

This was revealed by the director of Tanzania Data Lab, Stephen Chacha when speaking during the meeting with Tanga councillors and other stakeholders to improve the data that was collected in nine wards of Tanga Region.

The nine wards have already received digital maps which indicate different information (GIS) from their wards which will help to improve waste management collection and detection of unsafe areas. Chacha said the maps which were prepared by ARU students also indicate the information of important areas, streets, buildings and systems which will be used for the development plan of the Tanga city.

He mentioned the wards which benefited from the project as Chumbageni, Central, Ngamiani Kaskazini, Ngamiani Kusini, Ngamiani Kati, Majengo, Usagara, Duga, and Nguvumali.

Chacha said the Livinglab Initiative intends to facilitate the use of data in the decision-making and development plans of the city.

Chacha said apart from uplifting the Tanga City, the project will also expose different economic opportunities for youth in the region who have been involved in every stage of the implementation of the project.

He said the data for the project was collected by the Ardhi University students and some youth from Tanga Region adding that they have done a tremendous job because the data will be helpful for the development of the region.

"Now you can use your mobile phone to search for different information about the Tanga Region, the project has identified streets and other important areas of the region and it becomes easy for many businesses to take place online," he said.

Deputy Mayor of Tanga city, Joseph Colyvas said the project has come at a very convenient time and has helped the information of the Tanga City to be available all over the world through mobile phones.

He said the project has unveiled different important issues including open spaces in the region, unsafe areas, and waste collection points adding that to a great extent it will help to solve land problems.

"Foundation Botnar who is our sponsor has told us here that there are 7bn/- that are expected for the development of Tanga Region, this is good news, I urge government officials and other stakeholders to collaborate fully with this sponsor because we can now see the bright future of our city," he said.

Happy William, a student from Ardhi University said apart from the knowledge she has gained from the project, has also got experience of using information technology to solve different problems in the society.

Rasi Mbwana also from ARU said the project has opened his eyes to different opportunities that are available in Tanga Region.



Lusajo Mwakabuku, a communication officer with the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development ministry, is vaccinated against Covid-19 at the ministry's premises in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

# Bring your children to tourism sites, tour operator tells parents

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

PARENTS have been urged to imbibe a culture of bringing children to tourist sites as part of complementing the government's efforts to boost domestic tourism.

Kirovera Tours' founder and chief executive officer, Mary Kalikawe made the call over the weekend when commenting on the World Tourism Day, themed: "Tourism for integrated development."

World Tourist Day is celebrated annually on September 27, for the purpose of raising awareness on the importance of tourism in affecting social, cultural, political, and economic values.

Mary said that it's high time for parents and guardians to accompany

their children when visiting tourist sites so as to offer them knowledge and experience of the country's heritage.

According to her, bringing children to the tourist attractions will make them understand the country's richness in natural resources and it makes them be good future tourists, which in turn will develop domestic tourism.

Kirovera Tours owns Bukoba museum, where children are given opportunities to visit and learn various things focused on culture, conservation, and protection of the planet.

They also swim, eat and drink. They are fond of playing with baby swings, flying kites, and building houses using offshore sands at Maruku Paradise Beach.

The elder children engage in

hills climbing for the purpose of learning history, geography, and as an adventure.

Kagera region has been endowed with tourism attractions, among them are Burigi Chato and Ibanda, Kyerwa and Rumanyika National parks

According to Mary Kalikawe, for the past three years, there has been an increase in tourism from 1200 to 1900 tourists per year, though the trend has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Other attractions are Rusumo, Bugonzi, and Kyamunene waterfalls, Bwanjai caves paintings, Kamachumu plateau, and Kabuhara beach.

Others are Kagera war heroes monuments, Chief's houses, Germany tunnels of world war in Kanyigo, and Mutagata hot springs.

## ASPIRES Tanzania

Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reforms Strengthening  
USAID SERA BORA PROJECT

Financial & Administrative Officer, ASPIRES Tanzania, Dodoma

### Background:

SERA BORA, meaning Better Policies in Swahili is a 5-year (Jan 1, 2020, to Dec 31, 2024) USAID-Tanzania funded project awarded to Michigan State University (MSU) and implemented under the auspices of the Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reform Strengthening (ASPIRES) NGO in Tanzania. The goal of the project is to accelerate adoption of effective policies and programs that would promote broad-based economic growth, improve food security and nutrition, and contribute to poverty reduction.

Position Title : Financial & Administrative Officer, ASPIRES Tanzania  
Location : Dodoma, Tanzania

### Position Summary

ASPIRES seeks a qualified candidate to serve as Financial and Administrative Officer at the Dodoma sub office. The Financial and Administrative Officer will provide overall financial management and administrative support to ASPIRES Dodoma sub office and collaborate with ASPIRES management in implementing SERA BORA operations. The Financial and Administrative Officer will be responsible for managing ASPIRES program funds in accordance with MSU and USAID funding agency requirements. This role reports to the SERA BORA's Policy Advisor and Chief of Party (CoP). This position will be based in Dodoma, with occasional travel regionally as will be required.

### Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Provide in-country financial leadership of ASPIRES.
- Monitor budgets and expenditures for ASPIRES staff and country partners.
- Ensure that adequate financial controls are in place to maintain proper accountability of expenditures.
- Ensure that statutory financial procedures and timelines for compliance are adhered.
- Ensure that financial transactions are properly authorized, recorded, have adequate supporting documentation, are maintained, and can be easily extracted for the purpose of preparing financial statements and audits.
- Ensure that all procurement processes and expenditures of the project are in accordance with MSU and USAID project guidelines.
- Prepare and submit timely and reliable financial documents and financial reports using the dedicated online project management system.
- Arrange for travel, hotel reservations and logistical support for project staff.
- Manage administrative operations of the Dodoma Sub office provide logistical support for organization of meetings, events, conferences, visits, etc.
- Prepare routine correspondence, memoranda, and reports.
- Coordinate and participate in phone meetings, periodically during early morning or evening hours to accommodate schedules of the global management team.
- Collaborate with Dar es Salam Fiscal and Administrative Officer in all fiscal and administrative work while executing best practices related to the position.
- Perform any other administrative/financial assignments as requested by the Chief of Party.

### Education and Experience

- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business or equivalent is required.
- At least 3 years of relevant work experience in finance and administrative functions.
- Experience working with USAID and other donor funded projects.
- Excellent analytical skills and demonstrated experience in preparation of financial reports and working with budgets.
- Effective verbal and written communications skills. Must be fluent in English.
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate and work effectively with cross-cultural teams.
- Strong results orientation.
- Demonstrated ability to balance multiple projects with a high level of accuracy and the ability to prioritize tasks and work independently.
- Excellent working knowledge of word processing, database, and spreadsheet software.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Qualified candidates must submit an application letter, two-page CV, one page statement of purpose and 2 academic references online at **ASPIRES Tanzania [aspirestanzania@yahoo.com](mailto:aspirestanzania@yahoo.com)**

The deadline for application is by the end of business, **Wednesday, October 8, 2021.**

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.



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## Right to know is basic to free society, but without free economy it will fail

**M**EDIA stakeholders have early this week been marking the International Day for Universal Access to Information, which is abbreviated in the slogan 'the right to know,' and to which is attached an aphorism made popular by the Biden campaign in the United States presidential election last year, of 'building back better' with access to information. Logically one can't make that formulation in a reasonable or practical sense unless such a person - or country - is already 'building,' and here it means freedom. Were this element recognised, it would halve the years to count before Africa has a free media, without disruptions.

The right to information or simply the right to know has permanently been at odds with two astute instruments of non-free societies, namely sovereignty where abuse of human rights is an internal matter of nobody else's concern, and then official secrets. In the latter context anything that is sensitive to a layer of bureaucracy has to be permitted, to which is tied the rule of silence with regard to looting in development projects in particular. Only the president or the prime minister can make an accusation; others are careful not to step on anyone's toes, since 'those who live in glass houses should not throw stones,' as they say.

Without having to belabour the point too intensely, the right to information works best when it is part of a competitive environment, thus revelations in the media about whatever it is, and indeed even when it may contain factual errors or approximations, don't led to drawn out swords. Where the right of information is detested media houses meet the police, and if they don't come, hooligans could throw

acid and expect that the police won't do anything. It happened in the past and no one can swear it can't happen now, or later.

The key sources of intolerance to media freedom are stretched out in at least two areas, first those at the top of government who don't want their plans or techniques of governing to be stretched out for the public to discuss them. Second, there are those who conduct murky business using public resources or accuse supervising authorities of interference because they don't want their actions held accountable, unless it is the president or the prime minister who speaks out. And when the public doesn't know, is it not safer or more practicable for the highest levels of power to ensure that peace - and impunity - reign?

What kills media freedom isn't a person (the ruler) or a group of them (police, ruling parties) but consensus among relatively well meaning people holding public office. And strangely, the things they do pushing them to restrict media freedom is what opponents would do: graft. They hanker after it secretly.

That is why Africa is replete with rebellions in the bush and beehives of political activity in urban areas and academic institutions, constant tussles at lower levels but there is scarcely a movement in place for reforms. People swallow reforms if the president opts do so but all they want is behaviour change, to act democratically, whereas sociology has it since the 1850s that economic ties determine all other interests. Only when a country has a free economy where everybody competes with everybody else can democracy work as state primacy in economy, open favoritism tied to patriarchal ruling parties only stifle democracy.

## Govt must evaluate reform options on district councils

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has expressed guarded reservations about the manner in which district conduct their work, especially in relation to obtaining value for money in implementing development projects. She gave the keynote speech at the opening of an election conference for the Association of Local Government Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) urging its members to ensure they fully supervise allocations of funds in districts, both for development projects and for special groups like women and the disabled. They may have expected her remarks but perhaps crossing their trained habits.

The area of her most pointed remarks, the obvious and often flagrant misuse of funds for development projects, is not one for issuing reminders of that sort and expecting that everything shall work out fine. This is an area where problems have prevailed since independence, taking different facets with each phase of government, for instance during the first phase party supremacy and its control of decentralised structures of government meant that nothing would be said publicly of such misuse, but it was also somewhat controlled. During the second phase, the ruling party forged new alliances with authorities at the district level chosen by the World Bank to spearhead projects: they eat and they also gather the votes.

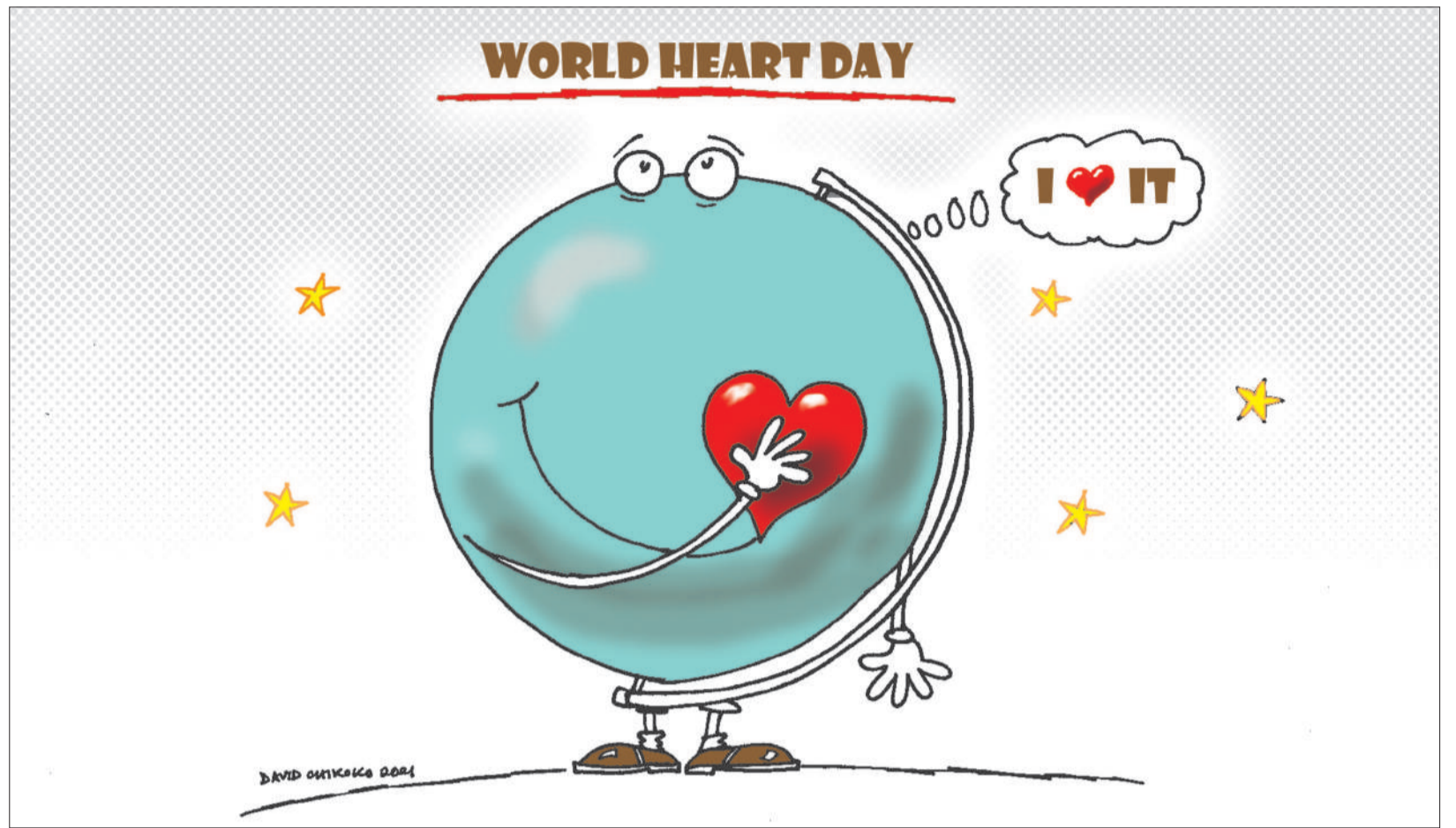
The third and fourth phases had a penchant for trusting professionals in parastatals and regional or district administration that they should not be interfered with, but then professionals work with interest groups in the councils, etc. The result was inflated estimates of costs where the district executive director is blamed by auditors from outside,

but no one sees any problem locally, but the services are wanting - often the water doesn't flow, power connection has no transformers, etc. This was visibly addressed during the fifth phase government; the president's intervention in the mineral sands export saga chastised professionals.

At present there is a mixture of two regimes, where bureaucrats are keenly aware of the standards set by the fifth phase, but are also aware that President Samia doesn't wish to exercise the kind of populist rule characterising the governance style of her predecessor. That means she has to rely on professionals like she was vehemently urging them to act professionally but they are 'studying' her as she said; if they know she won't wield the whip, they go back to bad ways. There is virtually no option in that regard, a middle road of letting professionals do their work, limit intervention or hide the whip and they act professionally!

As a matter of fact the president has herself given the solution to that situation but she will have lots of problems translating that into policy, as at most it can be done by a series of piecemeal orders until the whole list of reforms is concluded. Asking for a mandate for reform would open a can of worms, with various interest groups appealing to sentiments of all sorts that have in the part been the focus of our affinities and how we drove the economy to the ground, people walking in rags in the early 1980s. The president has declared that she wants an economy based on individuals; if that is implemented it will be easy for district councils to supervise value for money; if they do it themselves, little will be done there. When the economy is opened up and councils deal with traders, accountability will be heightened fast.

## WORLD HEART DAY



# Challenging Covid-19 protocols air travellers must know about

By Hakeem Jamii

**I**AM compelled to relay my recent travel experience for other intending travellers to learn from and be guided against, so that they do not get stranded, especially those transiting through another country to their final destinations. This is not the best of times to embark on an international trip, except it is highly necessary. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed so many travel protocols, such that many international travellers, especially those transiting, have been stranded because they were not fully aware of the rules or they just took things for granted.

While it is good to impose stringent conditions to stop the spread of the coronavirus from one country to another, the various governments and all concerned with imposing and implementing the COVID-19 protocols, especially the accredited laboratories, should be effective in rendering services to travellers. There are some documents or certificates which are issued after COVID-19 tests by an intending traveller, without which he or she cannot travel.

I travelled to the U.K. on August 30, transiting through Schiphol airport, Amsterdam to Heathrow, London. I had the option of traveling directly to the UK but I choose to be adventurous by stopping over at Amsterdam on my departure to London and passing through Paris on my return trip to Lagos. I had never been to the two countries before, and even though I was to only pass through their airports in transit, I craved for the experience and I enjoyed it, especially when the transit time was not that long. My adventure nearly put me in trouble because of COVID-19 protocols, especially the test results which are time bound.

What every intending traveller out of Nigeria and to Nigeria should know is that there are a series of COVID-19 tests to be conducted both before they leave and their return to Nigeria. There is one test to be done 72 or 48 hours to the departure, depending on the country being visited and the rules change from time to time, as such travellers are advised to be up to date on the rules.

In the case of the U.K., I must conduct a COVID-19 test with a negative result not more than 72 hours before my departure. I am

also required to pay for a test online in the U.K. before my departure and evidence of this must be presented at the airport before I will be allowed to board. For passengers transiting through another country, they should be mindful of the timing of their tests so that it doesn't lapse before arriving their final destinations while transiting.

I did all the tests required before my trip and I had no problem boarding at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos. The laboratory where I did my test (Sahel Laboratories) was one of the accredited ones and it was very effective and professional, and the result was released in a timely fashion. I was also required to pay for two tests on my arrival at the U.K. (day two and day eight). There is the option of a day five test (to release) which attracted an extra fee but I preferred to take the day two and eight tests and isolate for 10 days. It should be noted that Nigeria's COVID-19 vaccine is not recognised in the U.K., even if you have been vaccinated twice. My green card showing that I have been vaccinated twice was never requested at any of the airports that I travelled through.

I arrived the U.K. on August Tuesday 31 and isolated for 10 days. The test kits I paid for in Nigeria arrived at the address I gave online on Wednesday, September 1, on the second day of my arrival. I did the swab myself and sent it back to them as instructed. I was expecting the result within 24 hours but I was wrong, as it did not arrive until day eight, when I did the second test. The result of the second test arrived on Sunday September 12, when I was already back in Nigeria!

The result was out by 3.29 p.m. on Saturday. It was negative, meaning I was fit-to-fly. As I was about heaving a sigh of relief, another problem started. I needed to upload the certificate of the test, as required by the Nigerian online form. I started filling the form and it was smooth up to the point where I was required to upload the certificate. The column kept rejecting the upload and we were on this for more than six hours.

The day two and eight tests are to ascertain my status while I was in isolation for 10 days and the result was expected to be released within 24 hours, but the result of Day two test came on day eight, while that of day 8 came when I was already in Nigeria on September 12, as mentioned, which already defeated

its purpose. If I had tested positive, I must continue to isolate but if negative, I was free to go out after day 10. The U.K. health officials came to look for me five days into my isolation to know if was observing the isolation and they met me at home. They asked how I was feeling and I told them I was okay. I complained that I had not received my day two COVID-19 result and the officer told me I should keep expecting it. He checked my passport and left. Violators of the isolation rule are to be fined £10,000.

I was booked to travel to Lagos via Air France and transit through Charles De Gaulle Airport. To travel to Nigeria from the U.K., I was required to do another test called fit-to-fly back to Nigeria. Nigeria's requirement is that the test must be carried out 72 hours to departure, while the European rule is 48 hours to departure, if a passenger is either transiting or landing in any European country.

The result of this last test must be out at least 48 hours to departure to my final destination from my last transit airport, which is France. It is this result which must be negative that I will need to fill the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) form online, without which no airline will allow me to board! Due to the experience I had with the 10-10 laboratory that did my day two and eight tests, I decided not to patronise them for my fit-to-fly test.

I reviewed the situation with my host in the U.K., whose friend recently travelled to Nigeria. His friend recommended a laboratory called Dante for the test, whose result was to be out 48 hours to my departure. I paid £48 online on Wednesday, September 6. The kit was sent to me on Thursday, September 7 and I did the swab and sent it back the same day, as instructed. I calculated that the swab would be received the following day, Friday, and expected the results to be ready on Saturday, as my return flight was at 9 a.m., from London to Paris, while my final flight to Lagos from Paris was 3.30 p.m., which I had explained to them via email. This means the fit-to-fly result must be out by 2 p.m. on Saturday to be on the safer side, because by the time I arrive in France, the 48 hours should not have expired! Otherwise, I would not be allowed to board! I later met some passengers in Paris who were stranded because their fit-to-fly tests had expired by the time

they got to Paris and they were not allowed to board until they repeated the test with €200 and paid another €300 fine for a rescheduled flight the following day. Some slept at the airport! My test result from Dante Labs did not come until I had boarded in Paris around 3.09 p.m. on September 12! I would have missed my flight if I didn't have a plan B.

The COVID-19 test result was out by 3.29 p.m. on Saturday. It was negative, meaning I was fit-to-fly. As I was about heaving a sigh of relief, another problem started. I needed to upload the certificate of the test, as required by the Nigerian online form. I started filling the form and it was smooth up to the point where I was required to upload the certificate. The column kept rejecting the upload and we were on this for more than six hours. We kept calling people for help but there was no solution. One of those we called informed us that someone had also called to complain about the same problem. I then contacted my travel agent, who said I should by-pass the column and go ahead to the column where I would pay. I tried that and paid (N39,500) with my Nigerian bank card. The money was deducted but no message came from NCDC that I have paid, and without a certificate showing PAID, I would not be allowed to board!

I got to Paris around 11.25 a.m. and as we started boarding around 3 p.m., my phone glitched and suddenly went blank! I almost fainted! It came on about two minutes after and I showed the airline officials my NCDC certificate and was allowed to board. It is always better to have a printed copy! Some passengers with the UNPAID NCDC certificate were not allowed to board!

My experience showed that while the Nigerian government is trying to control the spread of COVID-19, a strict adherence to the online form should have been made easier and whenever the portal had a problem, the airlines should have been informed earlier and ensured that they complied with the circular, allowing them to board passengers who could not pay for the Nigerian test. Many passengers suffered untold hardships as a result of this laxity and a number paid the testing fee twice. I paid twice and I am yet to be refunded.

**Hakeem Jamii, the Deputy Speaker, Ekiti State House of Assembly**



# Post-Merkel era takes shape after nail-biting election in Germany

**BERLIN**  
**G**ERMANY'S center-left Social Democratic Party (SDP) has won the country's federal election, beating the party of outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel, according to provisional results released early Monday morning.

This came after Merkel, who has been the German chancellor for nearly 16 years, announced in 2018 that she would not seek a fifth term, and followed nail-biting campaigns by major parties this year.

Though Merkel's era is coming to an end, the Iron Lady's legacy is widely expected to remain consequential, as her political wisdom of championing pragmatism and multilateralism continues to be valuable and insightful in guiding Germany's future relations with Europe and the rest of the world.

**TIGHT RACE**

The SDP won Sunday's elections with 25.7 percent of the vote, while the conservative union of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its sister party Christian Social Union (CSU) took 24.1 percent, the results showed.

The SDP's share of the vote surged by 5.2 percentage points from four years ago while the CDU/CSU union's share is 8.9 percentage points lower than in the last election.

Olaf Scholz, the SPD's chancellor candidate and also incumbent vice-chancellor and finance minister, received applause from his party in the SPD's headquarters in Berlin after the preliminary exit poll had projected the leading position of his party. "I'm happy to see so many here and of course I'm happy about the election result," he said.

With Annalena Baerbock as chancellor candidate, the Greens garnered 14.8 percent of the vote, making it the third-largest political faction in the parliament, followed by the business-friendly Free Democratic Party (FDP) and the far-right and Eurosceptic party Alternative fuer Deutschland (AfD), according to the Federal Returning Officer.

Many observers have predicted that various three-party coalitions -- the "traffic-light" coalition between the SPD, Greens and the FDP, and the "Jamaica" alliance comprising CDU/CSU, Greens and the FDP -- among others are conceivable. Both Scholz and his main rival, Armin Laschet, the CDU/CSU chancellor candidate and also minister-president of the North Rhine-Westphalia state, have expressed the wish to get the negotiations on forming a new government done speedily.

**MERKEL'S LEGACY**

During her tenure, Merkel has brought economic prosperity to Germany by shaking off the tag of "sick man of Europe" and helping the country achieve a na-



Olaf Scholz, top candidate for chancellor of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), holds a bunch of flowers after a press statement at the party's headquarter in Berlin, Germany, on Monday. AP

tional budget balance and almost full employment before the pandemic. "Those were 16 good years for Germany," Laschet said on Sunday evening, praising Merkel's contributions.

Merkel kept her composure when facing the European debt crisis a decade ago by imposing austerity measures on financially weak member countries of the eurozone. When a refugee crisis got worse in 2015, she displayed stoic calm and strength, saying: "We can do this."

An advocate of multilateralism and win-win diplomacy, Merkel had strongly criticized America's isolationism and some of its other controversial policies and measures, standing for cooperation among countries to address common challenges, such as climate change, anti-globalization, inequality, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Merkel has also been committed to promoting friendly and pragmatic exchanges and cooperation between Germany and China.

As a result, the bilateral relations have witnessed steadfast development, with trade and economic cooperation as a highlight. Official statistics show that China has been Germany's largest trading partner since 2016, with two-way trade amounting to around 248.4 billion U.S. dollars in 2020, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an interview with Xinhua, former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder urged the next government to keep a

pragmatic China policy. Professor Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer, director of CAR Center Automotive Research Duisburg, expressed confidence that the Germany-China relations can continue to be shaped in a sensible way.

**CHALLENGES AHEAD**

Despite their various divergences, the German parties have a lot in common in their policy priorities in such areas as environment, economy, and security, offering a glimpse of major domestic challenges for Merkel's successor.

Earlier this year, Merkel's cabinet agreed on a climate plan aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. Scholz and Annalena Baerbock, the chancellor candidate of The Greens, have both expressed support for tackling climate change.

Thiess Petersen, senior adviser at the German Bertelsmann Foundation, told Xinhua that he thinks the new government should take up three major tasks immediately when it comes to economic policy -- transforming the economy to a climate-neutral one, reducing rising debt, and dealing with demographic change. For over a decade,

Germany has been playing an essential role in the European Union (EU) as well as in multinational frameworks, with Merkel's stewardship as a key factor.

As Merkel is to exit from power, Brussels is expected to wait until a new German government is formed before making major decisions, such as approving a package of measures to counter climate change. Paris is reportedly concerned that a standoff in Berlin could put a strain on the French presidency of the EU Council beginning early next year.

Besides, it's widely believed that Germany will seek to achieve strategic independence amid the cooling of the trans-Atlantic relationship due to fickleness from the United States. **Xinhua**

## Mixed fate for Haitian migrants on US quest

**NEW YORK**

**T**HOUSANDS of Haitians who crossed the US border from Mexico in recent weeks have been released into the United States, the homeland security

chief confirmed as anger simmers over the rough treatment meted out to migrants by border officers.

Some 12,400 migrants from the Caribbean nation are having their cases heard by immigration judges, and the cases of

a further 5,000 are being processed, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said on Sunday. About 3,000 Haitians have been detained.

"Approximately, I think it's about 10,000 or so, 12,000," Mayorkas told Fox News Sunday

when asked how many of the migrants have been released.

He said that about 4,000 migrants have been repatriated to Haiti under an administrative process called Title 42, part of a US public health code that then-president Donald Trump put to

use in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic and which his successor, Joe Biden, has kept in place.

Mayorkas said that those who have been released "are monitored by us", and authorities "ensure their appearance in court as the law requires".

Fox News Sunday host Chris Wallace said that, according to the Department of Justice, 44 percent of migrants who are released do not show up for court hearings.

When asked if many of those released will stay in the US, Mayorkas said he had faith in the system.

"We have enforcement guidelines in place that provide the individuals who are recent border-crossers who do not show up for their hearings are enforcement priorities and will be removed," he said.

The situation facing the migrants on the border, and in the Texas city of Del Rio in particular, has provoked a backlash among people against the Biden administration.

The administration has confirmed that about 30,000 Haitians have crossed into Del Rio since Sept 9. They camped under an international bridge that leads to Ciudad Acuna in Mexico. The encampment has since been cleared.

Controversial images of US Border Patrol officers on horseback appearing to threaten the migrants and the decision to deport thousands back to Haiti ignited widespread fury.

In addition to the 12,400 who are being allowed to plead their case before a US judge, around 2,000 people were returned to Haiti on expulsion flights, and an estimated 8,000 have voluntarily returned to Mexico.

Wallace asked why the migrants were not stopped at the border and why the US does not have a physical barrier in place.

"We do not agree with the building of the wall," Mayorkas said. "The law provides that individuals can make a claim for humanitarian relief. That is actually one of our proudest traditions."

**Controversial images**

Mayorkas also was asked about the assertion that Border Patrol officers had used whip-like actions against the migrants, after some prominent politicians said a photograph of an officer holding the reins of his

horse while chasing someone near the border looked like he was holding a whip. The horse patrols have since been suspended.

The secretary said that the images "painfully conjured up the worst elements of our nation's ongoing battle against systemic racism". But the photographer who took the photos said that he never saw "them (the agents) whip anyone".

Biden, speaking to reporters at the White House on Friday, said: "It's horrible what you saw. To see people like they did, with horses, running them over, people being strapped, it's outrageous."

A probe within the Department of Homeland Security into border officers' treatment of migrants was underway and was expected to be concluded soon. The use of horse patrols has already been suspended in Del Rio, department officials said on Thursday.

Politicians have seized on the situation to batter the Democratic president, with Senator Tim Scott accusing Biden of failing to secure the border.

"I think President Biden and his administration owns a crisis that they've created," Scott told the CBS network on Sunday.

Representative Maxine Waters, a California Democrat, has called the border officers' activities "worse" than slavery.

Many of the Haitians who have traveled to the US border were coming from South America.

Tens of thousands of Haitians journeyed to Chile, Brazil and other South American countries after a 2010 earthquake near Port-au-Prince killed more than 220,000 people.

Daniel Foote, the US special envoy to Haiti appointed two months ago, resigned on Thursday over the Biden administration's "inhumane" decision to deport thousands of Haitians.

In his resignation letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Foote, a career diplomat, said the US approach to Haiti "remains deeply flawed".

The White House has defended its policy and insists the administration is working to implement an "orderly and humane process" at its southern border, according to a report on the news website The Hill.

US-Mexico border arrests have reportedly stayed at the highest level in more than two decades, with more than 208,000 registered in August alone, according to Xinhua reports. **Agencies**



In this Sept 23, 2021 file photo, migrants, most from Haiti, cross the Rio Grande towards Del Rio, Texas, from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.



# Xi-proposed 'eight major initiatives' facilitate China-Africa trade

BEIJING

**N**OW it takes only 14 hours for Kenyan fresh flowers to reach the Chinese city of Changsha, and young Africans can get various Chinese products with just a few clicks on keyboards at home.

At the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in September 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed that China would launch eight major initiatives in close collaboration with African countries, including a decision to open a China-Africa economic and trade expo in China.

To fully implement this decision, the first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo (CAETE) was held in 2019 in Changsha, the capital city of central China's Hunan Province, which turned out to be a great success. And the second CAETE, which opened Sunday in the same Chinese city and has attracted nearly 900 enterprises from 40 African countries and China, will not only show the world how Xi's proposal has facilitated bilateral trade, but also unleash new potential for cooperation between the two sides.

### BETTER LIFE FOR CHINESE, AFRICANS

For Dieudonne Twahirwa, managing director of Goshora Farm PLC, Rwandan supplier of agro-product of both local and interna-

tional markets, this year is "a lucky year" as his company has gained access to China, "a good and stable market."

Twahirwa said his company used to sell dried chili peppers to India and Europe, but those markets have been "unstable."

"Now I can say with confidence that China is a reliable market," he said, adding that cooperation with China will increase farmers' sales and improve their welfare.

On Aug. 4, customs authorities in Changsha said that China has imported its first dried chili peppers from Africa. Products from Twahirwa's company were among them.

"We have decided to increase imports, particularly non-resource products, from Africa," Xi said at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the FOCAC in 2018.

A year later, during the first CAETE, companies from Hunan Province and Rwanda signed a contract for the purchase of dried chili peppers. Since then, Rwanda has become the first African country to enter the Chinese market with its local dried chili peppers.

Coffee is another non-resource African product that is popular with Chinese consumers. For example, located in the China-Africa Economic and Trade Incubation Zone in Changsha's Gaoqiao Grand Market, the African Coffee Street has gathered more than 20 leading Chinese enterprises in this field.



Chinese President Xi Jinping

In the eyes of Jing Jianhua, owner of Own Master, a cafe which will open soon with coffee beans all from Africa, Chinese consumers will be able to enjoy pure African coffee at a more affordable price.

African products are becoming an indispensable part of the Chinese life, Jing said.

According to an official report released Saturday, China had remained Africa's largest trading partner for 12 consecutive years by the end of 2020, despite the headwinds of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### NEW PLATFORM OF CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE

In less than 30 minutes, butter from Mali, white peppercorns from Cameroon, peanuts from Senegal and other African products have all been emptied out by

Chinese consumers in a live stream run in Changsha.

Meanwhile, Chinese products are also sought after by African merchants in live streams. "In addition to star products such as wigs or clothing exported to Africa, luggage and small-scale agricultural machinery also have good markets and complete industrial chains on the African continent," said Wu Di, director of the Foreign Trade Service Center at Gaoqiao Grand Market.

During the FOCAC in 2018, Xi proposed that China "will set up relevant mechanisms to promote e-commerce cooperation with Africa." Over the years, via an active implementation of Xi's proposal, which has been an important part of the eight major initiatives, more and more opportunities have emerged in cross-border e-commerce between China and Africa.

For instance, Chinese and African companies have worked together to encourage the export of African specialties to China through cross-border e-commerce platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Impacted by the pandemic, African consumers are more likely to switch their purchase from physical stores to the internet, giving a strong impetus to the development of e-commerce, said Lu Xiaoyong, marketing manager of Killimall, a main East African e-commerce platform founded in Kenya in 2014.

### COOPERATION CHANNEL THROUGH INTERCONNECTIVITY

In a congratulatory letter sent to the first CAETE, Xi said it is hoped that the two sides will strengthen coordination to better implement the eight major initiatives put forward at the Beijing summit of the FOCAC, actively explore new paths for cooperation, open up new points of growth for collaboration, and promote China-Africa economic and trade cooperation to a new level.

In light of Xi's remarks in the letter, Hunan has sought to explore new mechanisms for economic and trade cooperation with Africa. A new pilot free trade zone (FTZ) in the province was launched in September

2020, with a focus on building a world-class advanced manufacturing cluster, an international investment and trade corridor linking the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and a leading area for in-depth economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa.

Recently, the first five containers of red grapefruit from South Africa arrived at Yangshan Port in Shanghai, becoming the first trial order of barter trade in the pilot FTZ in Hunan.

Besides, the expansion of routes for passenger transportation and freight shipping has vigorously facilitated economic and trade exchanges between China and Africa.

On Sept. 15, central China's industrial hub of Zhuzhou launched a combined sea-rail transport service to Africa. The first consignment of goods is expected to arrive at Mombasa Port in Kenya on Oct. 15.

Compared to traditional river-sea shipping, the sea-rail transport service can shorten the logistics time to East Africa by 10 days and that to West Africa by nine days, saving 3 percent of the transport cost.

The sea-rail transport service is expected to cover 11 African seaports and 20 roads and railways in inland Africa in the first phase, said Guo Ning, a customs official in Hunan.

Xinhua

# When Taliban ministers avoided eye contact with senior female UN officials

UNITED NATIONS

**W**HEN the Taliban ruled Afghanistan during 1996-2001, the United Nations was engaged in a losing battle for women's rights.

And that battle was occasionally led by two senior female UN officials, one of them working for a UN agency providing humanitarian assistance inside unfriendly Taliban territory.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, a former UN Under-Secretary-General, who travelled around the world as Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (1994-2003), recounted an uncomfortable eye-to-back - not an eye-to-eye - meeting she had with a Taliban official.

"When I met the Foreign Minister", she told me last week, "We sat side by side on two distant chairs and he would not look at me. I kept putting my face in the line of his vision and he slowly turned his back."

"My bodyguard then leaned over and told me what should have been obvious: that he will not set eyes on me".

"And when I met the Minister of Justice, I asked him about domestic violence" and he told me that "Afghan women were well brought up, and they do not attack their husbands," said Coomaraswamy, one of the third high-ranking officials in the UN hierarchy, next to the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.

Meanwhile, when Anoja Wijeyesekera, received her new UNICEF assignment in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan back in 1997, her appointment letter arrived with a "survival manual" and chilling instructions: write your last will before leaving home.

A former UNICEF Resident Project Officer (1997-1999) in Jalalabad and later in Kabul (1999-2001), she recounted an identical anecdote similar to Coomaraswamy's.

"When I first went to Afghanistan in 1997, as the UNICEF Resident Project Officer in Jalalabad, the Taliban refused to look at me, as I happened to be a woman. At meetings, which were all-male events,



Many Afghan families were displaced when the Taliban advanced on Kabul.

they would look away from me with an expression of total disgust and would keep their heads turned away from me, when speaking to me," she recounted.

"After a couple of months of this icy reception, which I considered to be a farcical comedy, they gradually thawed and even shook my hand, spoke in English, and became friendly"

"And I said to my staff perhaps the Taliban thought that I had turned into a man!" she added jokingly.

According to a report in the New York Times last week, during the first years of Taliban rule, women were forbidden to work outside the home or even to leave the house without a male guardian.

"They could not attend school, and faced public flogging if they were found to have violated morality rules, like one requiring that they be fully covered."

At a fund-raiser last week for humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, which generated

more than \$1.2 billion in pledges, Martin Griffiths, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said when he met with Taliban officials recently in Kabul, he received assurances - in writing.

Their message read: "We have made it clear in all public forums that we are committed to all rights of women, rights of minorities and principles of freedom of expression in the light of religion and culture, therefore we once again reiterate our commitment and will gradually take concrete steps with the help of the international community."

But the lingering question is whether the Taliban government will honour these commitments - particularly, judging by its past track record.

Of the \$1.2 billion in pledges, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said September 27, only about \$131 million has actually been received; that's 21.7 per cent of the

\$606 million required through the end of this year.

"We are very pleased with pledges; we are even more pleased when we get cash," he said.

Meanwhile, asked about her personal experiences during her tenure in Afghanistan, UNICEF's Wijeyesekera, described the Taliban as a motley group of fighters, mullahs and other fringe elements of society including drop outs, bandits, criminals and bigots that have come together under the umbrella term "Taliban" which means students.

They are supposed to be students of Islam and by their own definition, she pointed out, they are students and not graduates or professors. This is revealing as many of the foot soldiers are semi-literate but well versed in the art of guerrilla warfare.

"Their brand of Islam is totally opposed to the accepted version of Islam that is taught in universities and other places of genuine learning," said Wijeyesekera, in an interview with IPS last week.

"As you know the madrassas of Pakistan were established with the support of the CIA to train mujahidin fighters to defeat the Russians. I have seen the Nebraska curriculum, which is explained in my book ("Facing the Taliban," available on Amazon) which was a tool to brain-wash poor children into becoming cannon fodder on the battle field."

During her time in Afghanistan, she said, some Talibs holding positions in government were more educated. However, many were Mullahs who were completely closed to the outside world, having only been taught in a Madrassa.

The Minister for the Prevention of Vice and Promotion of Virtue [V&V] named

Torabi was a one-eyed, one-legged fighter whose only occupation was beating people, mostly women, she said.

His Ministry was in charge of floggings, beheadings, amputations and stonings. If the newly created Ministry with that name, is headed by a similar person, the result would be similar, she added.

Despite these absolutely horrific practices, conducted by their own "government", "I have to say that at a personal and sub-national level, the more educated departmental heads were relatively flexible, as they understood the benefits of UNICEF programmes for the children and women of Afghanistan."

As time progressed, one of the most ruthless and die-hard Taliban leaders - the Minister of Health, developed an understanding with me, regarding the implementation of UNICEF programmes, as he could see the benefits of those programmes.

Thus, "I would say that although "policy" could be one thing, practices could vary depending on the location and the particular Talib in question".

Asked about other senior female UN officials, she said there were women heading other UN agencies in Afghanistan, including the head of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) both in Jalalabad and Kabul. Also, in Jalalabad the head of the office of the World Health Organization (WHO) was a woman.

IPS

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Rescuers pull villagers from flood waters in Xinyang city in China's Henan Province.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Land rights: Setting sights on the rights of pastoralists and other users of land

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

IN December 2021 a bloody and fatal conflict between pastoralists and farmers occurred in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region. The incident left 38 farmers dead and several casualties in either group, to say the least of loss and destruction of property.

The clash between farmers and pastoralists was a wakeup call for government to take decisive action to end similar conflicts and although since then more grazing land has been allocated to pastoralists, conflicts of lesser magnitude still exist between the two groups. Conflicts between the two groups often erupt after pastoralists allegedly graze their herds in the farms of peasants, sometimes when crops are yet to be harvested.

Perhaps it is worth at this juncture to ask whether pastoralists have land rights and if these are protected by law. Since time immemorial, pastoralists have owned land through customary laws and such ownership has been recognized by other land users and government at all levels. They have also, until recent years, managed the land they own in a manner that ensured availability of pasture throughout the year. When there were unusually long and severe drought, pastoralists migrated to areas far away where they were sure to get water and pasture for their herds without having to tread onto other users' rights.

However, in the advent of new developments and increasing number of land users, pastoralists have found themselves squeezed out of some areas, what with most of the rangelands being unprotected and prone to encroachment. There are also cases when rangelands have been allocated for other land uses under assumption that they are unused or unoccupied land.

"We have land rights and these are protected particularly for those of us living in villages. The land is under village government and through land use planning we have acquired Customary Certificates of Right of Occupancy (CCRO). These are legal documents that protect ownership and our rights," says Paulo Rokonga of Loiboisot A village in Simanjiro District.

But it is possible to set aside land for pastoralists irrespective of the

fact that they are almost always on the move. As stated earlier rangelands are communally recognized and pastoralists' movements are usually well organized. The Village Land Act, 1999 and other related laws allow for joint land use plans since rangelands are and in most cases a shared resource. So we have a law that recognizes rangelands for use by pastoralists and we have land use plans that specify which land should be used for what purpose. More importantly, the public recognizes that land is a shared natural resource to be used by all according to rules and regulations and according to existing land use plans.

In some villages like Loiboisot A, pastoralists have introduced block grazing whereby all herds are allowed to graze on only one part of the area and after some time, they are moved to another area. "This rotational grazing is less destructive and gives time for pasture in one area to rejuvenate while herds graze on other parts of the rangeland," says Rokonga. Yet Pastoralists are often blamed for causing land conflicts because they do not respect the rights of other land users.

"This is not true, and it is not fair," says Luhula Masalu, a Land Tenure Specialist with Landesa. "Conflicts between pastoralists and other land users are caused by multiple factors. In fact, they are mostly systemic and other conflicts are a result of factors such as forced evictions, climate change, and unregulated expansions of other land uses and limited investment in improving and developing rangelands. Some conflicts are historical and the historical causes are not addressed to their roots," he adds.

At a national convention for livestock keepers and pastoralists held in Dar es Salaam early this month, the national chairman of livestock keepers and pastoralists, Jeremiah John Wambura raised concern that over 3,000 livestock remains confiscated by government after their owners took the herds to graze in prohibited areas.

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa underscored the government's intention to end land conflicts involving pastoralists. "District councils should ensure that pastoralists desist from causing conflicts with other land users," he said. And as a means to this end, the Prime Minister advised local government au-



A herd of cattle grazing on the roadside

thorities to work with pastoralists and other stakeholders to identify and set aside land for grazing. Such land should be surveyed and developed in a bid to ensure that there is enough good pasture and water for livestock.

At the same event the Prime Minister also directed authorities to educate pastoralists on the importance and benefits of reducing their herds to match with the carrying capacity of their respective areas. More importantly he stressed the need for extension officers to work closely with pastoralists so that the latter may acquire better livestock keeping methods that would see their products fetching good prices in the market.

But it would appear that many pastoralists are not comfortable with the idea of reducing the size of their herds and the arguments put forward are not convincing.

"I think the call to reduce herds is a misplaced one; research should provide for different alternatives. Experience shows that pastoralists are losing members of their herds every time out of limited pasture, poor veterinary services, and lack of facilities. It is also true that pastoralists sell their livestock all the time for different reasons? Do we want them to sell all what they have? Authorities have not done their homework right. There is limited investment in developing pastoralism and managing rangelands. Pastoralists have limited platform which brings them together with other land users to deliberate issues that affect them. Thus reduction of herds has never been a sustainable solution to land conflicts," argues Luhula, citing the disappearance of livestock cor-

ridors and reallocation of rangelands for other uses as some of the reasons behind land conflicts.

However, Rokonga supports the idea of reducing herds so as to invest in other sources of income. "Herds should be sold from time to time so that a family can diversify its economy. Farmers do the same; they grow crops, harvest and grow again. They spend the money from selling their harvests to meet other needs of the family," he says. In February this year Rokonga bought several cows for 250,000/- each. He sold the cows in August at 700,000/- each to Happy Sausages Company in Arusha City and made good money. But he was not happy to part with his livestock. "I was very sad to let the cows go. In fact I was not at home when the company came to collect them for fear that I would breakdown," he explains. "There is a special bond between pastoralists and their herds and maybe that is why we don't like to reduce our herds," he adds.

There are also arguments that when conflicts erupt the losers who are usually farmers don't get redress even when it is clear that pastoralists are on the wrong side. They will graze in someone's farm in a forest reserve and buy their way out because they are corrupt. These are, to some extent, valid accusations.

"Yes this happens sometimes but for good reasons. Pastoralists have limited alternative solutions to their problems. They opt to bribe their way out and they are encouraged to do so by corrupt government officials who are ready and willing to bend rules for money. You can say authorities create conditions for pastoralists to bribe them and get away with

their crimes," explains Luhula.

That pastoralists are corrupt was also once acknowledged by the secretary general of the pastoralist community in Rufiji District who said that some officials are easily lured into taking bribes due to greed for money.

At present, many pastoralists still face the challenge of unprotected and poorly managed rangelands. Land use plans which are deemed to solve conflicts are often drawn without the participation of pastoralists, as a result of which they are not respected. There are still limited investments in livestock infrastructure and veterinary services while corruption remains a challenge that government has to grapple with. It is also true that there is no mechanism to resolve disputes that would treat both parties fairly and in the face of corruption, such mechanism may not be available soon.

In the meantime, authorities could focus on participatory land use planning and joint land use plans for resources shared by several pastoralist communities or by different land users. However those who have land use plans that are operational face new challenges.

"We have conserved some of the land we own and now wild animals have come back. We are now in conflict with conservation authorities because they want to turn this area into game reserve and we might not be allowed to graze our herds there," says Rokonga, adding that large-scale farmers also encroach on their rangelands even when they have CCROs. "This is particularly the in Kiteto and Simanjiro Districts."

An inherent problem has surfaced recently. Individuals who have CCROs sell their pieces of

land and migrate to other areas to start a new life and those who buy the land change its use, thus reducing land for pasture. "The village government thinks of abolishing issuing certificates to individuals so that all the village land is communally owned. No one can sell it," says Rokonga.

Rangelands have in recent years been invaded by invasive alien plant species that push away local plants which are good for pasture. Pastoralists think that the problem has to do with climate change and they are yet to find a solution. The increasing number of people in villages has also affected the availability of grazing land as new houses are being built and other human activities are on the rise. "The loss of culture and tradition has compounded the problem. Nowadays when young men become Morani they don't want to live in the family compound but build their own houses. In the long run the rangelands will be reduced and perhaps that is when people will be forced to reduce their herds," says Rokonga.

In a bid to normalize relations between pastoralists and other land users, it is advisable to establish and strengthen dialogue platforms and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms so that conflicting parties may have space to air their views and be heard. This should go hand in hand with allocating sufficient budget to invest on developing pastoralism and livestock in order to provide a good market for livestock and livestock products. Perhaps the most important solution to the challenges is conducting legal reforms and effective enforcement of laws and regulations without being tainted by corruption.

# African sex workers face digital abuse with Covid-19 pushing them online

NAIROBI/MUTARE

KENYAN sex worker, Elizabeth Otieno shudders each time her cell-phone buzzes with a new notification.

The device may have become a lifeline in helping her move her work online during the COVID-19 pandemic, but after a client secretly recorded their virtual sex session and leaked it onto the internet, every phone alert sends Otieno into a cold sweat.

"I don't even know how many social media sites and chat groups the video was shared on. Even eight months after it happened, I still get people forwarding it to me," said the 45-year-old mother of two who lives in Nairobi.

"I feel ashamed and anxious all the time. My partner left me and even my family won't talk to me. I thought it was a safe and private way to make money, but virtual sex ruined my life," said Otieno, whose name has been changed to protect her identity.

Across Africa, sex worker groups say there has been a surge in complaints from members who have

become victims of non-consensual pornography, where sexually graphic material is posted online by their clients without their agreement.

From Kenya and Uganda to Zimbabwe and Nigeria, pandemic restrictions such as lockdowns and curfews have seen sex workers shift from bars, brothels and massage parlours to websites, apps and video calls.

But using digital technology to offer their services comes with a barrage of online dangers, leaving sex workers vulnerable to blackmail and sextortion, said Grace Kamau, coordinator for the African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA).

"Sex workers in Africa have learned how to keep themselves safe with clients in the real world. They know about precautions to take, like to inform peers of their movements and to check in at regular times," said Kamau.

"But in the virtual world, most have no idea. It is a relatively new space for them. They don't understand the risks and how to be safe and there is no information available to sex workers about digital security and data

protection."

She said ASWA - a Nairobi-based network of more than 130 sex worker-led organisations in 34 African countries - found that most sex workers did not report cases to the police for fear of being shamed and victim-blamed.

The digital abuse has led to many sex workers being shunned and isolated by friends and family, with many feeling traumatized, depressed and suicidal, Kamau added.

## DIGITAL SECURITY AWARENESS

Even before COVID-19, more than half of girls and young women had experienced online abuse, according to a global poll last year by the Web Foundation.

Sharing images, videos or private information without consent - known as doxxing - was the most concerning issue, according to the February survey of more than 8,000 respondents.

Privacy groups and women's rights advocates say the pandemic has only increased the threat.

Image-based sexual abuse, which includes so-called revenge porn, has skyrocketed globally, with a survey by cyber security firm Kaspersky showing a 20% rise in people sharing nudes and explicit material since the beginning of the pandemic.

Nearly a quarter of respondents said they shared their content with someone they have never met in person. Some African countries have put in place laws criminalizing digital abuse and protecting data privacy, but there is a lack of awareness among most women - especially those from marginalized groups such as sex workers, says digital rights campaigners.

"Members of the general society are not well-versed on what the laws and regulations are, what it means to them and how they can use those laws to their benefit," said Juliet Nanfuka, researcher at CIPESA, an organisation promoting digital rights.

"For sex workers, it is even worse. Due to lack of this information, they will readily share their images and videos with clients - which are then shared across platforms like Facebook and TikTok, without their consent," she said by phone.

Even if they are aware of their digital rights, sex workers are often reluctant to report crimes against them to the police as they fear they will not be taken seriously, said Nanfuka. Lillian Gitau, a Kenyan sex worker, said she was blackmailed by a client she met on the dating app Tinder, who secretly filmed her and posted the video in chat groups on Telegram and WhatsApp. "He wanted 3,000 shillings (\$27) from me to remove the posts. I gave him the money and he deleted the video, but I know it's

still out there and is being shared," said Gitau, 30, whose name has been changed to protect her identity.

"The police is not an option. They won't help women like us. Instead, they just blame us and say it is our fault for doing this work."

Kenyan police officials were not immediately available for comment.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Some sex workers said they have resorted to hiding their faces during video calls or when sending images to new customers. "Most of the nude videos and pictures (I sell) do not show my face," said Mandy Kusasa, as she scrolled through one of her two smartphones at her home in Zimbabwe's eastern city of Mutare.

"Nude videos and pictures that reveal my face, however, fetch higher prices so I sell those to some of my regular clients," added Kusasa, whose name has been changed to protect her identity. Sex worker organisations say their members need online safety training as well as legal support, but add that they lack the funding to provide that training.

"This is a new phenomenon for sex workers in Zimbabwe," said Hazel Zemura, director of All Women Advocacy, a Zimbabwean organization that offers health services to sex workers.

"Some women do not know about safety precautions like two-step verification, applications to secure nudes, or the use of a virtual private network to hide their IP address."



# New breeding swarms of desert locusts pose major threat to food security in Horn of Africa and Yemen

By Monique Bennett

**I**N 2020, East Africa experienced its worst desert locust outbreak in 25 years – in 70 years for Kenya – which put nearly 40 million people at risk of food insecurity. Now, there is a new warning of desert locust hopper bands breeding in the northeast of Ethiopia, an area that cannot be easily accessed because of ongoing insecurity.

Before the insecurity in northern Ethiopia began in November 2020, the population was already battling climate shocks as well as the worst desert locust infestation for decades. The region was also home to nearly 50,000 Eritrean refugees whose camps have since been either destroyed or severely damaged by the conflict.

The conflict in Tigray took a stunning turn at the end of June 2021 when Tigrayan forces retook the capital, Mekelle, after federal forces withdrew soldiers and declared a ceasefire. The federal forces have since allied with regional leaders from Afar and Amhara to help mobilise soldiers to join the conflict.

With that, the conflict has entered a new phase and expanded its borders into neighbouring Amhara and Afar, where more than 76,000 people have been displaced and 300,000 have fled since mid-July.

Adjacent to the Tigray conflict, the land dispute conflict between Afar and Issa tribes continues. This insecurity puts at least 5.1 million people at risk of acute food insecurity.

Now, there is warning of desert locust hopper bands breeding in the northeast of Ethiopia. Desert locusts decimate crops. These areas cannot be accessed by desert locust control teams due to the insecurity. Swarms are likely to form towards the end of September and continue into October. They are likely to migrate into Eritrea and eastwards into Somalia.

Absence of data from the Afar region makes it difficult to predict the scale of breeding and potential migration. For a region already in dire straits, another surge of desert locust swarms could be a fatal blow for farmers who have recently sown crops for the new season as well the civilian population.

## An outbreak of biblical proportions

In 2020, East Africa experienced its worst desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) outbreak in 25 years (in 70 years for Kenya), which put nearly 40 million people at risk of food insecurity. The warming of the Indian Ocean, caused by anthropogenic heat, has helped increase the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, creating favourable conditions for desert locust breeding and mutation.

Desert locusts have been a primary enemy for African and Asian farmers since Pharaonic times, but due to their natural oscillation between recession and resurgence, control operations lack consistent financial and state support. The outbreak came at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic forced the affected countries into lockdowns,

restricting the supply of essential equipment as well as control operations. Despite early warnings from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Locust Watch, countries were not sufficiently prepared for the scale of last year's outbreak.

Every eight weeks a new generation of locusts can emerge and with each new generation, on average, there is a 20-fold increase in its population size. This makes it critical to act once a resurgence is detected. In 2020, East Africa and Yemen recorded \$8.5-billion worth of livelihood damages due to the outbreak. Many of the affected households already struggle to meet basic needs.

Although the upsurge has yet to reach the same scale as last year, conflict in Yemen and parts of northern Ethiopia presents a serious threat to effective control operations. The Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia, Grant Leaity, recently released a statement detailing the urgent need for unimpeded humanitarian assistance for at least 5.2 million people across the northern region. Famine-like conditions are being experienced by nearly half a million people, while 5.5 million are facing acute levels of food insecurity, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

## Now and then: control operation efforts since the outbreak began

Throughout 2020, control operations battled to keep up with the surge of locusts due to lack of resources and overall control capacity coupled with Covid-19 restrictions. A desert locust impact assessment by the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, regional platform of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (Igad), estimated that one in three respondents living in desert locust-affected areas in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda had experienced pasture and/or crop loss due to the outbreak.

Ethiopian respondents recorded the most losses and were found to have the highest prevalence of food insecurity since the desert locust outbreak began. The most commonly reported desert locust-related impacts experienced by respondents included malnutrition/food insecurity, emotional stress and human and animal health issues.

Ethiopian and Somali respondents were the most pessimistic when discussing the prospects of agricultural production for the remainder of the year. A majority thought that their production would be well below average this year, mostly due to the locust outbreak and poor rainfall. This assessment was conducted before the conflict in Tigray began. Therefore, concerns over insecurity would likely be included now as a factor hindering the production of livelihoods for Ethiopians across the northern region.

As mentioned before, at the time of the outbreak, regional bodies like the Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa



A man tries to disperse desert locusts that invaded farms during a second-wave invasion in Kakongo village, in Nuu-Mwingi East, Kitui, Kenya, 6 February 2021. File photo

(DLCO-EA) lacked the necessary resources to cope with the extent of the outbreak across East Africa. Despite early warnings, the DLCO-EA and member states did not have sufficient supplies of pesticides, protective gear and control teams to effectively prepare and deploy control operation teams.

The FAO responded to this shortfall by providing technical and operational assistance in partnership with Igad, the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Plant Pests and the Regional Desert Locust Alliance (RDLA) (the RDLA was formed in February 2020 and comprises more than 60 national and international non-government organisations).

Surveillance has improved significantly since the start of the outbreak with the introduction of upgraded tools for both data collection and transmission, like the eLocust3m application and Garmin's eLocust3g GPS. These upgraded technologies have helped record and send live survey and control data from the field to national locust centres to help plan and prioritise operations.

In June, Igad launched the Hazards Watch for East Africa, the first of its

kind developed on the African continent, that combines satellite technology, open-source programming, earth sciences and design to help monitor extreme events and climate hazards for better decision-making.

Funding remained a significant factor hindering initial control operations across East Africa at the start of the outbreak. Since then, the FAO secured \$152-million, but a shortfall of \$11.2-million remains. This shortfall is mainly within the surveillance aspect of the operations, which is already challenged by difficult terrain, remote locations and conflict insecurity.

Cooperation between the DLCO-EA member states and regional environmental centres was initially weak, but has improved significantly since 2019. Collaboration at regional and national levels has been seen through regular Igad ministerial conferences to fine-tune the findings of assessments and to develop actionable recommendations to improve preparedness to respond to current and future desert locust outbreaks.

While international organisations play an important role in supporting locust control planning and execu-

tion, upscaling the capacity of local and national centres remains a crucial challenge.

Loss of crop and animal feed livelihoods is the greatest risk posed by desert locust invasions. The FAO has continued to take an early recovery approach to help safeguard these livelihoods which, in Ethiopia, make up 80% of the population's income. These communities are highly sensitive to climate variability and are disproportionately affected by natural disasters.

In partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the FAO supported almost 100,000 households with livelihood inputs, equipment for control operations as well as cash throughout 2020 until February 2021. The African Development Bank, European Union, USAID and the World Bank have contributed a combined \$544-million since the start of 2020 to assist in resource mobilisation against the locust outbreak.

The locusts are not done yet and the conflict continues – what next?

The latest bulletin from the Locust Watch indicates hopper bands forming in Amhara and that swarms were spotted in the Tigray capital of Mekelle. Forecasts suggest that hopper bands are forming in Afar but breeding areas are inaccessible due to the conflict.

The current insecurity across the northern region of Ethiopia does not allow for control or survey operations. This will allow for summer-bred swarms to mature and lay eggs once the rains begin in October and November, allowing for a new generation of swarms before the end of the year. These new swarms would affect Eritrea, the Somali region of Ethiopia, northern Somalia and Djibouti.

To prevent further humanitarian destruction and worsening food insecurity, the following recommendations are listed below:

Dialogue between actors aimed at allowing for safe passage, as soon as possible, should be the primary priority. Safe access via ground and air to the identified locust breeding areas to allow for control teams to operate in both surveying the area and controlling for premature hopper bands must be the primary goal of all stakeholders;

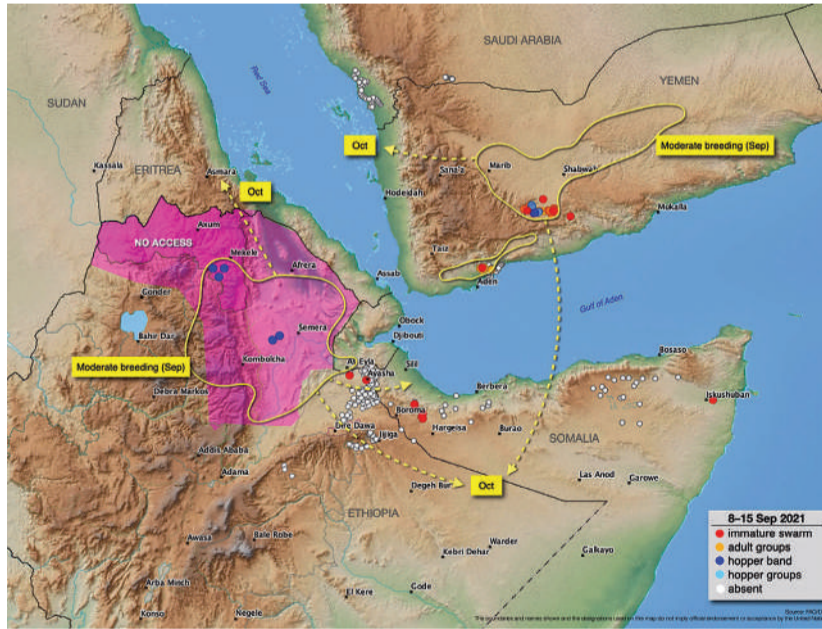
The FAO in partnership with Igad, DLCO-EA and the RDLA should be included in dialogue with the Ethiopian national government, Tigray Defence Force leadership where possible and the regional governments in Amhara and Afar;

Continue training and knowledge dissemination to assist in preparing communities that may be affected by the predicted upsurge;

Secure adequate resources to ensure an early response to livelihood losses across the communities predicted to be affected; and

The FAO, DLCO-EA and its regional partners should provide an updated assessment on funding and resources needed to control the impending outbreak and its consequences.

DM/OBP



# RADIO One

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 08.20 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 08.30 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 08.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 08.50 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.20 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.30 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.50 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 10.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.20 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.25 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.30 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.35 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.45 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.50 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.55 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.05 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.15 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.20 AM YALIVOMO 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## EMPOWERMENT

## Dar youth graduate from TechnoServe entrepreneurial training programme

By Francis Kajubi

SOME 335 retail shop owners and managers have graduated an eight months entrepreneurship and customer serving skills training aimed at growing their businesses and improving sales by 30 percent in the next year.

Under TechnoServe Tanzania's Pan African Youth Entrepreneur Development (PAYED) phase four programme covering 2020/21 and which started in December with 892 applications received, the tailor made cost-sponsored training involved all five municipalities of Dar es Salaam.

The PAYED programme, among other things, targets to dole sustainable employability skills among jobless youth while also improving access to financial products for the group's micro-retail shop owned. The training also targets youth who already have

businesses but lack knowledge and skills of managing and growing them professionally.

PAYED Programme Manager Tun-sime Kyando, said in Dar es Salaam during a graduation ceremony held last week that, the training exposed the graduates to banking products and services, insurance, financial management and record keeping, inventory investment, supply chain management and linking them to large service and product suppliers.

"From the 892 applicants, 521 were picked for the programme from which 335 have graduated of which 46 percent are female and 54 percent male. Though resources allow enrolment of only 250 entrepreneurs, the programme has been flexible to accommodate more entrepreneurs thanks to funding from CITI Foundation," Kyando said.

According to her, the programme



A principal trade officer for Dar es Salaam Region, Thabit Mussa, addresses graduates of PAYED phase four training conducted by TechnoServe Tanzania last week. Photo: courtesy of TechnoServe

also works closely with community development officers, regional officials, financial institutions such as NMB Bank Plc and Mkombozi Commercial Bank but also district trade officers and suppliers such as ASA Dairy, Sarafu and Azam Group.

Speaking at the same event, Thabit Massa who is Principal Trade Officer of Dar es Salaam Region, said the city has almost 200,000 retail traders who the government considers as an important group as they broaden the tax base.

"Educating the youth on issues related to trade matters, is very important under the sixth phase government that's why we have been undertaking initiatives to formalize the informal businesses," Mussa said while noting that retail shops mostly serve low income earners who constitute almost 80 percent of the commercial capital's consumers.

"The growth in retail trading is crucial as it can contribute to increased revenue thus boosting the budget for development projects," he noted.

One of the beneficiaries, Brytony Mlowe (25) from Gongo la mboto said that the tailor made sponsored training is a stepping stone towards owning a well organized formal small business.

"The training has been very important because we have knowledge and skills on how to manage our businesses,"

## RELIEF

## KRA stopped from imposing new beer and fuel taxation

NAIROBI

THE High Court has halted the plan by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to increase excise duty on at least 31 goods, including beer, fuel, bottled water and juice, from October 1 pending determination of a suit opposing the taxes.

Justice James Makau Monday issued a temporary freeze on the KRA's plan, saying that the case challenging the new taxes has a likelihood of success. Two people had petitioned the court to stop the impending decision by the taxman to increase excise duty on the products by 4.97 percent in line with average annual inflation.

Isaiah Odando and Wilson Yata argue that the decision by the KRA, which is slated to take effect on October 1, is set to put pressure on cost of living. The order comes days after the High Court stopped the KRA from collecting Sh21 billion through a minimum tax -- equivalent to one percent of a business's total sales revenues, even when it reports losses.

This is a blow to President Uhuru Kenyatta's administration that is seeking to collect more revenues to complete his legacy projects in priority areas such as healthcare and affordable housing despite soaring public debt and a gaping fiscal deficit.

"If the interim order is not granted, the petitioners and Kenyans will stand prejudiced. There will be danger to Kenyans in the further increase of fuel prices if KRA adjusts the excise duty rates on October 1 as proposed,

although the decision is pending approval by the Cabinet Secretary National Treasury," said the judge.

He added that the petitioners demonstrated that the case is a matter of public interest and that their constitutional rights are under threat of being breached through the tax increases. The judge noted that the Attorney-General's lawyer Mitchell Omum was yet to receive instructions on how to oppose the case.

The KRA opposed the order temporarily freezing the taxes, terming the application premature because the proposed levy is yet to be authorised by the Treasury Cabinet Secretary. The court was also informed that decision to adjust the excise duty does not end with the KRA, since the taxman will for the first time be required to get parliamentary approval to effect the new rates.

This follows changes to the law that took effect this year. The 4.97 percent tax will see manufacturers pass on the additional cost of the commodities to end users in what may further stoke public outrage over the high cost of living.

Most households are yet to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which triggered layoffs, pay cuts and business closures. Consumers will pay Sh5.77 more for a litre of beer while the prices for spirits will rise highest at Sh13.20.

A litre of petrol will increase Sh1.09, pushing excise duty to Sh23.04 on the commodity, while diesel and kerosene will increase by Sh0.566 per litre each. The ad-

justment is in line with the law that demands that excise duty be revised upwards in tandem with the cost of living measure or the average rate of inflation in the 12 months through June. While the next election is less than a year away, the government's economic policies have come under increased scrutiny with citizens angered by increasing costs of living.

Industry lobby Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) has consistently urged the taxman to pause implementation of the annual inflation adjustment tax that affects excisable goods, citing economic hardships as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

Other items that are set to attract higher taxation are cigarettes, bottled water and motorcycles (boda boda). The price of one stick of cigarette will increase by Sh0.16 in line with the rise in excise tax from Sh3.31 to Sh3.47 while the duty on bottled water will rise from Sh3.31 to Sh3.47 per litre.

**Most households are yet to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which triggered layoffs, pay cuts and business closures. Consumers will pay Sh5.77 more for a litre of beer while the prices for spirits will rise highest**

the farmers' income, officials said. Pigs and chickens have been found as small livestock that are prone to deadly diseases.

"We are training key players in the insurance sector such as veterinarians, research stations managers, and insurance companies among others to know the current status and challenges after two years because there is a very low uptake of livestock insurance. This will help us to know where we should put in more effort," she said.

She said that there is still to sensitize farmers considering that very



KRA commissioner general James Mburu.

## INVESTMENT

## Pan-African crypto startup Yellow Card raises \$15m for expansion across Africa

LAGOS

PAN-AFRICAN Crypto exchange, Yellow Card, announced it has raised \$15 million in Series A funding to grow its team, introduce new products and continue its expansion across the continent.

Said to be the largest funding raise by an African Crypto exchange, it was led by Valar Ventures, Third Prime, and Castle Island Ventures with participation from Jack Dorsey's Square, Inc., Blockchain.com Ventures, Coinbase Ventures, Polychain Capital, BlockFi, Fabric Ventures, Raba Partnership, MoonPay, GreenHouse Capital, and more.

Yellow Card enables Africans at home and abroad to buy and sell cryptocurrency using their local currency via bank transfer, cash, and mobile money. It enables anyone on the continent to buy, sell, spend, and store Bitcoin, Ethereum, or USDT to solve basic financial service issues.

Yellow card started with the original Bitcoin gift card model but later pivoted into a crypto-based agency banking business. In December 2020, it announced that it had processed over \$165 million in volume during the first eleven months of 2020.

According to the CEO Chris

Maurice, "Our mission has always been to make cryptocurrency accessible anywhere and everywhere across the African continent. Now, we have the backing to make that a reality, alongside an amazing team of investors who share our vision."

Yellow Card is currently present in 12 countries including Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Botswana, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ghana, Zambia, Uganda, Gabon and Malawi, and has 110 employees across 16 countries. The company stated that it has witnessed nearly a 30X increase in users across Africa since the start of the Pandemic.

## CONCERN

KIGALI

DESPITE the growing population of small livestock and cattle in Rwanda, low uptake of insurance could erode the gains, experts in veterinary services and insurance sector have said.

Statistics show that goats increased to 2,844,001 in 2020 up from 1,891,612 from 1992 while the population of pigs grew by five-fold; from 244,980 pigs in 1992 to 1,441,077 pigs in 2020. Rwanda's chicken population increased by 9 percent per year, from 3.5 million in 2010 to over 7.6 million. The number of cows rose steadily from 813,417 in 1992 to 1,449,888 in 2020. However, according to Solange

## Low livestock insurance uptake worries experts

Uwituze, the Deputy Director General in charge of Animal Resources Research and Technology Transfer at Rwanda Agricultural and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), only dairy cows, pigs and chickens benefit from subsidized livestock insurance.

She said that since 2019 only 44,221 dairy cows, 3,020 pigs and 208,749 chickens have been insured by the scheme in which the government has invested Rwf457.3 million. Government subsidizes the cost at 40 per cent. The low uptake of livestock insurance could threaten

few of them have understood the role of crop and livestock insurance. "Farmers should learn from other farmers who insured their livestock to assess how it works and benefits them," she said.

So far, she said, the government is working with five insurance companies that have crop and livestock insurance products. Government seeks to have 10 percent of livestock insured in 2021/22 fiscal year with subsidies.

Delays in compensation

Uwituze said that delays in

compensating farmers under the scheme were discouraging adding that the issue is being addressed. "We had planned that farmers should be compensated within 15 days when their livestock die.

But this was not done. We should ensure timely compensation to the affected farmers," she said. Emmanuel Irankunda in charge of crop and livestock insurance in UAP Rwanda said that timely compensation has been assured adding that farmers should be paid within 15 days.

He said the company started to

work with the government this fiscal year in the subsidized scheme but introduced an agricultural insurance scheme 10 years ago adding, however, that there is still low uptake. "From July, we have received requests of 172 cows to be insured, 70,000 chickens and 300 pigs. In 2019/2020, we had insured over 9,000 cows and 90,000 chickens," he said.

Jean De Dieu Niyitanga, The Veterinarian in Rwamagana District said that 832 cows, 8,000 chickens and 700 pigs were insured in the 2020/21 fiscal year. "This year 1,200 cows, 150,000 chickens, 2,000 pigs will be insured. The deadly diseases should be a lesson to farmers," he said.



## INCENTIVE

## Brewer invests billions of shillings to increase production targeting AfCFTA's vast market

By Guardian Reporter

WHEN parliament finally ratified African Continental Free Trade Area treaty during this year's budget session, Trade and Industry Minister, Professor Kitila Mkumbo said a new chapter in continental free trade had opened.

Prof Mkumbo urged the private sector to seize the opportunity by investing in the production of high end industrial goods capable of competing in the continent which has a market population of over 1.2 billion people.

"This treaty will provide a reliable and bigger market for the country's produce and human capital due to the free movement of both goods and labour," he told lawmakers after the ratification which also means an increase of government revenue.

One of the private sector investors moving to exploit the AfCFTA market is Dar es Salaam based alcoholic manufacturer, Serengeti Breweries Limited. The company which has since last year embarked on an expansion project of its three factories in Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Mwanza, is targeting to sell its beer brands across the con-

tinents.

Speaking Moshi municipality last week when Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa commissioned its new look factory which incorporates a spirits manufacturing plant, SBL's Managing Director, Mark Ocitti said the company has invested a total of 76bn/- in capital expenditure in expanding and modernizing its factories.

"Of this amount, 31bn/- was invested between 2019 and 2020 in the expansion of our Dar es Salaam brewery while 13.4bn/- has so far been invested at this brewery in expanding and modernizing its factories in 2020," Ocitti said.

He pointed out that SBL is investing to make maximum use of the AfCFTA market while at the same time commending the government for exceedingly creating a favourable environment for investment in the country.

Ocitti explained that because of the optimism and confidence that the private sector has in the country's improved investment climate, the brewer will continue making sizeable investments in the foreseeable future.

"Further, we plan to invest another 124bn/- expansion of Moshi



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks last week in Moshi municipality the launch of an expanded SBL Moshi brewery which incorporates a spirits manufacturing plant. Photo courtesy of SBL

factory by next year and 15.7bn/- in the expansion of our Mwanza factory before the end of this year. This will bring our total investment commitment in the country's economy to 200bn/- for the period covering 2019 and 2022," the SBL chief executive added.

SBL's multi-billion shillings investments will not only create more jobs for Tanzanians but also provide smallholder cereals farmers with an expanded market for

their produce. Currently, the brewer buys about 80 percent of its raw materials such as barley, maize and sorghum from a network of more than 400 farmers it has contracted across the country.

It is an undisputable fact that SBL which already is delivering on the government's industrialization agenda, it is also increasing taxes paid to Treasury with a contribution of about one percent of gross domestic product in 2018 when it

paid over 560bn/- in total value-added to the economy, according to a study conducted by Deloitte.

In his speech to launch the new spirit manufacturing factory in Moshi, PM Majaliwa commended the brewer for investing strategically to beat market competition. "I want to congratulate SBL for its commitment to support local farmers from whom you get 80 percent of the raw materials used in beer making locally," Majaliwa

said.

He said the smallholder farmers from Manyara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, Morogoro, Mara, Singida and Dodoma have an assured lucrative market hence SBL is supporting state efforts to modernise them. "I urge other companies to emulate SBL's efforts to ensure we create a robust and competitive economy to exploit the AfCFTA market," the PM noted.

The PM reiterated the government's commitment to come up with policies and regulations that support trade and increase investments in the country. "The government has made significant efforts to create a friendly environment for investment so as to encourage more manufacturing of goods locally," he stated while commending the brewer for continuing to create jobs.

Currently, SBL employs over 800 people directly across its three factories while thousands are employed indirectly across its value chain. They include bar staff, transporters, the farmers and owners of bars and restaurants selling SBL products countrywide.

The company has also invested heavily in community projects as part of its corporate social responsibility with Water of Life benefiting over two million rural dwellers who get clean tap water from its 21 projects across the country.

Through 'Kilimo-Viwanda' scholarships, the brewer is sponsoring over 70 students pursuing diploma in agriculture courses at various tertiary colleges in the country as part of efforts to back the state in training extension officers.



Njombe regional commissioner Marwa Rubirya.

## INVESTMENT

## Njombe RC cautions middlemen swindling farmers using manipulated weighing scales

By Guardian Reporter, Njombe

MIDDLEMEN who use manipulated weighing scales to cheat farmers in Njombe region have their days numbered as the law will soon visit them.

Njombe regional commissioner Marwa Rubirya directed officials at Weights and Measures Agency (WMA), to continue sensitizing the farmers and other consumers while also arresting and prosecuting the culprits.

"I also urge Weights and Measures Agency officials to continue with a campaign to educate farmers about correct measurements because many of them have been cheated by middle men who use manipulated weighing scales," he said while opening a sensitization seminar of stakeholders in Njombe town.

Rubirya said the sensitization campaign will help farmers sell their crops profitably because they will ensure use of only WMA verified which give real value for their commodities. "But you must also collaborate with other institutions to make sure they use legally approved packaging material for commodities such as sisal bags," the RC noted.

Seconding Rubirya's arguments, Special Seat lawmaker, Dr Pindi Chana said her office has collaborated with WMA to sensitize the farmers and other stakeholders on the importance of using legally acceptable weighing and measuring machines,

Dr Chana said the seminar involved 400 participants from Njombe, Wanging'ombe and Makete districts and also included business people, commodity traders. "This sensitization seminar by Weights and Measures Agency has come at the right time because the issue has been a very big challenge especially to Njombe in recent years," she noted.

In a presentation at the seminar, WMA Manager for Njombe Region, Henry Msambila said the agency has been doing verification of different weighing and measurement machines in the region with impromptu inspections aimed at tracking dishonest business people who temper with the machines to cheat consumers.

Msambila advised district councils in the country to set up special commodity market areas where farmers and traders will meet to conduct their business in the presence of all regulatory agencies. "At such designated market places, officials must make sure that all weighing and measuring machines are WMA approved," he stated.

He urged farmers to stop the habit of selling their crops while at their farms saying the tendency is illegal because apart from providing a conducive environment for middlemen to cheat them, it also denies the government revenues such as cess by the district councils.

## PESSIMISM

## S. Africa's petroleum industry warns refinery fleet could become obsolete

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's petroleum refinery capacity could become obsolete within two years, an industry body warned on Monday, as it looks to extend the timing of new government rules meant to reduce sulphur emissions from 2023 to a later date.

The South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA), which represents major oil companies, including BP and Shell that operate local refineries, has been in discussion with the government for years trying to resolve a stumbling block over financing the upgrade of six refineries to cleaner fuels.

In January, SAPIA warned that the impact of Covid-19 meant it was unlikely oil firms in South Africa would upgrade refineries at an estimated cost of \$3.9 billion, unless the government allowed them to pass the costs on to consumers or offered some sort of financial support. The government gazetted new Petroleum Products Specifications and Standards in August that mandate the use of ultra-low sulphur petrol and diesel products from September 1, 2023.

"SAPIA is of the view that the very short time frame provided for implementation is impossible to meet and will likely render the refinery fleet ob-

solete within two years," the industry body said in a statement.

SAPIA said it was in discussions with the Department of Energy to amend the regulations so that a "mutually acceptable" implementation date could be agreed, with a financial support mechanism key. "Without a financial support mechanism, it would be difficult to justify the refineries' upgrade," said SAPIA. Officials from the energy department did not immediately respond to queries.

Meanwhile South Africa will kick off its planned \$1 billion (R14.94 billion) investment in South Sudan's oil sector around November, an official said, part of a drive to boost crude output that's dwindled after years of conflict.

"They were supposed to be here last year but the issue of Covid-19 stopped everything," the undersecretary of South Sudan's Petroleum Ministry, Awow Daniel Chuang, said Monday by phone. He didn't give further details on how the agreement made in 2018 will be enacted.

Chuang also said his country will shortly resume talks with neighbouring Sudan on ways to increase output after Sudanese protesters ended a blockade that halted shipments of the landlocked south's oil over the weekend.

Revitalising oil production is crucial for the East African nation that has few other sources of revenue and is trying to implement a peace deal to end a civil war that erupted in 2013. Chuang said in July that the country's output has dropped rapidly after producing blocks hit peaks and began to decline.

Demonstrators in eastern Sudan had blocked shipping facilities for several days, ostensibly to protest local components of a peace deal Sudan's government is trying to enact with opposition movements nationwide. The move threatened the economies of both South Sudan, whose oil is sent to world markets via its neighbour's pipelines, and of fuel-importing Sudan, which receives transit fees.

**They were supposed to be here last year but the issue of Covid-19 stopped everything," the undersecretary of South Sudan's Petroleum Ministry, Awow Daniel Chuang, said Monday by phone**



## BULLISH

## Growth of Uganda's telecoms - modest but fast says regulator

KAMPALA

THE Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) says the country's telecommunications industry has registered modest growth across all major indicators.

According to the latest market performance report, fixed and mobile telephone subscriptions grew by 600, 000 from 28.3 million to 28.9 million, a growth rate of 2%, while internet subscriptions grew by 352, 000 from 21.5 million to 21.9 million, also equivalent to 2% growth. The UCC report said the growth in telephone subscriptions has pushed Uganda's tele-density to 68%, up from 67% in March 2021.

This growth translates into a national telephone penetration of almost 7 lines for every 10 Ugandans, despite the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) data showing that more than 60% of the population is less than 18 years old.

Market research by the UCC stated that almost 29 million active subscriptions translates into a penetration of almost 2 lines for each of the 16.8 million adults in Uganda (above 18 years). As for broadband connectivity, the report said a year-on-year comparison shows that three million new broadband subscriptions were recorded between June 2020 and June 2021, a 16% year-on-year growth.

It said the nearly 22 million broadband subscriptions translate into a broadband penetration of 1 internet connection for every 2 people adding that by extension, that is equivalent to an active connection for every 1 of the 17 million adults aged above 18 years in Uganda.

"It should be noted however, that the new-work-from home and online study arrangements especially in the urban centres, may mean that a few homes account for multiple data SIMs skewing the general internet penetration landscape," the report said.



RESENTMENT

# Google slams antitrust regulators for ignoring Apple

BRUSSELS

GOOGLE on Monday criticised EU antitrust regulators for ignoring rival Apple as it launched a bid to get Europe's second highest court to annul a record €4.3-billion fine related to its Android operating system.

Far from holding back rivals and harming users, Android has been a massive success story of competition at work, representatives of Google told a panel of five judges at the general court in Luxembourg at the start of a five-day hearing.

The European Commission fined Google in 2018, saying that it had used Android since 2011 to thwart rivals and cement its dominance in general Internet search. "The commission shut its eyes to the real competitive dynamic in this industry, that between Apple and Android," Google's lawyer, Matthew Pickford, told the court.

"By defining markets too narrowly and downplaying the potent constraint imposed by the highly powerful Apple, the commission has mistakenly found Google to be dominant in mobile operating systems and app stores, when it was in fact a vigorous market disrupter," he said. Pickford said Android "is an exceptional success story of the power of competition in action."

**'Different models'**

Commission lawyer Nicholas Khan dismissed Apple's role because of its small market share compared with Android. "Bringing Apple into the picture doesn't change things very much. Google and Apple pursue different models," he told the court.

"Google's conduct denied any opportunity for competition," he said, citing agreements which forced phone manufacturers to pre-install Google Search, the Chrome browser and the Google Play app store on their Android devices, and payments to pre-install only Google Search.

Android, free for device makers to use, is found on about 80% of the world's smartphones. The case is the most important of the European Union's three cases against Google because of Android's market power. Google has racked up more than €8-billion in EU antitrust fines in the last decade.

German phone maker Gigaset Communications, which is backing Google, said its success was due to Android's open platform and lamented the negative impact of the commission's decision on its business. "The licence fee for the Play Store that Google now charges as a result of the contested decision represents a significant portion of the price of Gigaset's smartphones aimed at price-sensitive consumers," its lawyer, Jean-François Bellis, told the court. Lobbying group FairSearch, whose complaint triggered the commission case, was however scathing



A Google application is displayed on a smartphone.

about Google's tactics with phone makers. "Google adopted a classic bait-and-switch strategy. It hooked them on a supposedly free

and open-source operating system subsidised by its search monopoly, only to shut that system to competition through the web of restrictions at

issue in this case," its lawyer, Thomas Vinje, told the court. A verdict may come next year.

RECORD

## Brent rises to highest since 2018 on global signs of energy crisis

NEW YORK

BRENT closed at the highest in nearly three years amid signs the crude market is rapidly tightening from a global energy crunch.

The global benchmark crude surged 1.8% on Monday, but met some resistance as it neared the key, psychological \$80-a-barrel level. Its US counterpart rose 2% to close above \$75 a barrel for the first time since July.

Both benchmarks are set to continue climbing as supply struggles to catch up with fast-rising demand, according to Trafigura Group's co-head of oil trading Ben Luckock. His remarks came as Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said Brent could hit \$90 by year-end as the market is in a bigger deficit than many realise.

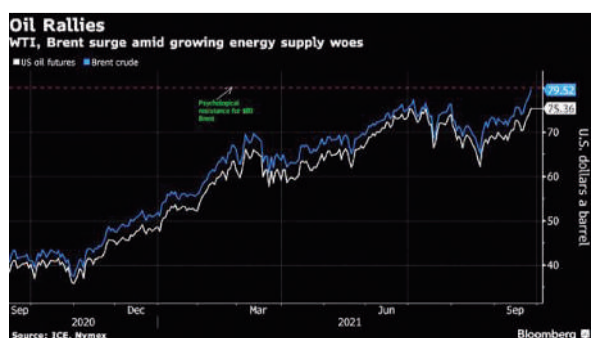
Brent failed to break \$80 because some speculators were taking profits, said Bob Yawger, director of the futures division at Mizuho Securities. "We should look for the market to reload and give the \$80 level another shot in coming days."

Crude is rallying on signs that inventories globally are falling sharply, with demand heating up ahead of winter and OPEC+ only slowly adding barrels back to the market. As traders eye the prospect of large market deficits, Trafigura said longer-dated oil prices remain cheap at around \$70 a barrel. So-called timespreads, which gauge market strength, have rallied sharply in recent weeks in another sign that traders are positive about the outlook.

"Observable inventory draws are the largest on record," Goldman Sachs analysts including Damien Courvalin wrote in a note to clients. "This deficit will not be reversed in coming months, in our view, as its scale will overwhelm both the willingness and ability of OPEC+ to ramp up." WTI's front-month contract traded at the biggest premium to its second-month in nearly two months.

Meanwhile, OPEC+ is scheduled to meet on October 4 to review its output policy. Internal documents from the group have already highlighted the risk of the natural gas crisis ramping up demand. World oil consumption could be boosted by an additional 370 000 barrels a day – roughly 6% of expected growth – if gas prices stay high for an extended period, according to the group. US natural gas futures rose for a third straight session on Monday as inventory levels stayed low ahead of the heating season.

**Brent failed to break \$80 because some speculators were taking profits, said Bob Yawger, director of the futures division at Mizuho Securities**



Brent price surging graph.

# UZALO

## MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

TUESDAY 21 Sept		WEDNESDAY 22 Sept		THURSDAY 23 Sept		FRIDAY 24 Sept		SATURDAY 25 Sept		SUNDAY 26 Sept	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo	8:00	Kumekucha Michozo	8:00	Kumekucha Michozo	8:00	Kumekucha Michozo	8:00	Kumekucha Michozo	8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo	9:30	Soap: Uzalo	9:30	Soap: Uzalo	9:30	Soap: Uzalo	9:30	Soap: Uzalo	9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
10:25	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu	10:25	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu	10:25	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu	10:25	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu	10:25	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu	10:25	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu
10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt	11:00	The Base rpt	11:00	The Base rpt	11:00	The Base rpt	11:00	The Base rpt	11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Afya ya jami	12:30	Afya ya jami	12:30	Afya ya jami	12:30	Afya ya jami	12:30	Afya ya jami	12:30	Afya ya jami
12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt
13:40	Shika Bamba rpt	13:40	Shika Bamba rpt	13:40	Shika Bamba rpt	13:40	Shika Bamba rpt	13:40	Shika Bamba rpt	13:40	Shika Bamba rpt
13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Shika Bamba rpt	14:00	Shika Bamba rpt	14:00	Shika Bamba rpt	14:00	Shika Bamba rpt	14:00	Shika Bamba rpt	14:00	Shika Bamba rpt
14:15	Makala Maalum	14:15	Makala Maalum	14:15	Makala Maalum	14:15	Makala Maalum	14:15	Makala Maalum	14:15	Makala Maalum
14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto wetu	16:30	Watoto wetu	16:30	Watoto wetu	16:30	Watoto wetu	16:30	Watoto wetu	16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Yu wapi	18:10	Yu wapi	18:10	Yu wapi	18:10	Yu wapi	18:10	Yu wapi	18:10	Yu wapi
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30	Uchumi na biashara	18:30	Uchumi na biashara	18:30	Uchumi na biashara	18:30	Uchumi na biashara	18:30	Uchumi na biashara	18:30	Uchumi na biashara
19:00	Jarida la wanawake	19:00	Jarida la wanawake	19:00	Jarida la wanawake	19:00	Jarida la wanawake	19:00	Jarida la wanawake	19:00	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
21:15	Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu	21:15	Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu	21:15	Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu	21:15	Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu	21:15	Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu	21:15	Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu
21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu	21:45	Chetu ni chetu
22:25	Makala Maalum	22:25	Makala Maalum	22:25	Makala Maalum	22:25	Makala Maalum	22:25	Makala Maalum	22:25	Makala Maalum
23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV

### CAPITAL

**Mon 20 Sept**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)  
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
16:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
17:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
18:30 The Monday Agenda rpt

**Tues 21 Sept**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)  
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
16:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
17:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
18:30 The Monday Agenda rpt

**Wed 22 Sept**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)  
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
16:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
17:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
18:30 The Monday Agenda rpt

**Thurs 23 Sept**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)  
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
16:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
17:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
18:30 The Monday Agenda rpt

**Frid 24 Sept**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)  
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
16:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
17:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
18:30 The Monday Agenda rpt

**Sat 25 Sept**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)  
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
16:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
17:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
18:30 The Monday Agenda rpt

**Sun 26 Sept**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)  
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death  
16:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
17:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love  
18:30 The Monday Agenda rpt



## WORLD

## World 'cannot neglect Taliban government' though no Afghan speaker at general debate

HONG KONG

THOUGH no speaker from Afghanistan could address the General Debate of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly as scheduled, the Taliban government cannot be neglected for the sake of Afghan people, said state leaders, officials and experts at and outside UN.

Ghulam Isacqai, UN ambassador of the pre-Taliban Afghan government, withdrew his name from the list of speakers on Sunday though he was due to address the last day of the meeting on Monday.

Amir Khan Muttaqi, acting foreign minister of Taliban caretaker government, has asked to address the UN general debate and nominated their Doha-based spokesman Suhail Shaheen as Afghanistan ambassador to the UN. But the nomination has yet to pass the nine-member credentials committee, which include the United States, China and Russia.

Isacqai remains in the seat at least until the committee meets in the next meeting and makes a decision. He tweeted Monday that the withdrawal from speaking is "to preserve the national interests, preserve the seat of Afghanistan in the United Nations and to continue long-term cooperation with United Nations and Security Council on main issues."

"To my mind," said Salman Bashir, former foreign secretary of Pakistan, "it is the state and

the interim government in Kabul speaks now for the state".

Imtiaz Gul, executive director of the Center for Research and Security Studies in Pakistan, also said it is legitimate for Taliban to ask to address the meeting as one cannot represent a country "if a government does not exist or is gone".

The Taliban caretaker government deserves attention and engagement with other countries, according to speakers from several countries. In a virtual address to the 76th session of the UNGA on Saturday, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan urged the United Nations General Assembly to mobilize the international community to extend financial assistance to Afghanistan during the current crisis.

"If we neglect Afghanistan right now, according to the UN, half the people of Afghanistan are already vulnerable, and by next year almost 90 percent of the people in Afghanistan will go below the poverty line," he said.

"There is a huge humanitarian crisis looming ahead. And this will have serious repercussions not just for the neighbors of Afghanistan but everywhere."

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, encouraged the international community to keep engaged with the Taliban in Afghanistan and support the people in the country, stressing the importance of "separating between humanitarian aid and political dif-



A member of staff directs drivers in a queue for fuel at a closed Sainsbury's petrol station in south London on Sunday. AP

ferences."

"It's also important to continue dialogue with the Taliban," he said on the first day of the general debate. "Boycotting them would only lead to polarization and reactions, whereas dialogue could be fruitful." The Qatari emir's speech was important because "it reiterated the emerging regional consensus that the Afghan Taliban leadership should be recognized, engaged and supported," said Farhan Mujahid Chak, Associate Professor of Political Science for Gulf Studies at Qatar University.

He said the only potential obstacle is whether the regional and outside players sincerely cooperate with one another to stabilize Afghanistan, and not undermine each other's efforts.

It is crucial to prevent renewed violence, a humanitarian crisis, new refugee waves and a rapid descent into further instability, Chak said. He noted all of Afghanistan's immediate neighbors have achieved a broad-based consensus

on how to move forward, and that includes separating politics from the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. India Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address at the UN General Assembly on Saturday, also called upon the international community to help Afghanistan.

"World must fulfill its duty by providing help to the people in war-torn Afghanistan where women, children and minorities are in need," he said, adding it was imperative the country will not be used as a base to spread terror.

It is impossible to achieve the political process in Afghanistan without the Taliban's cooperation, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Saturday told a press conference at the UN headquarters in New York.

The Security Council resolutions have a need to advance the political process in Afghanistan, he said. Russia has moved "to facilitate the inter-Afghan reconciliation and inter-Afghan political process," he added. **Xinhua and agencies**

## Biden gets COVID-19 vaccine booster shot

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden on Monday received his COVID-19 vaccine booster shot on camera at the White House.

"Boosters are important, but the most important thing we need to do is get more people vaccinated," Biden said before getting his booster shot.

About 23 percent of eligible Americans haven't gotten any shot, said the president.

Some 20 million Americans are eligible for a third shot of the Pfizer vaccine, according to a CNN report.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last week recommended Pfizer boosters for older adults, long-term care facility residents, some people with underlying health conditions and adults at increased risk of COVID-19 because of their jobs. **Xinhua**



U.S. President Joe Biden is seen on a screen as he receives his COVID-19 vaccine booster shot in Washington, D.C., the United States, on Monday. Biden received his COVID-19 vaccine booster shot on camera at the White House. Xinhua

## Putin, Erdogan to meet in Sochi to discuss Syria, Afghanistan and Transcaucasia

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan were expected to meet in Sochi for talks today. They will discuss trading-economic partnership and the situations in Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and Transcaucasia, the Kremlin's press service said.

"There will be talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan," the news release runs.

The Kremlin said that the two leaders would look at "various aspects of Russian-Turkish partnership in the political, trading and economic fields."

"There will be a detailed exchange of opinion on crucial world issues, including the situations in Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and Transcaucasia," the presidential press service said.

Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier told the media that during Erdogan's visit a very vast agenda might be touched upon - from bilateral relations to Syria and other regional conflicts.

For his part, Erdogan said in August that during his forthcoming visit to Russia he hoped to discuss the details of purchasing a second regiment of air defense systems S-400.

The two leaders held their latest face-to-face meeting in the Kremlin in March 2020, when Erdogan was in Russia on a working visit. Amid the world novel coronavirus pandemic all further talks between them were by telephone or video link in both bilateral and multilateral formats.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin

## New Zealand amends compensation scheme to cover birth injuries for women

WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND'S Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) legislation will cover maternal childbirth injuries, under proposed changes revealed on Tuesday to improve and strengthen maternity services.

The government is improving equity and health outcomes for women through amending ACC legislation and an updated Maternity Action Plan, Minister for ACC Carmel Sepuloni said in a statement. About 85 percent of women in New Zealand experience an injury when giving birth. A small number of these injuries are severe and share similar features to other physical injuries covered by ACC so it's only fair that they are covered too, Sepuloni said.

collaborative governance in addressing global environmental issues, including climate change and land degradation.

The ecological civilization forum at the COP15 will include special thematic sub-forums on responding to climate change and protecting biodiversity.

China, one of the countries with the richest biodiversity in the world, has earnestly fulfilled the duties of the government on promoting the realization of the Aichi Targets, with its overall performance in reaching the goals exceeding the world's average. **People's Daily**

## UK puts army drivers on standby to tackle widening fuel crisis

BY BLOOMBERG

THE UK officially put the military on standby to help deliver supplies to gasoline stations in an effort to stem a widening crisis that's engulfed Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government.

A "limited number" of army tanker drivers will be trained up in case they're needed, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy said late on Monday. Non-military holders of specialized licenses that allow them to drive hazardous substances will also have their permits extended.

It's the latest emergency measure as the government attempts to get control of supply chain ructions that have drained petrol pumps, emptied some supermarket shelves and disrupted business.

At the weekend, Johnson announced 5,000 new visas for foreign truck drivers in a U-turn on his longstanding Brexit policy. The government then suspended competition rules to allow suppliers to share information and coordinate deliveries to forecourts.

"If required, the deployment of military personnel will provide the supply chain with additional capacity as a temporary measure to help ease pressures caused by spikes in localized demand for fuel," Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said in a statement. Earlier yesterday, the Petrol Retailers Association said some of its members in England have all but run out of fuel.

A group of companies including BP Plc, Shell UK, and Esso say they expect demand



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

to ease in the coming days and there's no shortage of fuel at refineries and terminals.

While the government has sought to blame the crisis on the surge in demand caused by an economic rebound from the coronavirus pandemic,

petent, in denial, careless and chaotic," Rachel Reeves, Labour's finance spokeswoman, said at the party's conference in Brighton. "They are responsible for all this mess."

Johnson's government has already called in army examiners to help increase the availability of civilian truck-driving tests.

Mobilizing the military further would be a political gamble for Johnson, who must balance the need to sort the supply chain issue quickly with the risk of causing more panic.

For now, the government is waiting to see if its measures will address the problem, a person familiar with the matter said earlier.

The current expectation is that army drivers won't be needed, the person said. **Agencies**

## Japan PM candidates make last-minute appeals before LDP poll

TOKYO

THE four candidates running to become the next Japanese prime minister made their last-minute appeals for support yesterday, with vaccination minister Taro Kono and former foreign minister Fumio Kishida having a higher possibility of winning the election, according to a Kyodo News survey.

The result of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader election is expected to come out today afternoon, and the winner will replace Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who has served as the president of the

LDP amid a battered economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The winner in Wednesday's election will become the public face of the LDP in the lower house election this fall.

Former communications minister Sanae Takaichi and former gender equality minister Seiko Noda are female contenders of the election. Due to a COVID-19 state of emergency in Tokyo and other areas, both of them have mostly utilized virtual meetings to gain support during the campaigning.

Kono, a leader with reform-minded policies, is one of the leading candidates winning



Yoshihide Suga

support from relatively young LDP lawmakers and rank-and-file party members, as he is popular among the public. He promised to reform the pen-

sion system in Japan and promote digitalization.

Kishida, who heads the LDP's liberal-leaning faction, garners support from many veteran lawmakers, but some view him as lacking wider public appeal. He pledged to make sure that ordinary people could enjoy the benefits of growth under his idea of "a new form of capitalism."

Takaichi, who gained support from former prime minister Shinzo Abe, is expected to receive votes from hawkish nationalists within the LDP. She focused on bold monetary easing and investment in crisis management and growth

areas.

Noda, who struggled to garner the necessary nominations from 20 LDP lawmakers to join the race, has been scrambling to broaden her support base. She placed her priority on the care of the vulnerable such as children and the disabled.

According to opinion polls, economic policy should be of the highest priority for the next prime minister, and the candidates spent hours explaining how their policies regarding COVID-19 fallout would be different from each other and also the Suga administration. **Xinhua**

## Preparations for upcoming CBD COP15 basically completed - MEE

CHINA is ready to host the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), according to a press conference held by China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) on Sept. 23.

The meeting will be convened in two parts in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan province, with one being slated to take place from Oct. 11 to 15 this year and the other in the first half of 2022, according to Cui Shuhong, director of the office of the executive committee of the meeting and head of the department of nature and

ecology conservation of the MEE.

The meeting is expected to summarize the experience of countries in biodiversity conservation and draw a blueprint for global biodiversity governance in the next ten years, disclosed Cui, who called the meeting the most special and longest one among all COP meetings.

The theme of the COP15 is "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth", which marks the first time that a meeting of the COP to U.N. environmental

convention makes ecological civilization its theme.

By adopting the theme, organizers of the meeting aim to highlight the idea of building a community of life for man and nature and the importance of respecting nature, following the laws of nature, and protecting nature, said Huang Runqiu, minister of the MEE, adding that the theme demonstrates China's determination to curb biodiversity loss and promote the harmonious coexistence of man and nature together with the international community.

Preparations for the first

part of the meeting to take place next month are carried out orderly as planned. The agenda of the part of the meeting has been basically determined.

It will mainly include an opening ceremony, leaders' speeches, high-level meetings, and general proceedings. Kunming Declaration, an initiative to jointly build a global ecological civilization and protect global biodiversity, will be released. An ecological civilization forum and other activities and exhibitions will also be held during the meeting.

Representatives to participate in the meeting online or offline are busy registering for the event.

Secretariat of the meeting will also hold many parallel activities around and during the event, including the ecological civilization forum to be held from Oct. 14 to 15, the only parallel activity of the meeting to be held offline, which is expected to gather guests from across the world. The closing ceremony of the first part of the meeting will be held on Oct. 15.

The team responsible for

preparations for the COP15 has established a mechanism for coordinating work with that of the team making preparations for hosting the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is scheduled to be held in the U.K. in November. The agenda of the COP15 has taken into full consideration the topics of the latter.

For example, one of the four round table discussions of the high-level meetings of the COP15 will focus on promoting biodiversity conservation and



# Post-Merkel era takes shape after nail-biting election in Germany

BERLIN

GERMANY'S center-left Social Democratic Party (SDP) has won the country's federal election, beating the party of outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel, according to provisional results released early Monday morning.

This came after Merkel, who has been the German chancellor for nearly 16 years, announced in 2018 that she would not seek a fifth term, and followed nail-biting campaigns by major parties this year.

Though Merkel's era is coming to an end, the Iron Lady's legacy is widely expected to remain consequential, as her political wisdom of championing pragmatism and multilateralism continues to be valuable and insightful in guiding Germany's future relations with Europe and the rest of the world.

## TIGHT RACE

The SDP won Sunday's elections with 25.7 percent of the vote, while the conservative union of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its sister party Christian Social Union (CSU) took 24.1 percent, the results showed.

The SDP's share of the vote surged by 5.2 percentage points from four years ago while the CDU/CSU union's share is 8.9 percentage points lower than in the last election.

Olaf Scholz, the SPD's chancellor candidate and also incumbent vice-chancellor and finance minister,

received applause from his party in the SPD's headquarters in Berlin after the preliminary exit poll had projected the leading position of his party. "I'm happy to see so many here and of course I'm happy about the election result," he said.

With Annalena Baerbock as chancellor candidate, the Greens garnered 14.8 percent of the vote, making it the third-largest political faction in the parliament, followed by the business-friendly Free Democratic Party (FDP) and the far-right and Eurosceptic party Alternative fuer Deutschland (AfD), according to the Federal Returning Officer.

Many observers have predicted that various three-party coalitions -- the "traffic-light" coalition between the SPD, Greens and the FDP, and the "Jamaica" alliance comprising CDU/CSU, Greens and the FDP -- among others are conceivable.

Both Scholz and his main rival, Armin Laschet, the CDU/CSU chancellor candidate and also minister-president of the North Rhine-Westphalia state, have expressed the wish to get the negotiations on forming a new government done speedily.

## MERKEL'S LEGACY

During her tenure, Merkel has brought economic prosperity to Germany by shaking off the tag of "sick man of Europe" and helping the country achieve a national budget balance and almost full employment before the pandemic.

"Those were 16 good years for



Chancellor candidate of Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) Olaf Scholz (L) attends a rally at the SPD headquarters in Berlin, Germany, Sept. 26, 2021. Xinhua

Germany," Laschet said on Sunday evening, praising Merkel's contributions. Merkel kept her composure when facing the European debt crisis a decade ago by imposing austerity measures on financially weak member countries of the eurozone. When a refugee crisis got worse in 2015, she displayed stoic calm and strength, saying: "We can do this."

An advocate of multilateralism and win-win diplomacy, Merkel had strongly criticized America's isolationism and some of its other controversial policies and measures, standing for cooperation among countries to address common challenges, such as climate change, anti-globalization, inequality, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Merkel has also been committed to promoting friendly and pragmatic

exchanges and cooperation between Germany and China. As a result, the bilateral relations have witnessed steadfast development, with trade and economic cooperation as a highlight.

Official statistics show that China has been Germany's largest trading partner since 2016, with two-way trade amounting to around 248.4 billion U.S. dollars in 2020, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an interview with Xinhua, former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder urged the next government to keep a pragmatic China policy. Professor Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer, director of CAR Center Automotive Research Duisburg, expressed confidence that the Germany-China relations can continue to be shaped in a sensible way.

## CHALLENGES AHEAD

Despite their various divergences, the German parties have a lot in common in their policy priorities in such areas as environment, economy, and security, offering a glimpse of major domestic challenges for Merkel's successor.

Earlier this year, Merkel's cabinet agreed on a climate plan aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. Scholz and Annalena Baerbock, the chancellor candidate of The Greens, have both expressed support for tackling climate change.

Thiess Petersen, senior adviser at the German Bertelsmann Foundation, told Xinhua that he thinks the new government should take up three major tasks immediately when it comes to economic policy -- transforming the economy to a climate-neutral one, reducing rising debt, and dealing with demographic change.

For over a decade, Germany has been playing an essential role in the European Union (EU) as well as in multinational frameworks, with Merkel's stewardship as a key factor.

As Merkel is to exit from power, Brussels is expected to wait until a new German government is formed before making major decisions, such as approving a package of measures to counter climate change. Paris is reportedly concerned that a stand-off in Berlin could put a strain on the French presidency of the EU Council beginning early next year. Xinhua

Russia is not going to use gas as instrument of pressure -- Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is not going to use gas to put pressure on other countries, Ukraine in particular, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"No, this is not true. Russia has never used, does not use, and does not plan to use gas to punish anyone," he said. Peskov added that Russia is an absolute guarantor of Europe's energy security. "Russia has been and remains an absolute guarantor of energy security of the whole European continent," he said.

"Russia uses gas exclusively in its own interests, in the interests of our people, to increase the welfare of Russians, and exclusively on a commercial basis," Peskov added. "Using gas this way also fully corresponds to the interests of consumers in Europe and also countries that provide opportunities for gas transit if such transit is economically viable," he noted. The Kremlin spokesman drew attention to the fact that the contract between Russia and Hungary is concluded on the most favorable economic conditions.

On Monday, Hungary signed a new long-term contract with Gazprom to supply gas bypassing Ukraine. Before the agreement was concluded, Kiev announced its disappointment with the deal and promised to apply to the European Commission for an assessment of the deal's compliance with European energy legislation.

# Chinese scientists succeed in synthesizing starch using CO2

HAVE you ever imagined that one day people don't need to grow grain in soil, but can manufacture it in a workshop? Today, the seemingly impossible imagination is becoming possible.

Scientists at the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences, recently realized artificial synthesis of starch from carbon dioxide (CO2) in a lab for the first time in the world, a major breakthrough in synthesizing starch.

The research result was published online on international academic journal Science on Sept. 24.

"The breakthrough means we will be able to use CO2 as the raw material and produce the starch we need in a manufacturing shop through a process similar to brewing beer," said Ma Yanhe, director general of the TIIB.

As the principal component of grain and an important industrial raw material, starch is currently produced mainly by crops, which turn sunlight, CO2 and water into starch through photosynthesis.

Researchers have been trying to improve the life process of photosynthesis for long, hoping to increase the utilization efficiency of CO2 and light energy and eventually make starch production more efficient.

Researchers at the TIIB have pioneered a pathway to artificial synthesis of starch from CO2 and hydrogen produced through electrolysis of water. Consisting of 11 core biochemical reactions, the pathway is about 8.5 times faster than corn in producing starch.

From the perspective of energy conversion, photosynthesis is the process in which



Cai Tao, an associate research fellow at the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, shows starch synthesized at a lab. File photo

green plants turn the energy obtained from sunlight into chemical energy stored in starch. Therefore, how to efficiently turn light energy into chemical energy and store it became the key to the success in artificial synthesis of starch.

"We thought of turning light energy into electric energy first and eventually chemical energy," said Wang Qinhong, deputy director general of the TIIB.

"First of all, we turn light energy into electric energy through photovoltaic power generation and produce hydrogen through electrolysis of water using the electric energy.

Then we use the hydrogen and catalyst to reduce CO2 to methanol, thus converting electric energy into chemical energy in methanol. The energy conversion efficiency in the process exceeds 10 percent, which is far more than the energy utilization efficiency of photosynthesis," said Wang.

The life process of synthesizing starch from methanol does not exist in nature. According to Wang, to realize the process artificially, the key is to create enzymes that don't exist in nature.

The research team of the TIIB dug into and modified 62 enzymes from 31 different species, and selected the 10 most suitable ones to turn methanol into starch.

The pathway can synthesize not only digestible amylopectin, but also amylose, which is digested more slowly and doesn't result in a rapid increase in blood glucose.

"After analyses and identification, the sample of the synthetic starch is the same as natural starch in terms of composition and physical and chemical properties," said Cai Tao, an associate research fellow at the TIIB.

Based on the current technical parameters, the annual starch production of a bio-reactor with the size of one cubic meter under sufficient

energy supply is theoretically as much as that of about 0.3 hectares of cornfields in China, according to the research team.

The research result makes possible the transformation of starch production from the traditional agricultural mode to an industrial one, and offers a new technical route to synthesizing complex molecules with CO2 as a raw material, Ma said.

Experts estimated that if its cost can be reduced to a level that is comparable to the economic viability of starch production through agricultural means, the starch synthesis method will be likely to save more than 90 percent of farmland and fresh water resources, prevent the negative impacts of pesticides and chemical fertilizers on the environment, improve food security, and promote the development of biological economy that helps mankind achieve carbon neutrality.

People's Daily

# Wang Yi meets with UN chief via video link

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday met with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres via video link.

Wang said China has always attached great importance to its cooperation with the United Nations (UN) and the country has been a staunch supporter and contributor to the UN's cause over the past 50 years.

"We will continue to firmly uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the international system with the UN at its core, and support the UN in playing its due role in international affairs," he said.

Noting the changes and uncertainty the world is facing, Wang said China firmly opposes any words and deeds that create divisions and advocate the Cold War, and will make new contributions to the cause of peace and development of humankind.

Wang said China welcomes the active participation of all parties into the Global Development Initiative to form international consensus and take common actions.

Guterres hailed China's long-term firm support for multilateralism and the UN's core position.

He said the UN is ready to work closely with China to uphold and practice multilateralism, advocate international relations based on mutual respect, and jointly tackle global challenges, especially to promote the international community to provide greater support and assistance to developing countries in recovering from COVID-19 and tack-

ling climate change. The two sides also exchanged views on China-US relations.

The US side recently indicated that it does not want confrontation or Cold War and expressed hopes that bilateral relations will return to the right track, Wang said. He pointed out that the key is to put the words into concrete action and bring its China policy back to a rational and pragmatic track.

Wang on Monday also met with the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Jens Stoltenberg via video link upon invitation, expressing China's willingness to continue dialogue with NATO on the basis of equality and mutual respect to promote the sound and steady development of relationship.

Wang said the key to promoting ties lies in adopting correct perceptions towards each other.

There is no need for the Asia-Pacific region to establish any new military bloc, neither should there be confrontation instigated among major countries or any "small circle" be formed aimed at inciting a new Cold War, he said.

Wang said NATO should stay committed to its original geographical location,



This combo photo shows Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. (PHOTOS / XINHUA & AP)

and play a constructive role in regional peace, stability and development.

Noting that NATO does not view China as a rival, Stoltenberg said the organization is willing to develop a constructive relationship with China based on mutual respect with no preconditions attached.

The two sides also exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan.

Both parties deemed the virtual meeting positive and constructive, pledging to continue communications, improve the quality of dialogue and advance pragmatic cooperation.

Xinhua



**The US side recently indicated that it does not want confrontation or Cold War and expressed hopes that bilateral relations will return to the right track**

# UN: Myanmar faces humanitarian crisis

UNITED NATIONS

MYANMAR is facing a humanitarian crisis with about 3 million people requiring assistance, said UN humanitarian officials on Monday.

The crisis was exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 and events following the detention of political leaders by the military in the country on Feb 1. Of the 3 million people that need humanitarian assistance, 2 million people were identified

since Feb 1, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The most vulnerable remain families living in urban and peri-urban areas, mainly in Yangon and Mandalay, as well as people affected by conflict in southeastern and western Myanmar, said OCHA.

More than 220,000

people have been internally displaced due to armed clashes as well as overall insecurity since Feb 1. The areas most affected include Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayah and Kayin states and adjacent townships in Sagaing and Magway, it said.

While some families have returned to their places of origin, many continue to live in pre-

carious conditions, including make-shift jungles and remote areas, often without access to basic services, including shelter and non-food items.

The situation in Rakhine State remains calm, although the situation remains dire. Food insecurity is becoming an evolving concern, with reports of food shortage

in displacement sites and communities in northern Shan and Rakhine states, said OCHA.

The COVID-19 pandemic remains deeply concerning.

As of Friday, more than 455,000 cases and 17,000 deaths have been reported. It is likely that the numbers are higher due to low testing capacity in-country, it said.

The United Nations and humanitarian partners have been working to respond to the impacts of the ongoing displacement, growing food insecurity and COVID-19.

However, continued challenges in accessing people in need remain a fundamental challenge due to ongoing insecurity, bureaucratic impediments and disruptions to

the banking systems/cash liquidity issues, it said.

Despite the challenges, the humanitarian response continues. Since May, the World Food Programme has supported more than 800,000 vulnerable people in its large-scale urban food response in Yangon peri-urban areas, said OCHA.

The 2021 humanitarian response plan for Myanmar, which requires \$276.5 million, is 47 percent funded, it said.



# SPORT

## Dar visual artist revels in achievements



Visual artist, Mhelepu Shillingi, showcases some of her recent artworks at East Point Cafe in Dar es Salaam. Mhelepu now gets orders for her works from various customers. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Dar es Salaam

TANZANIAN visual artist, Mhelepu Shillingi, has risen to fame thanks to her skilful works that have been posted on social media.

Mhelepu's works drawn by pencil are currently trending on social media, being touted as best pictures, they have attracted over 100 customers at her workplace at East Point Cafe in Dar es Salaam.

The 24-year-old graduate from the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) to The Guardian her recent success has brought about an increase in the price of her pictures.

Mhelepu stated her pictures, which were earlier sold at US dollars 300 each, lately sell at US dollars 400 each.

She pointed out that she has accessed an opportunity to showcase her works at the cafe.

She disclosed in the past she did not earn much from the works' sales because of the few numbers of customers.

She said she appreciates the cafe's owner, Nadifa Abdallah, for giving her the chance to improve her life.

She called for other cafes owners to support young girls with not only

fine arts talents but also girls that can do other income-earning activities to do away with financial constraints.

"Drawing pictures by pencil was hardly my plan but the scarcity of facilities pushed me into the career," Mhelepu disclosed.

"I can draw coloured pictures, my fellow Tanzanians should support my initiative because I want to enter the world market as I have international business skills," she pointed out.

She mentioned Nadifa as her role model towards her efforts to be financially stable through increasing daily income at the latter's cafe.

Mhelepu disclosed she will be a successful artist if she is to access material and moral support.

"Apart from Nadifa's support, I do appreciate special seat MPs, who declared me as an ambassador for young girls in visual arts," she added.

Nadifa said her cafe can accommodate over 100 customers, hence she found an opportunity to welcome Mhelepu to perform her activities.

"I appreciate her works as customers are interested in them and enjoy them since she can, for instance, draw a person's portrait while he or she is drinking within few minutes," she said.

Hawa Biogwa, a Dar es Salaam-based journalist, one of the women committed to empowering young ladies' talents, stated Mhelepu has a unique talent as she daily thinks of moving from using pencils to draw pictures to creating coloured pictures.

"There's an improvement of her ideas compared to the time we met each other, today she plans to shift from pencil pictures to coloured pictures, aiming at capturing the world market," she said.

## Tanzania, Germany to construct Jurassic period's historical site at National Museum

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Dar es Salaam

TANZANIA and German governments, through the departments of antiquities, have agreed to excavate and gather remaining fossils and data of the Jurassic period's species historically available at Tendaguru in Kilwa District.

The Jurassic period's species disappeared over 500 million years after continents' division.

The decision was reached after the two countries agreed to strengthen tourism activities particularly promoting the history of the Jurassic generation since Germany's colonial era in the then Tanganyika.

The initiative as well aims at assisting educationists to access reliable materials in a school setting, as from 1909-1913 German geologists had written about seven sauro-pods.

Amandus Kwekason, Head of Antiquities Division at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, pointed out the government, through his department, has already collected historical facts about Tendaguru and the protection of the site.

"The historical site where fossils have been excavated is covered by thick forest and accommodates dangerous lions thus preventing the government from making the area an accessible tourist site," Kwekason revealed.

"There are no other attractions in the area hence government will construct memorial tower but more information and some remains which will be found there will be moved to the National Museum in Dar es Salaam," he added.

He said in 1909 Germany shipped over 250 tons of fossils' bones to Berlin where the country's government constructed a memorial Jurassic period statue measuring 22 meters in length and 15 meters in height, the project made Germany a popular center for accessing the information on reptile species.

"The government plans to construct the same memorial statue in Dar es Salaam as the one found in Berlin, besides Tendaguru species, the place has omnivore type that has been listed number nine out of other fossils of the same type excavated in Argentina, and Egypt," he said.

Kwekason disclosed the species have turned out to be unique history in Tanzania.

The official noted hopefully the species will be useful in academic matters and tourism, adding that crocodiles are the remaining species left under this category.

Kilwa North's Member of Parliament, Francis Ndulane, associated the excavation of the Jurassic period's fossils with the promotion of coastal areas' tourist attractions.

According to the MP, the attractions' promotion stands to increase government revenue via foreign exchange.

"Kilwa is among the coastal district, which is blessed with various tourist attractions compared to Tendaguru, there are some historical sites left by Germany's colonial masters, which are to be developed to get foreign exchange via tourism and serving as a center for practical learning for our students," Ndulane disclosed.

Plasido Goliama, a Dar es Salaam-based Geography teacher, appreciated the construction of a historical site for early reptile species at the National Museum.

Plasido stated the initiative will create meaningful learning than having students banking on theory because it will be easy for students to understand written documents given the remains will be available.

The teacher pointed out: "I use lots of energy to explain Jurassic period species to my students because I can't find the sample for fossils, which will soon be available at our National Museum, I thank the authorities for it."

## SPORTS

## Biashara United FC seeks to scale great heights in top-flight

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE 2021/22 Mainland Premier League will be the third season for Biashara United FC since the outfit's promotion in the 2018/19 season.

In the 2020/21 top flight, the Mara outfit ended fourth after accumulating 45 points from 38 ties.

The 2018/19 season was not good, as sometimes the side had experienced a relegation crisis that gave the team maturity.

The previous season was tremendously good for the outfit due to good planning, it got a chance to feature in the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup after finishing fourth in the Mainland Premier League standings.

Biashara United is now one of three teams representing Tanzania in CAF club competitions alongside Azam FC that are participating in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Yanga was eliminated from the CAF Champions League, Simba SC is lately the country's envoy in the competition.

Biashara United, despite being a modest outfit, has been good enough to shock some football stakeholders in the country while promising more success next season due to registration along with a desire for success showcased by its officials, coaches, and players.

The outfit is young in the league but it has strategic plans for the time and better their goal as leaders are eager to see the team reach far beyond where they are in CAF Confederation Cup.

Biashara United's Secretary-General, Haji Mtepe, says they want to dispel the notion of many fans believing that football is dominated by Simba and Yanga by doing well both domestically and in continental club tournaments, once they get a chance to participate in one of the events.

Mtepe adds: "We do not deny that Simba and Yanga are the oldest teams but football stakeholders should realize that apart from those teams there are others like Biashara United."

"We are doing well and successfully challenging opponents. We need cooperation along with support in one way or another," he says.

Their first season in the league was not good due to a lack of experience. They failed to show competition and found themselves finishing 14th.

They were nevertheless not disappointed and they planned for the following season and achieved success.

"We have managed to do well last season after failing to be the best in our debut season. Our first season at first was not good but the continuation has been better now."

The official reveals: "Our ambition is to



Biashara United's players participate in training in Mara recently to shape up for the Premier League and CAF Confederation Cup fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BIASHARA UNITED

scale great heights in all the

tournaments we play, Premier League, Azam Sports Federation Cup, and CAF Confederation Cup, the goal is to see us become better and achieve the goal of being among the best teams in Africa."

Much as the outfit secured sponsorship from mining firm, Acacia North Mara, which is lately Barrick North Mara, with whom they have signed a contract this year, they still need more sponsorship as their seasonal budget has been rising every year.

"We thank our sponsors for believing in us and we will continue to fight for them to continue to have trust in us, despite the sponsorship the biggest challenge we have is the budget's failure to meet the needs of the team," Mtepe says.

The official points out: "The demand for the team has been huge and increasing by 40 percent so we ask other companies to come forward in large numbers for investment so that we can achieve the goals."

And the team's head coach, Patrick Odhiambo Okumu, says getting the opportunity to participate in the CAF Confederation Cup will be a continuation for all upcoming seasons due to the quality of his

players.

"It was not fortunate that we had the opportunity to represent the country internationally. It is due to the quality of the players who I believe will not be satisfied with that within one season."

"When I joined the outfit, the first thing was assessing the players from their performance to their characters and then sit and talk to them as a parent, I talked to them at length and told them they have to decide to do well so that we can achieve success."

He says he has trust in every player registered in his squad expecting great performance from them while proving

According to Odhiambo, this season's main registration period has reduced the outfit's last season's challenges in the attacking force so he expects more goals this season.

The outfit's skipper, Abdulmajid Mangalo, says he was not sure to play for the team next season due to wanting to leave to try another challenge but his plan failed and now he has decided to keep on turning out for the squad.

He says he has encountered many new entries and witnessed startles eager for success, a situation that has made him feel gracious.

"I look forward to another great season after the international one and I also look forward to seeing the team achieve a lot due to the good morale of the players along with the success, everyone needs to do great and make history," he says.

"The newly recruited soccer players seem to be great because every time the players want to make the first-team squad, they have been committing themselves to the point of encouraging each other before the match, this tendency will contribute to success at Biashara United," he says.

Their squad consists of Daniel Johannes, James Cleo, Abdulmajid Yahya, Abdallah Salum, Ambrose Ayoyi, Aniceth Kezilahabi, Atupele Green, Baron Onyango, Benson January, David Godfrey, Denis Dauda, Christian Agbes, and Deogratius Judika.

Others are Edson Nyakwesi, Fred Juma, Gershon Samuel, Kassim Salim, Lenny Vedastus, Mpapi Nasibu, Notikely John, Omari Rashid, Collins Opela, Prosper Aloyce, Ramadhan Selem, Salum Kipanga, Abdallah Ally, Boniphace Maganga, Ibrahim Isihaka, Mathew Odongo, and Stephan Oyugi.

## Dodoma Jiji FC officials pleased with team's pre-season preparations

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER finishing eighth in its first top-flight season, 2020/2021 Mainland Tanzania Premier League, Dodoma Jiji FC hopes to do better this season.

The outfit's technical bench, players, and officials have appeared to be fully prepared for the new season with head coach Mbwana Makata saying the preparations he made starting from camp in Morogoro gave them good stability.

The tactician pointed out that he believes it has strengthened his squad heading into the new season.

He disclosed the team's good preparations for the league will make the squad successful, unlike last season which was tough due to the COVID-19 disaster which affected the Championship.

The coach revealed his outfit hardly had time to adequately prepare for the tournament but still managed to adapt to the Premier League, from being debutants to finishing eighth.

"We have prepared very well for this season, starting from the camp we put in Morogoro and even here in Dodoma. I believe it has prepared us well before the start of the league, as well as friendly matches, we believe we will do well," Makata revealed.

Dodoma Jiji FC's Information Officer, Moses Mpunga, concurred with Makata on the club's targets, pointing out he moreover gets pride in actively taking part in making the preparations a success.

Mpunga disclosed: "Overall I have been



Dodoma Jiji FC players celebrate after one of the squad's forwards notched a goal during the 2020/21 Federation Cup's tie against Kipigwe FC of Iringa, which took place in Dodoma. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

a part of the team's preparations, I have been seeing how the players do the training with the utmost enthusiasm which clearly shows that they are eager to play, they are expected to see to it the outfit make it to one of top four spots."

Dodoma Jiji FC's Secretary-General, Fortunatus Johnson, admitted that they have set themselves the goal of being one of the top four teams.

"The team leaders have met almost all the requirements for the technical bench and even the players," Johnson pointed out.

"We believe that our team will have a great opportunity to achieve the goal of being among the top four teams in the league standings by the end of the league," he said.

He stated last season, the team spent 1bn/- but now their budget has risen to 1.3bn/- and, within that budget, there

are plans to build team hostels as well as a private training ground.

Dodoma Jiji FC got the season underway with a fixture against Coast Region's Ruvo Shooting at the former's home ground, Jamhuri Stadium, on Tuesday.

Simba SC will later confront Dodoma Jiji FC in the second game at the venue on October 1.



## No case vs. Super League trio Real, Barca, Juve

MADRID

UEFA have nullified legal action against breakaway Super League clubs Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus after a Madrid court ruled that European football's governing body should not sanction the rebel clubs.

UEFA had opened a probe against the three clubs but in June it suspended proceedings after being notified by Swiss authorities of a court order from the commercial court in Madrid obtained by the legal entity European Super League Company SL.

The latest step from UEFA was to declare that the proceedings were nullified.

"Following the stay of proceedings against FC Barcelona, Juventus FC and Real Madrid CF, in the matter related to a potential violation of UEFA's legal framework in connection with the so called 'Super League', the UEFA Appeals Body has declared today the proceedings null and void, as if the proceedings had never been opened," UEFA's appeals body said in a statement.

Juve, Barca and Real are the last of the 12 clubs who signed up to the Super League in April not to have distanced themselves from the breakaway project which unravelled when all six English clubs – Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur – plus Internazionale, AC Milan and Atletico Madrid withdrew.

Proceedings have continued in a Madrid court to stop UEFA from punishing the clubs who tried to break away from the established European football structures, including UEFA's Champions League.

In July, the 17th Mercantile Court of Madrid ordered that all financial and sporting penalties against the founding members of the Super League should be dropped, including monies due to be paid to UEFA by the nine other clubs, which include six Premier League teams, who had initially been part of the project.

UEFA said that it "remains confident in and will continue to defend

its position in all the relevant jurisdictions".

"UEFA notes that the declaration made by the UEFA Appeals Body follows the formal notification made to UEFA of a court order granting UEFA a few days to clarify its compliance with decisions of the Madrid Commercial Court No. 17," the organisation said in a statement.

In May, the nine rebel clubs who had pulled out of the breakaway, including Manchester United and Liverpool, agreed to pay a combined €22 million (\$30.09 million) to UEFA as a "gesture of goodwill".

However on Monday, UEFA said that "in view of the pending Court proceedings in Madrid, and to avoid any unnecessary complication... UEFA will not request payment of any of the amounts offered".

The plans, announced in April, for the 12 clubs to create a European Super League collapsed after just two days as eight of the 12 founding members from England, Italy and Spain abandoned the breakaway project under huge pressure from fans, politicians and soccer officials.

The Super League argued it would increase revenue for the top soccer clubs in Europe and allow them to distribute more money to the rest of the game.

However, the sport's governing bodies, other teams and fan organisations said the league would only boost the power and wealth of elite clubs, and that the partially closed structure went against European football's long-standing model.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez has continued to say the plan remains a viable way forward for Europe's top clubs and on Monday Juventus chairman Andrea Agnelli wrote to the club's shareholders and explained his club's backing for the plans.

"This is a new meritocratic paradigm and a return to the fundamentals of cost control and transparency," Agnelli wrote in the letter.

"It is a new paradigm which football can no longer afford to overlook, and on whose basis political dialogue must resume," he added.

## Portugal rule world for sales but profits yet to create success

LISBON

NO country in the world has made as much money from transfers over the last decade as Portugal yet the heartland of super-agent Jorge Mendes has still struggled to turn eye-watering profits into success on the pitch.

According to a FIFA report last month to mark the 10th anniversary of the Transfer Matching System (TMS), the platform created to record player transfers, Portuguese clubs boast a positive transfer balance of around 2.5 billion euros.

Between 2011 and 2020, some 15 percent of the most expensive transfers in the world came from the Portuguese league, which this season has three teams in the Champions League for the first time since 2017 but has not had a winner since Porto triumphed under Jose Mourinho in 2004.

"The sums involved in these transfers can be explained by Portugal's role as a bridge between South America and the major European leagues," Loic Ravenel, researcher at the CIES Football Observatory, told AFP.

The FIFA report says the route from Brazil to Portugal is the most travelled in the world over the last 10 years for players being transferred between clubs, with 1,550 players disembarking in Europe via Portugal, a country with a population of barely 10 million people.

The example of Brazilian international Eder Militao, who was bought in 2018 by Porto from Sao Paulo for seven million euros and sold, less than a year later, to Real Madrid for 50 million, is a clear demonstration of how lucrative these transactions can be.

At the centre of it all are Portuguese agents, who have become "extremely influential" due to their "detailed knowledge of their markets in South America, Portugal and the major European Leagues", says Ravenel.

Mendes, perhaps the most pow-

erful football agent in the world, is renowned for earning enormous amounts of money for lubricating deals between Portugal and Europe's elite clubs.

Between 2011 and 2020, Portuguese agents made 320 million euros from transfers, which places Portugal as the fourth highest country in the world for intermediary costs.

"The presence of agents is growing in Portugal," said Emanuel Medeiros, founder of the Global Alliance for Integrity in Sport (SIGA), who is worried about their increasing influence over players who are sometimes "still amateurs and minors".

And yet while the big three Portuguese clubs – Sporting Lisbon, Benfica and Porto, in that order – occupy the top three spots for profits made from transfers, the economic model appears to benefit neither their sporting ambitions nor their financial needs.

"It is a league of debt because the budgets are based entirely on the transfers of players and if the expected sales do not arrive, the losses are immediate," says Ravenel.

The reduction in income caused by the Covid-19 pandemic saw Benfica experience its first financial losses last season since 2012/13 while the accounts of Sporting, who haven't won the title since 2002, are also in the red.

Porto are expected to announce profits after several years spent under the constraints of Financial Fair Play.

"In Portugal there is no centralisation of television and commercial rights, which would bring other sources of income and a better balance in the league," says Medeiros.

"In order for Portugal to be more competitive, its clubs would have to manage to keep some of their players but the difference in wealth has grown so much in recent years, especially compared to teams like Manchester City or Paris Saint-Germain, the gap is now huge," Ravenel adds.

AFP

# Can Solskjaer break his boom-and-bust cycle at Man United?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer is going nowhere. It just depends on your point of view on the Manchester United manager as to what that statement actually means.

For the Old Trafford hierarchy – the club's American owners, the Glazer family, and executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward – it means only one thing, with United sources telling ESPN that Solskjaer has their unequivocal support and remains the man they expect to bring success back to the club. Solskjaer, 48, was given a new three-year contract this summer because his bosses believe he is on track to restore United to the summit of English and European football.

Yet as United attempt to avoid a third home defeat in eight days when they face Villarreal in the Champions League on Wednesday, there is a counter position on Solskjaer among some supporters, former players and those within the game who are of the opinion that, while he is the man at the helm, the team will never escape the boom-and-bust cycle that has typified his almost three years in charge.

Solskjaer unquestionably also has strong support among many United fans too, with his status as a club legend – somebody who apparently understands the club – buying him the time and patience that predecessors David Moyes, Louis van Gaal and Jose Mourinho ultimately lacked. But results and success are the ultimate barometer by which a Manchester United manager is measured and, eventually, Solskjaer will have to measure up where it counts.

United are on a journey with Solskjaer, and progress has been made since he replaced Mourinho, initially as interim manager, in December 2018. But every defeat and poor performance raises the same old questions about his ability to do at Old Trafford what Pep Guardiola, Jurgen Klopp and Thomas Tuchel have done at Manchester City, Liverpool and Chelsea, respectively.



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Quite simply, can he make United winners again or are they destined to be a team that always falls short because of his limitations as a coach and tactician? To that point, Wednesday's Group F clash against Villarreal at Old Trafford has become a very uncomfortable game for Solskjaer because it gets to the very heart of that question and the debate about his managerial credentials.

Last season's Europa League final defeat against Unai Emery's Villarreal in Gdansk, when United lost 1-0 on penalties following a 1-1 draw, highlighted every flaw in Solskjaer's tactical armoury. But the three defeats already suffered this season (against Young Boys, West Ham United and Aston Villa) suggest that Solskjaer has failed to rectify any of those weaknesses.

In Gdansk, Solskjaer was unable to

devise a game plan to outfox Emery and a Villarreal team widely known for its ability to soak up pressure and hit opponents on the counter-attack. United played without imagination or variety and they fell into Emery's trap of attacking largely down the right, despite the creative limitations of right-back Aaron Wan-Bissaka. Solskjaer failed to change his team's approach and waited until the 100th minute before making his first substitution.

He also chose to leave Marcus Rashford on the pitch for the entire 120 minutes, despite the England forward producing one of his worst-ever performances for United. In isolation, Solskjaer's failings in his first final as United boss could be put down to a bad night at the office, but his inability to quickly change tactics and make decisive substitutions has become a

recurring theme.

The same issues contributed to United's 2-1 defeat against Young Boys in Switzerland two weeks ago and were also present in the Carabao Cup loss to West Ham (stream the replay on ESPN+ in the U.S.) and Saturday's Premier League defeat at home to Villa. Losing against Young Boys has given United a qualification headache as they must now realistically win all three home games in Group F and pick up at least a point away to Villarreal or Atalanta to qualify for the round of 16. But Villarreal will undoubtedly travel to Old Trafford with another smart game plan devised by Emery, and they will ask tough questions of United and Solskjaer – questions that the manager has repeatedly shown he is unable to answer.

Yet the valid excuse of lacking depth and quality last season – and when losing the Europa League semifinal to Sevilla in almost identical circumstances in 2020 – no longer applies following a summer spending spree that led to the signings of Cristiano Ronaldo, Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane.

Solskjaer now has the attacking quality and experience that his squad lacked in the past, so there really can be no excuses for failing to emerge from Group F and going deep into the competition. But anything other than a win on Wednesday will leave United struggling to qualify from a tight group.

So can Solskjaer produce the kind of performance against Villarreal that will silence the doubters and, crucially, improve a dismal Champions League record that has seen United lose seven of 11 games in the competition under his management? Some think he can, others doubt he ever will, but the only way to convince the sceptics is by delivering when it matters and avoiding the same old pitfalls that have tripped him up in the past.

We still don't know where United are going under Solskjaer, but another failure against Villarreal will suggest they are just going round and round in circles on the road to nowhere.

## Italy hero Chiesa battling for Juve spot ahead of Chelsea visit

MILAN

FEDERICO Chiesa has started his second season at Juventus with an uncertain position in coach Massimiliano Allegri's plans despite being one of the heroes of Italy's Euro 2020 triumph.

Six matches into the Serie A season Chiesa has started in fewer games than he did helping Italy win this summer's European Championship, with Allegri focussing on Paulo Dybala and Alvaro Morata as the lynchpins of his Juve attack.

However with that pair injured and out of Wednesday's Champions League visit from defending champions Chelsea, Chiesa will be among those looking to profit with another decisive performance.

He levelled the scores in Juve's 3-2 win at Spezia midweek with a typical piece of skill and persistence, nutmegging Dimitrios Nikolau before forcing home his only goal of the season so far.

However he caused fury in Allegri on Sunday when he wasted a glorious chance to score with Juve a goal ahead in a tight 3-2 win over Sampdoria.

The 23-year-old received a cute pass from Italy teammate Manuel Locatelli and then proceeded to dribble his way towards a shooting chance that never came in a packed penalty area at the Allianz Stadium.

Fortunately for the home side Locatelli was on hand seconds later to score the goal which ensured Juve won their second match on the bounce, but Allegri's annoyance was clear.

It wasn't the first time Chiesa has annoyed Allegri, who returned to the Juve bench this summer after two years away and has had a rocky start with his team in mid-table.

He targeted Chiesa for criticism after Juve's 1-1 home draw against AC Milan, when he came on four minutes before Ante Rebic scored the Rossoneri's equaliser and did little as Milan came close to snatching a win.



Federico Chiesa

"He came on at a difficult moment and I needed him to bring the ball into the opposition's midfield," said Allegri.

"He's a good player but he needs to grow up and realise what he is capable of doing we're Juventus."

The message was clear: Chiesa has everything he needs to become a great player but isn't doing it yet.

The lack of trust in him from Allegri comes in stark contrast to the way he worked his way into Italian football history at the Euro, fighting for and winning a place in Roberto Mancini's first XI.

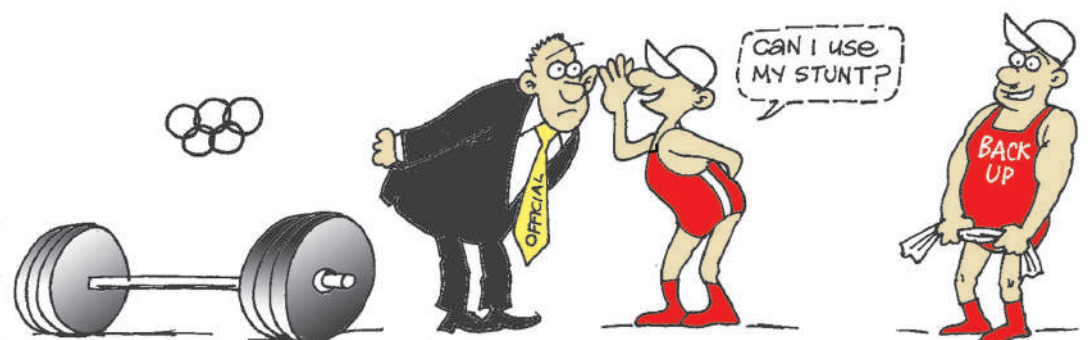
He didn't make his first start until the third group match against Wales with qualification for the knockouts already decided, and it wasn't until he came off the bench to open the scoring in extra-time against Austria in the last 16 that he cemented his place in Mancini's front three.

With Dybala and Morata out there is more room for him to make an impact in a huge test for Juventus, as Chelsea come to town keen to bounce back from their home defeat to Manchester on City.

It is also a chance to make a stronger impression ahead of the coming international break, during which Italy will try to add the Nations League to their trophy cabinet, as a clutch of attacking talent is snapping at his heels for an opportunity to play for the European champions.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Can Solskjaer break his boom-and-bust cycle at Man United?

## Twiga Stars opens 2021 COSAFA Women Championship campaign against Zimbabwe

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national women's football team, Twiga Stars, will take on Zimbabwe in their 2021 COSAFA Women's Championship Group B opener at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, Eastern Cape, in South Africa at 2:30 pm.

These two sides also met in their opening game in 2020, with Twiga Stars edging Zimbabwe 1-0.

The teams have been drawn in Group B along with Botswana and South Sudan.

Tanzania is no stranger to COSAFA events at all age groups in both men's and women's football, having been part of the rich history of the organization down the years.

This is the third time Twiga Stars are featuring in the annual championship as a guest team.

Twiga Stars head coach, Bakari Shime, will be looking to improve after his side failed to go past the group stage last year.

Shime, who has previously also guided Tanzania to win the title at the 2019 COSAFA Women's U-20 Championship and the juniors at the 2020 COSAFA Women's U-17 Championship, believes Zimbabwe is a strong team that will come to avenge last year's loss.

"I believe it will be a competitive game because we beat them in the last tournament, so they will need to take revenge whilst we will want to continue tormenting them," Shime told the press after the draw was officially made.

Shime has selected a youthful squad as he looks to use the tournament as preparation for next month's World Cup qualifier against Namibia.

The squad will be led by experienced captain Mwanhamisi Shurua 'Gaucho', who is a surviving member of the Twiga Stars that played in the 2011 Women's Africa Cup of Nations.

The 2021 COSAFA Women's Championship started on Tuesday and will be played in Nelson up to October 9.

Twelve teams have been split into three groups each containing four teams. They play each other in a round-robin format earning three points for a win and one for a draw.

Twiga Stars' squad: Janeth Simba, Zubeda Mgunda, Husna Mtunda, Anastazia Katunzi, Clara Luvanga, Eneka Lunyamila, Julitha Singano, Stumai Athuman, Amina Bilali, and Janeth Pangamwene.

Happiness Mwaipaja, Diana Msewa, Fatuma Issa, Eva Jackson, Mwamvua Haruna, Koku Kipanga, Mariam Juma, Zawadi Athuman, Mwanamisi Shurua, and Donisia Minja complete the side's list.



A section of cyclists, who will take part in a bicycle race that serves as part of activities for commemorating 60 years of Tanzania's independence, ride past Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Liberata Mulamula (5th L), and other officials to signal the race's start in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

**TONIGHT @ 7:00**

**EATV WEDNESDAY**

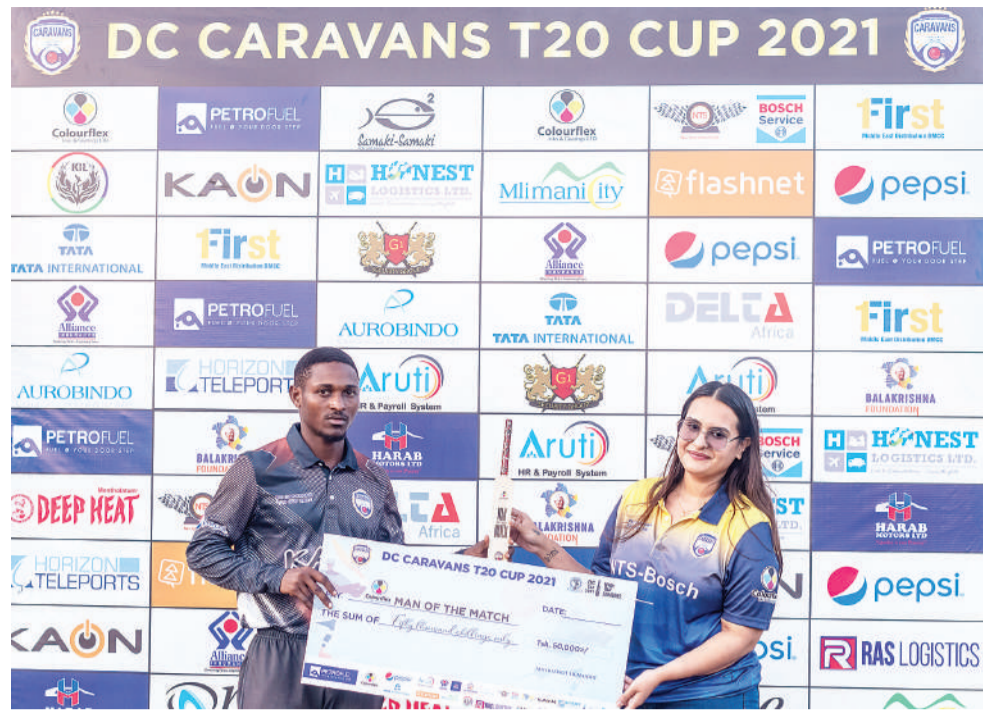
11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Nirvana (r)  
16:00 Skonga (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 S5ELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

**EATV SAA 1**  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**



Kaon Lions cricket squad's Rijali Fentu (L), is presented with the Colourflex Man of the Match award by NTS Bosch's official, Sakina Manji, once the outfit locked horns with NTS Bosch Gymkhana in this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup clash, which was played last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

## Yanga braced for Kagera Sugar scalp in 2021/22 Premier League



Yanga players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for 2021/22 Mainland Premier League, and Federation Cup. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2021/22 Mainland Tanzania Premier League campaign continues today with two fixtures on the card.

At Kaitaba Stadium in Kagera, Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, will be eager to start on a winning note when they visit bogey side Kagera Sugar.

Yanga will also be high in confidence having beaten their age-old rivals, Simba SC, 1-0 in the 2021/22 Community Shield tie on Saturday.

Congolese striker, Fiston Mayele, netted the only goal of the game in the first half.

The 27-time league champions are favourites to win this given their firepower upfront led by the Congolese duo of Mayele and the returning Heritier Makambo.

Makambo had fine memories playing against Kagera Sugar scoring in both games in the 2018/19 season.

Despite losing their top striker

Yusuph Mhilu to Simba SC, Kagera Sugar will be out to improve last season's start to the campaign which saw them wait for the fourth game to register their first win.

Having inherited a team that finished 12th in the last campaign, all eyes will be on the head coach, Francis Baraza, as the team brought in new players and released eight.

New arrivals include Bolton Omwenga, Yusuph Dunia from Gwambina FC, Stephen Duah from Namungo FC, Jordan John from Ihefu SC, and Nouridine Balora from Namungo FC.

They also secured the services of Cameroonian attacking midfielder, Apolynaire Ngueko, from Feutcheu, Meshack Abraham from Gwambina FC, and Abeid Athuman from Namungo FC.

In head-to-head stats, Kagera Sugar and Yanga have met in 22 league matches since 2009/10.

The Green and Yellow outfit has claimed 17 wins compared to four for Kagera Sugar, while one match has been drawn.

Last season Yanga won one tie, beating Kagera Sugar 1-0 in Bukoba, the other, which took place Dar es Salaam, had the two sides locked to 3-3 draw.

The other highly anticipated clash will take place in Moshi where Polisi Tanzania is aiming for a perfect start when they host Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in Karatu, Arusha in their opening game of the season.

The hosts have beaten KMC FC in all their four league encounters.

When the teams met last season at the venue in March 2021, Polisi Tanzania claimed a 1-0 home win, thanks to a goal netted by midfielder Gerald Mdamu who is out with a long-term injury following a bus accident.

## Kaon Lions secures first win in 2021 DC Caravans T20 Cup

By Guardian Reporter

GOING into this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup, Kaon Lions and Horizon Teleports Annadil Burhani, which qualified from Division B, were expected to be easily beaten by the giants from Division A.

However, both teams have performed exceptionally well in the tournament putting up a fight till the very end.

Horizon Teleports Annadil Burhani recorded their first-ever win in the competition, overcoming Balakrishna Strikers last week.

It was for that matter Kaon Lions' turn to pull off a major upset as they took on a struggling NTS Bosch Gymkhana side last weekend.

Both teams went into this game without a victory in this year's competition and had all to play for.

NTS Bosch Gymkhana won the toss and decided to field first, bowling Kaon Lions out for 95 runs in 19.2 overs.

Kaon Lions depended heavily on Mohamed Salim, who scored an impressive 39 from 38 deliveries, and Rijali Fentu was the only other player to record double digits with 12 from six balls.

Kaon Lions were all out in 19.2 overs, setting a target of 96 runs which seemed to be below par showing.

However, an outstanding bowling performance by Kaon Lions ensured that NTS Bosch Gymkhana was bowled out for 91 runs.

Abdullah Imtiyaz, Fentu, and Shamil Hameer led the bowling onslaught that collapsed NTS Bosch Gymkhana.

Fentu was awarded the Colourflex Man of the Match award for his outstanding all-around performance.

Elsewhere, Aurobindo Aga Khan SC took on Horizon Teleports Annadil Burhani in the latter's last game of the tournament, having been knocked out.

Aurobindo Aga Khan SC has been the tournament favourite and won its first match against Balakrishna Strikers with ease even though they had fielded a depleted side.

They batted first once again and registered an impressive 178 runs dropping six wickets in 20 overs with Vishal Patel and Arshaan Jasani being the pick out of the performers with 51 runs and 33 runs respectively.

In return, Horizon Teleports Annadil Burhani cricketers were unable to find a stable partnership to support either Mufaddal Seifuddin, who scored 29 from 25 deliveries, or Mustafa Lukmanji, who registered 31 runs.

Their chase fell 46 runs short of the target and the bowling side was massively helped by an impressive performance by Aahil Jasani, who took three wickets and gave away only 17 runs in four overs, and Abhik Patwa, who took two crucial wickets including that of the dangerous Mustafa Lukmanji.

The experienced Vishal Patel was awarded the Colourflex Man of the Match award for his 51 runs and one wicket.

Aurobindo Aga Khan SC still has two games left to go as is the case for hosts Alliance Caravans and both teams sit atop Group B of the Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup.

The DC Caravans T20 Cup has been held annually since 2015. Petrofuel Limited is the Title Sponsor of this year's tournament and is joined by Colourflex, TATA International, and Pepsi as the co-sponsors.

This year's tournament features the top 10 teams in the country playing under the franchise model with each team being backed by top corporates in the country.

The teams include Aurobindo Aga Khan SC, Horizon Teleports Annadil Burhani, Honest Logistics SKLPSC, Balakrishna Strikers and hosts, Alliance Caravans.

Aruti Aces, Kaon Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, NTS Bosch Gymkhana, and FMED Upana are the other contenders.

Other sponsors of the tournament include NGK Gathani, Jihusu, Flashnet, RAS Logistics, Mlimani City, AOne Bottlers, Kishen Enter-

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

