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**National Pg 3**  
Minister warns Dar mineral traders



**National Pg 5**  
'National PwD register coming'



**National Pg 6**  
Farmers' trained on receipt system



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Uber tractors for small-scale farmers



## Dr Mwinyi unveils building plans for Zanzibar referral, teaching hospital

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi yesterday said that groundwork has begun for the construction of a new teaching and referral hospital for the Isles.

The facility will be put up at Binguni area in Unguja island, designed to decongest Mnazi Mmoja which currently serves as Zanzibar's main hospital, the president said, at the climax of celebrations to mark 57 years of the Zanzibar Revolution at Mnazi Mmoja grounds.

The process has been engaged for building the hospital, he said, noting that the aim is to ensure our people receive better health services within the Isles.

Underlining that deliberate efforts continue to be taken in boosting health services, he said he had already held talks with various experts including doctors

and other staff in the health sector to identify challenges facing them in order to find solutions thereof.

Citing a continuing shortage of medical specialists, he said the government will initiate a programme to educate doctors and other health sector staff to degree and diploma levels at universities and colleges within and outside the country.

"We shall also continue to strengthen our capability in the provision of drugs and medical equipment in our hospitals and health centres in order to eradicate complaints from people who seek health services" he declared.

Regarding the provision of basic social services like clean and safe water along with power supply, President Mwinyi said his government will review current projects in both Unguja and Pemba to find out if due

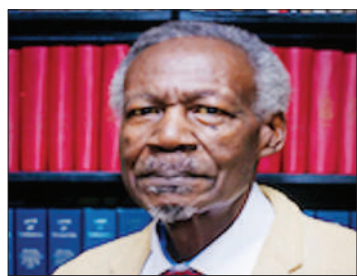
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Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan congratulates Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi during yesterday's celebrations to mark the 57th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Looking on are Zanzibar First Vice President Self Sharif Hamad and Dr Mwinyi's wife, Mariam. Photo: Zanzibar State House

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## Kibo Peak postcards to be sent to big-spending tourists from China

By Beatrice Philemon

OFFICIALS of the Tanzanian embassy in Beijing in collaboration with 17 tour operators in China have embarked on a campaign aimed at attracting big spending tourists to 'Destination Tanzania'.

This strategy employs various techniques including sentimental scenes with postcards taken atop Mount Kilimanjaro, signed by Tanzanian and Chinese officials, then flown to China to be distributed to potential travellers.

At an event to sign postcards in Dar es Salaam late on Monday, the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) chairman Judge (rtd) Thomas Mihayo said the postcards were signed by himself and the Cultural Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy, Wang Siping and are expected to be handed to the 17 tour operators for reprinting and

“Through these postcards, more Chinese people will come to Tanzania to experience what Tanzania has to offer for tourists”

distribution to 4,000 potential tourists by mid next month, as February 11 is the Chinese New Year.

"It's our hope that these postcards will be an inspiration for Chinese tourists who did not travel last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cards from the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro symbolizes that the recipients will be able to reach their goals in the New Year," he said.

In a bid to attract more Chinese people to visit Tanzania so far 17 high-end Chinese tour operators in collaboration with Ambassador Mbelwa Kairuki have already launched a tourism promotion campaign that will use the postcards, the board chairman noted.

More than 150 travel agencies and 8000 tourists interested in Tanzania safari products and willing to promote

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## Govt: Edible oil shipment will curb current shortage



By Guardian Correspondent

INDUSTRY and Trade minister Geoffrey Mwambe (pictured) yesterday affirmed that another consignment of edible oil reaching 26,450 tonnes has arrived at the

port of Dar es Salaam, considered to be sufficient to counter the widespread scarcity of the commodity.

In a statement availed to the media, the minister said that the

ship docked on Tuesday last week and is scheduled to unload the cargo from Tuesday to Friday next week.

He assured the public that the government will continue taking measures to ensure that there is enough supply of edible oil.

"This is the second ship, I have already contacted the importers and they assured me that another ship will arrive in 45 days and another in February. Tanzania consumes 30,000 metric tonnes per month and we still have edible oil produced locally," he specified.

Discussions were continuing with importers to see how they can chip in and establish oil processing factories in the country so as to reduce dependency on foreign markets, he stated.

"They have agreed on this and said that they will explore partnerships for large oil palm plantations, buy peanuts and coconut so as to produce enough oil locally to eliminate oil imports," he

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## 'Locusts from Kenya on sight for Tanzania'

By Guardian Reporter

NEW swarms of locusts spreading from northern Kenya have reached Taita Taveta County and could reach Tanzania this month, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned.

In its latest update, FAO says swarms from Kenya could also enter South Sudan and Uganda, after the swarms were spotted in some parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Eritrea.

"All countries should maintain maximum efforts in conducting the necessary survey and control operations to reduce migration and breeding," the UN agency advised.

In Somalia, mature swarms are present in the northwest and breeding is in progress on the coast where hopper bands have formed. Breeding also continues in the northeast where numerous hopper bands are concentrated between Iskushuban and Bosaso, it stated.

Breeding may also be underway in other areas on the northern plateau that received heavy rains from cyclone Gati, the update noted, elaborating that immature swarms continue to move southwards in central and southern regions towards Kenya.

The Rome-based organization says the immature swarms were migrating from previous locust breeding grounds in eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia and spreading into Ethiopia's SNNP region and into Kenya's northern and coastal counties.

"So far, swarms are present in four

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## Kenya Police detain student after knife attack on teachers

NAIROBI

POLICE in Kisii have detained a student who reportedly attacked his teachers with a knife at Kisii High School yesterday, leaving them with serious injuries.

"He was told to go and kneel down at the staffroom after he came to class late. Instead he went to the school store and took the weapon, causing teachers and students to flee for their safety," said Kisii County Commissioner Abdurizak Jaldesa about the Form Three student. Learning at the school came to a standstill as education and county officials held a crisis meeting to quell tension following the said attack.

The administrator said the assailant managed to reach the teacher who gave him the punishment, injuring him on the head. Another teacher is said to

have been injured after he rushed to rescue the first one.

"(He) looked disturbed. When we questioned him, he told us he did not want to learn in a boarding school," said Jaldesa.

Omari Otungu, executive secretary of the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers in Kisii, condemned the reported attack and called on the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to advocate for teachers' rights.

He said teachers were constantly living in fear of being beaten by students since there were no disciplinary mechanisms.

"We want to be protected the same way the government is protecting students," said Otungu.

He asked parents to discipline their children and not to take sides when they are reprimanded for unruly behaviour in schools.

AGENCIES



BTY Ltd managing director Barua Mwakilanga (R) briefs Umyy Mwalimu (2nd-L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment) on the processing of hazardous waste when the minister visited the firm's premises in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others include Industry and Trade minister Geoffrey Mwangi (2nd-R) and National Environment Management Council director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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diligence was properly exercised in setting up the projects.

As for challenges in the lands sector, he said that the Lands ministry has been instructed to work together with district and regional commissioners to finalise land conflicts by the end of this year. "I would not like to hear any person complaining being conned of his land," he said.

The government will continue to stress on agriculture to enable the country to be self-sufficient in food and for export, seek to improve the irrigation infrastructures for rice farming in valleys to do away with farming that depends on rains, he stated.

"Education to farmers will be boosted via demonstration farms and agricultural exhibitions held every year, in Unguja and Pemba in order to boost production," he said.

President Mwinyi said his government intends to develop the blue economy sector as it was an important way to ensure fast economic growth.

The blue economy encompasses various sectors including fishing, modern fish farming, sea-weed farming, oil and gas drilling and tourism, he said, asserting that these sectors will help a lot in providing employment for the people of Zanzibar and Tanzania generally.

The eighth phase government will continue with strengthening

## Dr Mwinyi unveils building plans for Zanzibar referral, teaching hospital

road construction in areas without roads to enhance economic activities, he said.

"In seeking to make Zanzibar a trading hub for the east and central African zone, we shall improve services at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport as well as Pemba airport," he said.

On education, the president said in 57 years the country has registered proud achievements like vast improvement of the education sector compared to pre 1964 period.

"In the 57 years of the Revolution, Zanzibar has been able to have many professionals in the workforce who helped push our development plans. These are great achievements we must be proud of," he told the gathering.

He directed institutions directly involved in the war against corruption to pull up their socks in the conduct of their duties to ensure the malpractice is brought to an end in the Isles.

"The government will continue to take steps in strengthening the anti-graft body, the Zanzibar Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA) to make it a big network having offices in all districts and regions," he said.

He also pointed at the need for cooperation among Zanzibaris to relay important information as the war against corruption was not only a task for the government or the anti-graft agency.

With the two sides working together, corruption will become an old song in the Isles, thus enabling smooth flow of development to the people, he said.

In the coming financial year, the government will increase allocations for the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth to ensure it is more capable of serving the group which is the majority of the population, he affirmed.

Dr Mwinyi took time to comment on environmental cleanliness where he called upon various local authorities to ensure they intensify the cleaning campaign, as many places in the Isles were dirty and filthy.

Regional and district commissioners need to ensure they supervise cleanliness drives in their localities so that the exercise is continuous, pointing at the growth of technology and shortage of experts in various sectors as an issue that the government will prioritize.

"We need to sensitize our people to use the growing technology and especially given its emphasis on the use of clean energy in our daily lives," he urged.

After the January 12 1964 revolution, Zanzibar united with Tanganyika on April 26 to form the United Republic, given the name Tanzania the following year. It adopted a two-government system with the Tanganyika government reconstituted as the Union administration and special dispensation left to Zanzibar authorities on non-Union matters.. Tanganyika gained its independence from Britain on December 9, 1961. After Ghana became the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to gain independence in 1957.

A wave of sub-Saharan African countries became independent in 1960 when altogether 17 countries achieved self-rule from Belgium, Britain and France in that year alone.

Britain tackled the independence of its dominions case by case, with Nigeria and Somalia coming to independence in 1960 and in 1961 it was the turn of Sierra Leone and Tanganyika, merging with Zanzibar a little over two years later.

## Sudan appeals to AU to play bigger role in Nile dam talks

KHARTOUM

SUDAN has reiterated its adherence to the necessity of giving the African Union (AU) experts a bigger role in the negotiations on the disputed Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Nile river.

Chairman of Sudan's Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan on Monday met ministers of foreign affairs and irrigation

During the meeting, Al-Burhan was briefed on the developments of tripartite talks among Sudan, Ethiopia, and Egypt on the dam as well as the reason behind the recent impasse, said the sovereign council in a statement.

Yasir Abbas, Sudan's irrigation and water resources minister, said following the meeting that Sudan supports the AU's role as a facilitator in the talks.

"During the last period, the talks were infeasible because the positions of the three countries diverged from the start. That's the reason why Sudan constantly insists that the AU should play its natural role in facilitating

the negotiation process," Abbas added.

The Minister also reiterated Sudan's belief that negotiation is the proper solution for the GERD issue through a fair deal for all parties.

On Sunday, the AU announced the failure of the latest round of talks. The Sudanese negotiators believed that the GERD talks should go beyond the level of irrigation Ministers and involve the AU and the leaders of the three countries to provide the political will to bring their positions closer.

Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia have been holding talks for years over the technical and legal issues related to the filling and operation of the GERD.

Ethiopia, which started building the GERD in 2011, expects to produce more than 6,000 megawatts of electricity from the project.

But Egypt and Sudan, downstream Nile Basin countries that rely on the river for its freshwater, are concerned that the dam might affect their share of the water resources.



Dr Stella Bitanyi (R), acting CEO of the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency, briefs Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Pauline Gekul (2nd-R) at a centre run by the agency Kibaha in Coast Region on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

## Locusts from Kenya on sight for Tanzania - UN

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Kenyan counties (Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit and, most recently, Isiolo). Breeding continues, and hopper bands are present in the southeast near Taita Taveta and along the coast," FAO said.

Locust invasion poses a big threat to food security in the region. Last year, the region saw

billions of the insects destroying crops across the region.

The UN agency has urged countries affected to take the necessary efforts to survey, control, reduce migration and breeding of the insects.

FAO calls on the countries likely to be affected to swing into action because the swarms "could reach central Kenya and perhaps the

southwest as well as northeast Tanzania, eastern Uganda, and southeast South Sudan during January."

"Once swarms arrive in favourable areas, they will mature and lay eggs that will hatch and cause hopper bands to form during February and March," it emphasised.

Elsewhere, breeding is

underway along both sides of the Red Sea coast, it asserted. Hopper groups and bands are present along both sides of the Sudan/Eritrea border. Scattered solitary adults prevail along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains in Yemen, and one mature swarm appeared in the northern highlands from the coast, the update indicated..

## Govt: Edible oil shipment will curb current shortage

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said.

He explained the rise in price of the essential commodity as due to poor production globally, but the government was doing all it can to address the situation.

"Reports show that global edible oil prices stood at \$786 per tonne in October 2020, rising to \$1075 per tonne early this month. This is among impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic," he asserted.

He stated that Tanzanian has been importing edible oil mostly

from Malaysia, where production has also decreased.

"We have so far received two ships carrying edible oil whereby the first one arrived on December 10 and the other arrived on January 5. The first ship has been unloaded and the product distributed in the market," he pointed out.

Public entities need to engage in oil palm agriculture especially in Kigoma Region and establish factories to produce palm oil to cater for the country's demand, he added.

## Kibo Peak postcards to be sent to big-spending tourists from China

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Tanzanian tourism in the Chinese market are featured on the cards, he said.

"Through these postcards, more Chinese people will come to Tanzania to experience what Tanzania has to offer for tourists," he stated.

Wang, who is also the director of the China Cultural Center in the city, asserted that China has large numbers of people who have shown keen interest in travelling "right after the world is back in

order."

Through the postcards project, China hopes the Chinese people will experience the beauty of Tanzania and attract more people visiting the country in the future, he said, noting that Tanzania is among charming African countries that attract a large number of tourists from various countries each year.

China has always viewed and developed China-Tanzania relations from a strategic and long term perspective, the counselor added.





Jeremiah Thomas of Oria village in Kahe ward, Kilimanjaro Region, removes a thorn from a goat's hoof. The thorns are blamed on an invasive shrub known as *Prosopis juliflora*, said to be widespread in Mwanga and Moshi districts in Kilimanjaro Region as well as in Simanjiro District in Manyara Region and wreaking havoc on livestock and the ecology. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

## Regulator issues 45-day ultimatum to fertiliser dealers on registration

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has issued 45-day ultimatum to the manufacturers, importers, distributors and all fertiliser dealers countrywide to register all unregistered fertilizer to abide by legal imperatives.

In its press statement, TFRA managing director Dr Stephan Ngailo said according to Section 8(1) of the Fertiliser Act (No. 9 of 2009), all fertilizer including foliar fertilisers manufactured or imported and sold in the country must be registered and given a permit by TFRA.

"In the circumstance TFRA gives 45 days up to February 24 this year to all manufacturers, importers, distributors and all fertilizer dealers countrywide to register all unregistered fertilizer in accordance with the law," he said.

He said beginning February 25 this year legal will be taken against any dealer who will be found with unregistered fertiliser.

According to the Fertilisers Act, TFRA has the responsibility to control the quality of fertiliser manufactured in the country or imported and distributed to farmers.

TFRA has registered 273 kinds of fertilisers while dealers have increased from 632 in 2016/17 to 4,138 currently and a total of 4,399 licences were issued during the period.

Ngailo said so far the quantity of fertiliser that do not meet quality standards, as well as fake fertiliser has been going down in the market. The job of controlling fertiliser quality has been conducted through enhancement of inspection, identification of all dealers through registration and providing education on better fertiliser storage.

## NHIF embarks on special 200/- per person per day package for farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) through its special benefit category for cotton farmers named 'Ushirika wa Afya' is expected to start treatment benefits for about 300 cotton farmers at a cost of 200/- per day, equivalent to 76,800/- per year.

This was revealed here recently by Singida NHIF Manager Dr Mohamedi Kilolile, while addressing newsmen in his office. "I am appealing to all cotton farmers to grab this opportunity by registering themselves to access the benefit because diseases come without notice. The conditions for the service include one must be a farmer, and secondly must be an AMCOS member," he said.

He said the cost for one farmer was 76,800/- per year, among the

cheapest benefits offered by NHIF - 200/- per day.

Kilolile explained that as for now the benefit was already being offered in other areas in which the Fund was collaborating with Tanzania Postal Bank (TPB) to simplify its issuance whereby the bank will meet farmer's benefit payment which would be paid back after the crop's harvest.

"So far we have visited 31 AMCOS in Singida Region and we have registered 300 cotton farmers and the exercise continues," he added.

He also said there were other improved NHIF packages being offered for all Tanzanians as including 'Najali' costing 192,000/- per person per year; 'Wekeza' costing 384,000 per person per year and 'Timiza' costing 516,000/- per person per year.

# Varsity, law profession bid farewell to Prof Kanywanyi

By Michael Eneza

MEMBERS of the University of Dar es Salaam law school and senior officials of the Judiciary, accompanied by senior cabinet ministers who are veterans of the Faculty of Law at the Hill, yesterday paid a solemn farewell to Josephat Laorean Kanywanyi (82), professor emeritus at the Law School.

The function held at the Nkrumah Hall was attended among others by retired Prime Minister Joseph Warioba, Foreign Minister Prof Palamagamba

Kabudi who delivered an emotional condolence message from President Dr John Magufuli, Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma and Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

Dar es Salaam Catholic Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Ruwaichi led the funeral service, after which various organizations recalled their involvement with the departed don, who worked at the University of Dar es Salaam for all his years in employment, rendering immense contributions to

legislation, law reform processes, rules of judicial administration, and especially the refashioning of financial sector and insurance law during the period of economic reform.

Among his many achievements were his having held the position of Dean of the Faculty of Law (later the Central Law School) in three different periods for a total of 12 years, said to be unequalled in the history of the faculty. Former colleagues and other associates traced his life's journey as a young man and the lessons

imparted by his presence to colleagues and students as well, where the more notable of personal memories came from retired professor Issa Shivji, recalling early revolutionary days, and Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson, recalling his inspiration as a fatherly figure at the faculty.

The deceased was later laid to rest at Kinondoni cemetery in the city, with scores of his grandchildren and the only surviving son attending the funeral service for the last journey of the veteran law don.

## Biteko warns Dar mineral traders

By Guardian Reporter

MINERALS minister Doto Biteko has lashed out at minerals scammers who are smuggling minerals into their homes and depriving the government of revenue.

Minister Biteko has warned scammers who defraud foreigners and sell them fake minerals, which he said tarnishes the country's reputation which such crime cannot be tolerated.

The minister made the statement yesterday when he visited and inspect mineral traders where he listened their challenges at the mining market located at the NHC building in Dar es Salaam.

"Our goal is to control the smuggling of minerals that's why we have come to warn them to refrain from buying outside the marketing system because the consequences are serious. we will arrest you."

"We must follow the law because the royalties and taxes for mining activities belong to all the Tanzanians. We are going to confiscate your minerals, houses and even take you to the court," he said.

He said in controlling the mining sector chain, the government through the Ministry of Mines as well as the Ministry of Industry and Trade are preparing a bill that will enable all jewelers in the country to be legally recognised.

"The biggest problem for jewelers is anonymity because there are so many that why it is so difficult to identify them. We want to put more pressure on regulating many systems in the

mining industry that will create a friendly environment because our goal is value addition. I strongly urge the jewelers to be patient on this," he said.

On other hand the Vice-Chairman of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TAMIDA), Osman Tharia, urged the ministry to review the price of rented rooms in that Natinal Housing Corporation in line with electricity prices as they hinder the growth of mining business in the country.

"He said more than 57 traders in the stalls have to pay for electricity based on the size of the stall which is expensive as it had to pay according to the use of electricity," he said.

In addition, the Deputy Minister of Minerals, Prof. Shuruku Manyu urged mining traders to adhere to the law as the government does not intend to undermine your trade but to enable them to grow and make the mining business sustainable and productive for all parties.



**Our goal is to control the smuggling of minerals that's why we have come to warn them to refrain from buying outside the marketing system because the consequences are serious. we will arrest you**



Minerals minister Doto Biteko (2nd-R) leafs through documents on the operations of mineral traders when he visited A minerals marketing centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on (R) is his deputy, Prof Shuruku Manyu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt reclaims ranches from investors not settling debts

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki has instructed the National Ranching Company (NARCO) board to reclaim all ranches loaned to private investors who have failed to settle their debts.

The minister gave the directive yesterday in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region speaking to farmers and herders of Usangu valley.

He said the government urges all ranches loaned to investors to pay their debts from January 12 to February 15 at 1.00 pm and that those who will fail to do so should be reclaimed and loaned to other investors.

Ndaki also banned all farming activities in ranch areas, saying that was against the terms of loan contracts.

Meanwhile, Ndaki assured all investors in various ranches countrywide that the government

was planning for them better business environment for them and called on them to continue working hard.

Ministry's Permanent Secretary Prof Gabriel Ole Sante requested ranch owners to use the areas for livestock only and not for any other businesses.

Some of the farmers in Usangu valley appealed to the government to apportion them areas for farming, as currently they had to hire the same at high costs.

Uliah Mahenge, a farmer, appealed the government through the Ministry for Livestock and Fisheries to given land and was ready to pay for it.

Two days previously Usangu, Basil Mramba, one of those who were loaned NARCO ranch assured the minister to settle all his debts in the given period.

He praised minister Ndaki for visiting his 43,727-hectare ranch that has 531 cattle.







# Govt sets out to create national PWDs register

By Guardian Reporter

A NATIONAL Register for people with disabilities (PWDs) will assist in the availability of better services for the group with special needs, as well as identifying the places they live, kind of disability, their living conditions and how to enable access to two per cent loans from the local councils.

The observation was given by the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PWDs), Umyy Nderiananga during her visit to oversee the return of PWDs to their home area in Shinyanga from Dar es Salaam. The returnees were part of PWDs who were being used as street beggars by people for their own interests.

She said the government was in the process of preparing a national register for the PWDs from street, village, ward, district and regional level "in order to have the correct data to show the number of people with disabilities countrywide, where they live and what they do in the communities they live in."

She added: "Today we have returned more than 38 of them here in Shinyanga, the place they were originally residing, hence had there been a national register, the exercise for their identification would have been simple."

The Deputy Minister said the Prime Minister's Office, in collaboration with Dar es Salaam regional officials conducted an impromptu operation to identify places where they were being housed, and managed to arrest some of their sponsors who take them to streets to beg money from passers-by.

She said they also seized several wheelchairs used by their sponsors to move the PWDs around to beg for alms. "We shall continue with the operation until all those behind this network stop this business," Umyy added.

She said the fifth phase government cares a lot for people with disabilities, and in recognition to that, it has been at the forefront in making sure they are accorded with appropriate needs just like other people.

She called on Shinyanga regional authorities, as well as other regions to ensure they assist this group of people in their respective areas by establishing various productive projects for them instead of roaming the streets to beg.

Shinyanga District Commissioner Yasinta Mboneko acknowledged receipt of the people with disabilities from Dar es Salaam and added that they will create a database for all PWDs living in various areas of the region.

# Govt issues warning to dishonest experts fond of misleading investors

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment), Umyy Mwalimu, has cautioned consulting experts who are dishonest to investors and business people as they have been responsible for hindering government efforts in wooing investors in the country.

Addressing reporters whilst in company of his Industry and Trade counterpart, Geoffrey Mwambe and NEMC Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka soon after inspecting the environment of BTY factory that processes harmful solid waste in Buguruni in Dar es Salaam, whose production was suspended due to environment inadequacies, Umyy said the investor was stymied by environment consulting experts who failed to submit Environmental Impact Assessment before starting the project.

"I will revoke permits of all consultant experts who do not abide by their work procedures including being untrustworthy as in doing so they hinder government's efforts to attain industrial economy status by 2025," she said.

She said the government continues to improve the environment for investors and business people in the country in order to mobilise investment by the indigenous Tanzanians and those from foreigners.

"We need qualified consulting experts who will help in advertising the country well thereby attracting investment in the country. The ministry, together with NEMC will not agree to work with consulting experts who violate their work ethics," she further explained.

Meanwhile, Umyy called on NEMC to meet with BTY Factory officials to provide them with guidelines that would enable the factory to continue with production while abiding by environmental requirements.

During the visit Umyy appealed to all institutions directly dealing with investments to stop the habit of usurping police powers and instead work like advisors, the practice that would increase the pace of investments.

"I take this opportunity to caution all institutions dealing with investment to work more as advisors instead of closing down factories that appear to violate environmental regulations, as in doing so they deny the country the much needed revenue and employment for the people," she said.

Industry and Trade Minister Geoffrey Mwambe said the presence of many production activities increase the tax base needed for economic growth.

NEMC Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka advised investors to find professional consulting experts and if they cannot get them they should go to NEMC head office or zonal offices for more advice.



## INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY OF EXPLOSIVE PRODUCTS AND INCIDENTAL SERVICE FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED AT GEITA MINE SITE

### I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of purchasing Explosive Products and Incidental Service and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the below service.

### Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01024	Supply of Explosive Products and Incidental Service

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRADE</b>	
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA</b>	
Mine to Mill Optimization focusing on Optimal Blast Outcomes	10%
Proof of robust Supply Chain for Delivery of Low and High Energy Explosives, which are Suitable for OP and UG Mining	10%
Proof of ability on Magazine Services and Safe Handling of Explosives at both Regulatory and International Standards	5%
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# 'Uganda judiciary is ready to handle election disputes'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Judiciary in Uganda says that is ready to handle all election disputes that will emerge from the Presidential and Parliamentary elections that will be held on 14th January, 2021.

Uganda's Deputy Chief Justice (DCJ) Richard Butera disclosed that the judiciary had already conducted training for judicial officers particularly on the handling of election petitions and disputes.

The DCJ said that among those who had undergone specialized training were judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court, Registrars of all courts and magistrates, adding that the training had also attracted lawyers from the Electoral Commission of Uganda and the Uganda Law Society. However, still pending is the training of judges of the Court of Appeal.

The DCJ further said that presidential election petitions have to be filed with the Supreme Court within 15 days of gazette of results by the Electoral Commission and disposed of within 60 days.

For parliamentary elections, petitions have to be filed in the High Court within 30 days after the Electoral Commission gazettes election results with appeals by dissatisfied parties being taken to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Butera further gave assurances that the Judiciary would listen to all parties involved in election disputes, urging lawyers to prepare their cases dutifully, adding that all cases shall be determined in a professional manner as per the existing laws governing elections in the country.

"The Judiciary plays a critical role at the end of the election cycle. It basically assesses what happened at the beginning of the election period including registration of voters, voter education, nominations by political parties, actual voting and counting of ballots all of which affect the election process," said Justice Butera.

The DCJ said that the entire election cycle was governed by laws including the Local Government Act, Electoral Commission Act, Presidential Elections Act, Parliamentary Elections Act and the Constitution, adding that public health regulations had also been introduced to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

He disclosed that so far various cases have been filed with courts mainly disputes arising from political parties' primaries noting

that candidates who felt aggrieved by their political parties had sought judicial review from the courts.

The DCJ said that the other cases filed arose from cases challenging the decisions of the Electoral Commission on the qualifications or eligibility of election candidates.

Justice Butera made the remarks when he hosted the East African Community Election Observer Mission (EAC-EOM) to the 2021 Uganda General Election at the High Court premises in Kampala.

The Head of the Mission, H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye, who is also a former president of the Republic of Burundi, led the EAC team.

H.E. Ndayizeye informed the DCJ that the EAC-EOM was in Uganda at the invitation of the Electoral Commission of Uganda, adding that the mission would observe the presidential and parliamentary elections.

"EAC believes that regional observation can play a critically important role that would enhance the credibility of the elections, reinforce the work of domestic observer groups and increase public confidence in the entire electoral process," he added. "The mission is in line with Article 3 (3) of the Treaty for Establishment of the EAC, which requires Partner States to adhere to the universally acceptable principles of good governance, human rights and social justice," he said.

H.E. Ndayizeye said that in its assessment of the electoral process, the mission would be guided by the democratic principles and values outlined in the African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the EAC Principles for Election Observation and Evaluation.

The mission comprises observers and support staff drawn from the East African Legislative Assembly, East African Court of Justice, EAC Secretariat and the Electoral Management bodies, Ministries of EAC Affairs and Human Rights Commissions of the EAC Partner States.

Accompanying the Head of Mission to the meeting with the DCJ were the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote and the Mission Coordinator, Mr. Charles Njoroge.

With the DCJ at the meeting were the Principal Judge Justice Flavian Zeija, the Permanent Secretary to the Judiciary, Mr. Pius Bigirimana, and the Chief Registrar, Her Worship Sarah Langa Siu.



Some of the 50 Muslim women from Muhungula ward in Kahama District pictured just before beginning to operate the ten sewing machines donated to them at the weekend by International Istaqaama Muslim Community. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Guardian Reporter, Shinyanga

SHINYANGA Regional Commissioner Zainab Telack has instructed agricultural officers in the region to educate mung beans (choroko) farmers on the working of the warehouse receipt system to avoid profiting buyers instead of themselves.

She was speaking early this week at a one-day meeting of mung beans stakeholders in Shinyanga Region to discuss on how best to use the warehouse receipt system to benefit farmers and the nation in general.

Telack also said using

## Educate farmers how warehouse receipt system operates, RC says

warehouse receipt system will enable buyers of the crop to know where to get it.

She said it is the government's directive to ensure leguminous crops use the system just as it is for cashew nuts.

"I want to see farmers in Shinyanga region have the ability to educate their children, build better houses and profit from their sweat," said the RC.

She also instructed the assistant registrar for cooperatives in Shinyanga Region, Hilda Simon to meet with primary cooperative and the Shinyanga Region Cooperative union (SHIRECU) to put in place joint strategies in educating farmers to understand the benefits of the warehouse receipt system.

For her part, Hilda Simon said the challenges facing the use of

the system has caused failure to have the correct data on the crop.

Meanwhile Shinyanga Region's CCM Chairman Mabila Mlomba told stakeholders at the meeting that officials of primary cooperatives in the region were a big problem, as they do not know the burden of the farmers as they do not own even a single farm themselves, other than talking a lot.



Zanzibar House of Representatives Speaker Zuberi Ali Maulid (R) receives sports gear from NMB Bank Plc Zanzibar branch manager Abdallah Duchi. It was a donation by the bank to soccer and volleyball teams in the Isles to mark the 57th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent

## '2021 will be critical year in the fight against COVID-19, climate change'

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina has joined world leaders to discuss the global transition to clean power as part of a green recovery and identify actions that can be taken to support this.

The virtual COP26 Roundtable on Clean Power Transition, under the theme "Achieving a rapid shift to green, affordable and resilient power systems" was held amid growing recognition that climate change remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity.

Participants included UN Secretary General António Guterres, COP26 President Alok Sharma, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio, and representatives from governments, multilateral development banks, the private sector and international organisations.

Guterres said the year ahead would be critical "not only in beating the COVID-19 pandemic but in meeting the climate challenge". He said African countries in particular were vulnerable and renewed his call

for developed nations to fulfill their longstanding pledge to provide \$100 billion a year for developing countries to support both climate mitigation and adaptation.

"Huge amounts of money have been earmarked for the COVID-19 recovery and stimulus measures. But sustainable investments are still not being prioritized," Guterres said. "We must invest in the future of affordable renewable energy for all people, everywhere."

These discussions have gained an added urgency in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has strained fiscal resources that are available to cope with global crises. The accelerated transition to green, affordable and resilient power systems has been identified as a top priority for COP26 under the presidency of the United Kingdom, which has established the Energy Transition Council to drive the transformation.

One of the most direct impacts of the pandemic was

the disruption it caused to the 2020 edition of the global climate change talks known commonly as COP, hosted annually by the United Nations. The event was postponed to November this year, when it is due to be held in Scotland.

COP26 President Sharma said the global transition to clean power must move at least four times the current pace to achieve targets set out in Paris Agreement on climate change. He called for enhanced global cooperation to boost innovation and economies of scale.

"This is our moment in history to make those vital decisive and positive choices so that we can protect the future of our planet and our peoples. So, let's continue to work together to bring the benefits of clean affordable and resilient power to the world," Sharma said.

Di Maio, whose government co-hosted Monday's event, said a clean energy transition "must be a universal goal in the interests

of the entire international community."

"Italy has been working with international agencies and private sector to foster smart and digital power infrastructure in African countries. Such an improvement would boost energy efficiency and facilitate energy access for all local communities."

Reiterating that the African Development Bank will no longer finance coal projects, Adesina said the Bank had prioritized renewables as the mainstay of its Light Up and Power Africa strategic priority, as a result of which the share of renewable energy in the Bank's power generation investments now stands at 80%.

"The bank has been at the forefront of transformative renewable energy projects in Africa, including large-scale concentrated solar projects in Morocco - one of the largest in the world - and the Lake Turkana wind power project, the largest in Sub-Saharan Africa," Adesina said.

## AYCH inaugurates incubation programme for green start-ups

By Boris Ngounou

THE African Youth Climate Hub (AYCH) has just launched a call for applications to train young entrepreneurs who develop climate solutions in Africa. For this first edition, the African Youth Climate Hub will incubate 10 projects led by young Africans.

The first edition of the "African Youth Climate Hub Incubation Program" is in orbit. The call for applications launched on December 17th, 2020 is open to African start-ups working in the fight against the effects of climate change and in the field of sustainable development. To apply, young entrepreneurs are invited to log on to youthclimatehub.org, download the incubation offer, create their account and submit their project by filling in the online form.

Only 10 projects will be selected at the end of the call for applications, the duration of which is still to be determined. The winners will receive six months of training in the fields of law, strategy, marketing, communication, psychology and

climate change technologies. They will also be offered a coaching programme to develop each of their respective projects.

The African Youth Climate Hub Incubation Program was launched by the African Youth Climate Hub (AYCH), a platform for strengthening African youth leadership on climate and sustainable development, created in September 2019 at the New York Climate Action Summit by Princess Lalla Hasnaa of Morocco. In her capacity as President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for the Environment, the Princess entrusted the implementation of the incubation programme to the academic branch of her foundation, namely the Hassan II International Environmental Training Centre, which will work jointly with the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University.

Through this incubation programme, the AYCH wants to encourage the development of green businesses that will bring innovative solutions to Africa to fight against climate change and promote sustainable development.





Iringa regional administrative secretary Happiness Seneda pictured yesterday receiving from Doris Mollel Foundation founder Doris Mollel an incubator for supporting premature infants. This was during the presentation of 30m/- worth of medical equipment to an Iringa District hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## World Bank plans to invest over \$5 billion in dry lands in Africa

PARIS/WASHINGTON

THE World Bank plans to invest over \$5 billion over the next five years to help restore degraded landscapes, improve agriculture productivity, and promote livelihoods across 11 African countries on a swathe of land stretching from Senegal to Djibouti.

World Bank Group President David Malpass announced the investment at the One Planet Summit, a high-level meeting co-hosted with France and the United Nations that is focused on addressing climate change and biodiversity loss.

"This investment, which comes at a crucial time, will help improve livelihoods as countries recover from COVID-19 while also dealing with the impact of both biodiversity loss and climate change on their people and economies," said Malpass.

The more than \$5 billion in financing will support agriculture, biodiversity, community development, food security, landscape restoration, job creation, resilient infrastructure, rural mobility, and access to renewable energy across 11

countries of the Sahel, Lake Chad and Horn of Africa. Many of these efforts are in line with the Great Green Wall initiative. This builds on World Bank landscape investments in these countries over the past eight years that reached more than 19 million people and placed 1.6 million hectares under sustainable land management.

"Restoring natural ecosystems in the drylands of Africa benefits both people and the planet," said Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

Working with many partners, PROGREEN, a World Bank global fund dedicated to boosting countries' efforts to address landscape degradation, will also invest \$14.5 million in five Sahelian countries - Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Mali, Mauritania.

The World Bank Group is the biggest multilateral funder of climate investments in developing countries. In December 2020, the World Bank Group announced an ambitious new target for 35% of its financing to have climate co-benefits, on average, over the next five years.

By Guardian Reporter

## Youth called upon to cherish Tanzania's cultural heritage

YOUTH have been urged to recognise and cherish Tanzania's cultural heritage and cultivate a sense of patriotism for social, economic development.

The remarks to this effect was made by the Director General of the National Museum of Tanzania, Dr Noel Lwoga when addressing a group of youth from the University of Dar es Salaam who participated in the Dar es Salaam City tour over the weekend.

The tour organised by the National Museum under the Museum University Hub programme involved university students from the College of Humanities who experienced the beauty of Dar es Salaam heritage sites in Dar es Salaam.

In a speech read on his behalf by the National Museum Principal Public Relations Officer, Joyce Mkinga, the National Museum Director General, underscored the importance of promoting Tanzania's cultural heritage so that it is known to the public inside and outside the country therefore the youth can play an important role in the endeavours.

The 69 university students

from the College of Humanities, department of Archaeology and Heritage toured the Museum and House of Culture in what was dubbed as 'Dar City Tour'. The students who are members of Dar es Salaam University Archaeology and Heritage Student Association (DUHASA) also toured other 17 tourists and cultural heritage attractions in the city.

He said the tour aimed at building student's capacity and help them link theories learned in class with actual realities on ground.

"We want you to be good ambassadors of what Tanzania has to offer in terms of tourism and heritage attractions and contribute toward endeavors to strengthen tourism sector," he said.

Tanzania targets to reach five billion tourists visiting the country every year with annual income turn over of USD 6 Billion by 2025.

Dr Lwoga explained that the tour also aimed at opening up opportunities to students and

provides them with a clue of where to start after completing their studies.

A Senior Education Officer, National Museum and House of Culture, Anamery Bagenyi cautioned the students to cultivate needed good ethical conducts in their work places in the future.

"We should learn from our past leaders," she told them when explaining a point on past presidents of Tanzania at the museum, the First President Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

The tour was the second one to be organized by the Museum University Hub, a programme under the Tanzania National Museum and House of Culture with a purpose of organizing higher learning students specializing in tourism, cultural heritage and archaeology in Tanzania.

The Head of the Programme of the Museum and House of Culture, Chance Ezekiel said members of the Museum University Hub have opportunities to have first-

hand knowledge of tourists and cultural heritage sites attractions with guidance from experienced experts in the areas.

"There are a lot of opportunities in tourism and heritage sub sector," he said, adding that early exposure to students was important to trigger their brains and future innovations in their areas of expertise.

For now, the programme collaborates with DUHASA but plans are afoot to work with other students in other universities in the country.

The Chairperson of DUHASA, Zuhura Mtenguzi said the tour was an eye opener and had positive impact to students.

"We have learned that we have to be clear of where we come from in order to forge a strong nation in the future," she said.

Explaining further, she noted that cultural heritage and other tourists attractions have a huge role to play in nation's progress and that as youths they will be at fore front to promote them.

## South Africa to shut 20 border posts in bid to curb COVID-19

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's president has announced that the country will close 20 land border posts until Feb. 15 to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

"One of the challenges that we have as the festive season draws to a close is the huge congestion at many of our land border posts," Cyril Ramaphosa said in a televised address to the nation.

He said the huge congestion at border posts has exposed many people to COVID-19 infections as they wait to be processed. Local television stations have been showing footage of long queues of trucks and people seeking to enter South Africa from the Beit Bridge border post with Zimbabwe waiting for many hours.

"It has been difficult to ensure that the health requirements for entry into South Africa are met, with many people arriving without proof of COVID-19 tests,"

he said, adding that to reduce the congestion and the high risk of transmission of COVID-19, the Cabinet decided that the 20 land ports of entry currently open will be closed until Feb.15 for general entry and departure.

Ramaphosa said some people however will be still allowed to enter or depart the country for reasons including the transportation of fuel, cargo and goods, people seeking emergency medical attention for a life-threatening condition, returning South African nationals, permanent residents or persons with other valid visas.

South Africa is currently observing level three of its lockdown restrictions. Two weeks ago, Ramaphosa announced tighter restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic, including possible arrest for not wearing a face mask in public.

He also banned the sale of alcohol in a bid to alleviate pressure on hospitals.

## Scientists 'baffled' on the discovery of 2 dwarf giraffes in Namibia, Uganda

By Pascale Davies

GIRAFFES are known for their immense height which gives them the ability to reach leaves from the tallest trees, so scientists were surprised when they discovered two of the world's tallest mammals were half the size of a regular giraffe.

Giraffes can reach 20 feet in height but in 2015 Conservation scientists found a 9-foot 3-inch giraffe in a Ugandan wildlife park.

And three years later, on the opposite side of the continent, they found an 8 1/2-foot giraffe in Namibia.

Scientists said the condition was called skeletal dysplasia, or dwarfism, which was a result of abnormalities in bone development.

Both creatures had regular long necks but their legs were far shorter and thicker.

They published their findings in the British Medical Journal in December. The report said while captive animals living with skeletal dysplasias usually have lower survival rates, as the giraffes are over the age of one it should not impact their longevity.

But poaching and shrinking habitats have caused giraffe numbers to decline by 40 percent in just 30 years, according to the African Wildlife Foundation.

In the late 19th and 20th centuries herds of 20 to 30 giraffes were recorded, now on average herd sizes contain fewer than six individuals.

*But poaching and shrinking habitats have caused giraffe numbers to decline by 40 percent in just 30 years, according to the African Wildlife Foundation*



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6. Kiluwa Steel Group Ltd	3ph HT Motor	450 KW
7. Interchick	3Hp Induction Motors	160 KW
8. TPCC Ltd	Gear Motor	13.1KW
9. TPCC Ltd	Slipring Motor	35 KW
10. Mbeya Cement	Slipring Motor	670kW
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WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Return of herders to Ihefu shows problem not going away too soon

HERE is an adage that old habits die hard, in which case a problem that public authorities believe to have resolved rears its head in a different way, and sometimes in nearly the same old manner, even after ten years. That is what is happening at Ihefu protected wetland in Mbeya Region, where livestock herders who were evicted from the zone in 2005 have streamed back into the reserve, key catchment area for power generation systems in the central zone like Kidatu and Mtera, as well as downstream at Rufiji. It is hence incontestable that the wetland isn't left to the mercies of livestock keepers to decimate, destroy.

While this position is clear and well known to the herders themselves, except that they prefer the lush wetland for hardier areas they were directed to occupy, and therefore they have been crawling back, usually with the protection of nightfall. It took an aerial survey of the wetland to figure out where the herders were camped and the probable number of their animals, though these aspects weren't addressed in detail in an emergency discussion of the matter in the southern highlands administrative region. But the results were clear, that the government has no intent of compromising on the wetland status of the zone.

Brought into the meeting, Mbarali District cattle keepers chairman Matagiri Mbigili said that renewed encroachment on the protected area is compounded by the fact that Mbarali district authorities have designated areas for activities such as settlement, farming and sources of water but

not grazing areas. This is a view of things which in court lexical terms is in contempt of summary expulsion of herders, expelled back in 2006, and they are trying, 15 years later or thereabouts, to clutch to some reasoning to stream into Ihefu wetland zone again. They are saying they ought to be part of the land use mapping of the district.

There was definitely a reason why the government did not allocate grazing areas in Mbarali district, which hurriedly can be said that a vast wetland where important catchment areas have their outflows is not the place where grazing areas can be mapped out.

Even the sort of activities for which areas were allocated are often a burden for conservation, for instance efforts to develop irrigation farming on the edges of wetlands and other catchment areas. In the Lake Zone regions water is pumped from the lake and channeled to particular areas via concrete canals, hence preserving the water - at high percentage levels.

It is unclear if streaming back to Ihefu is a matter of 'stubbornness' of Mbarali district livestock keepers as a senior conservation officer with the Ruaha National Park suggested at the meeting, or they may also be agro-pastoralists who don't wish to go far away from the precincts of the district as they have other interests in the zone. But chances are that the conservation officer is right, that they think they have a right to the land, and the wetland ought to be designated as a grazing area - if one was to attempt to read the mind of the leader of livestock keepers.

## President Nyusi's visit a reminder of how close Tanzanians are to Mozambicans

VISITING Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi was the memorable guest at a ceremony to lay a foundation stone for construction of a new referral hospital at Burigi, an area that has also a national park in its vicinity, before concluding a two day state visit. At the ceremony, host president Dr John Magufuli used the occasion to underline the importance of the hospital being rapidly constructed, and focused on economic issues in relation to bilateral ties between Tanzania and Mozambique. There are indicators that trade is moving in the right direction, but the long border connecting the two countries is a sleepy zone.

Having the visiting leader lay the foundation stone was credited to the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, where it will mark a pointer to generations to come that laying the foundation stone was something memorable to residents of the area, and high up in the government. The facility that will serve as an additional Lake Zone referral health centre, as so far there is only Bugando. Referral Hospital in Mwanza, meanwhile as the Lake Zone population is being put at around 15m at present. This shows that another referral hospital in the zone was a crying need already.

Noticeably the Mozambican leader expressed his admiration for the efforts that the fifth phase has put in health sector development, enumerated by the minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima. She said that in the past five years, the government has constructed 1,198 dispensaries and 487 health centres, among

which are 99 district hospitals, five regional referral hospitals and two zonal hospitals. Regions in the proximity of Lake Victoria are Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Kagera, Mara and Mwanza, to which until now there is only Bugando for referring patients.

While President Magufuli and Foreign Minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi focused on enhancing economic ties with the neighbouring country, the visiting Mozambican leader at least referred to discussions on boundaries and security issues. Since there is no contention between Tanzania and Mozambique in relation to a hypothetical boundary line as it was the case with Malawi on a Lake Nyasa middle point line that the Lilongwe authorities disputed, hardly could boundaries per se be the topic of discussion. But bandits crossing boundaries, torching houses to create lawless zones is a different matter.

There were reports on international media mid last week that supposed Islamic State allied insurgents (earlier they were being said to be linked with the Al Shabaab network in Somalia) were lately enclosing on key administrative centres close to the LNG (liquefied natural gas) facility on the northern tip of the Mozambican coastline, in Cabo Delgado province. The situation must also have been discussed in the SADC organ on security and defence, and definitely in other diplomatic instances as well. At the same time the Mozambican leader came soon after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi concluded a working visit, a month or so after Total, the French oil company, had declared the situation there as an emergency.

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By Don Pinnock

MY generation has left you a shitshow of planetary proportions. It's going to take you a long time to get out of the muck. So sorry.

As 2021 begins, let's discuss your inheritance. Basically, you'll be starting from scratch. The generation that has been in power since World War 2 - my generation - has used up almost everything.

For our pleasure, leisure and fragile sense of security, we dammed most of the Earth's rivers to generate electricity for factories to make things we used a few times then threw away. Go and check the dumps if you don't believe me.

### Display Adverts

It's true we kept the lights on at home so you could do your homework and charge your cellphones. Wind farms and solar panels helped, and I hope that's all you'll be using in your future. But for too long we kept the machinery going on coal and oil, which put so much carbon dioxide into the sky your planet will be a lot hotter than ours.

I can't offer you any advice about how to cope with this, except to say really, really sorry. Maybe by the time you grow up Antarctica will be free of ice and might be quite pleasant. It's worth a try.

I hope you understand we needed all the stuff coal and oil gave us - well, we thought we did. 'Two-and-a-half planets' worth from a single planet, to be exact. We failed to notice we were all suffering from hurry sickness, so we didn't have time to stop and think about what we were doing.

Talking about homework, what you learnt at school will be of little use for the sort of lives you'll be living because it's geared towards the sort of life we're living, which won't be around when you grow up.

It's a pity, but we had to keep you busy during the day while we drained your future's natural resources without providing renewable ones. Your resources will probably be good for about two weeks after you inherit them.

We built many really beautiful buildings you'd love, but tore them down to build cheap, featureless boxes with a life span equal to ours. You might get a few more years out of them, but not many. They're yours to use while they last.

I'm really embarrassed about the wild animals we painted on your nursery walls and all the cuddly elephants, lions, bears and whales and stuff. Bum steer. I suspect they'll deepen your sense

## Our Burning Planet: Kids, about your inheritance...



of loss when you can't find them for real.

But you see, we needed their tusks to make pretty carvings, their bones to make disgusting wine, their skins, their oil and their bile. Well, we didn't really, but were convinced we did. We forgot to remember they'd run out and now we can't bring them back. Extinct. You'll be the first generation to live with a separation crisis about the depletion of the living world.

In time, other of life's creatures may reach across the depths of space to greet you. But until that happens, you alone on Earth are aware of this possibility. It may be a long wait.

But keep all those toys as mementos. They'll be valuable some day. You could put them in a museum of lost animals.

And while I'm thinking of it, sorry about the fish. No fish. See what you can do with the sea urchins and jellyfish that took over. There must be something.

Oh yes, I need to explain those deserts. They used to be farms. Strange, hey? Anyway, we pulled out all the natural plants and planted wheat and things like that. We called it the Green Revolution. Only it didn't revolve.

We pumped mineral-rich water from nonrenewable underground aquifers year after year until the soil was so full of salt nothing would grow. Then rain washed most of the topsoil into the rivers because there were no plants to hold it. It went out to sea, where the fertilisers we used in it killed fish. So it wasn't just the plastic.

Then there's the economy. It's

difficult to explain why you have no money. It would've been so useful. Fewer and fewer of us scooped up more and more of it, fiddling the books or selling stuff that at root we really didn't need. It was like draining the swamp of value. I really can't say what happened to it in the end. It kind of vanished.

So think of your inheritance as a challenge - the challenge of starting from scratch. And, by the way, don't forget to pay off our \$100-trillion debt to the World Bank.

It really needs it because it also can't find the money.

Speaking of inheritance, we did leave you some things that are really durable. Plastic comes to mind. It's just so useful, but it did kill the oceans and most of the sea birds, so you have to be careful. Maybe you'll work out what to do with those huge plastic trash heaps floating in the sea. They're yours. You can have them, courtesy of the 20th century.

I can add toxic dumps. They'll last, especially the nuclear ones that'll be around for the next 200,000 years or so. Your best brains can work out the sort of Keep Out signs that'll make sense for that long. It's an interesting challenge.

I almost forgot the virus. How remiss, given that we're all masked up and locked down. We hacked down tropical forests to plant oil palm trees so we could have cheap oil for frying our breakfasts and making potato crisps. Cheaper than whale and sunflower oil. Pity about the orang-utans. We were closely related, you know.

Then we hunted forest creatures we'd never eaten before and they turned out to be full of dangerous pathogens that killed half the world's population. But in a way that's good - fewer people to feed. A word of warning though - never eat bats. Come to think of it, don't eat any wild creatures. You can never tell.

As a solace in the hard times we've bequeathed you, try to keep this in mind, something we missed in our scramble to buy the world: the Earth is your mother and you are her gift to the universe. Your wisdom and understanding are also its wisdom and understanding. In fact, you are the eyes of the universe looking at itself. That's pretty cool. Treasure it above all else and use it to care for all life, including your own.

In time, other of life's creatures may reach across the depths of space to greet you. But until that happens, you alone on Earth are aware of this possibility. It may be a long wait.

Meanwhile, the wild living things that survived us are the only fellow citizens you'll ever have. They share equally your right and privilege to be on Earth. Do them no harm. Respect their lifeways. They're fellow travellers on this blue spaceship and will give you great joy.

We wish you a long and happy life, though I'm sorry it won't be as long and happy as ours. Not for a while, anyway. You have so much work to rebuild from the wasteland we left you. Again, I am sorry. We screwed up. Best of luck.



By Asukile R. Kajuni

# Sustainable tourism-led development growth: Part 2

This is the second in a series of articles destined to highlight some of the most important tourism products available in the country that should be sustainably utilized in order to effectively implement Tanzania's policy on tourism which advocates "low volume high value tourism" that is sensitive to and preserves the environment and ecosystem processes. The objective of this series is intended to facilitate the implementation of a countrywide tourism products' diversification and development of a sustainable, high quality ecotourism and cultural experience to visitors. This will also provide opportunities for the operation of community tourism ventures whilst ensuring that the biodiversity assets within the country are maintained for more enriching visitor experiences. By opening and expanding the tourism reach into less visited areas but with equally unique and abundant biodiversity assets, paleontological/archaeological, cultural/traditional products as well other intangible resources and values, available therein, the contribution of the industry to government policy on poverty alleviation in rural areas will be boosted.

Tourism is an important industry in many developing countries providing foreign exchange, employment, incomes and public revenues. It has become an important sector and it potentially constitutes one of the fastest growing sectors. It offers labour intensive and small-scale opportunities compared to other non-agricultural activities, and employs a high proportion of women and youth in rural areas. The economic effects of tourism industry and the improvement to local livelihoods in rural settings could have a far-reaching positive effect on poverty alleviation across the board, as it is one amongst those industries that do not take people away from their traditional homesteads. As the tourists come to the destinations, they provide opportunities for selling traditional goods and services (e.g. agricultural products, handicrafts, homesteads, cultural dances and festivals) produced by local communities from these destination areas. The resulting income and employment generation may help reduce poverty levels and improve local communities' health, food security and education services.

## Introduction

Tanzania bears unparalleled tourism potential both in terms of abundance and variety of its attractions in all of Sub-Saharan Africa. Best known as the "cradle" of mankind (the earliest nut cracker hominids was found in the Oldupai Gorge in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area), Tanzania harbors the only highest free standing permanently snow-capped mountain in Africa (Mt. Kilimanjaro); the famous Serengeti National Park with its over 5 million wildlife herds roaming freely over the short grass plains and their annual migration; almost 1,000 kilometers of unspoiled white beaches; rich traditional culture and history traversing the breadth and length of the country from a blend of African, Arabic, Persian, Portuguese and German values.

The country is a very high value safari and cultural tourism destination and is considered as one of the best tourism destinations in Africa with its tourism industry showing a rapid growth as shown by the number of tourists doubling during the period from 2010 to 2019. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism recorded a total of 782,699 tourists in 2010, which grew to 1.53 million visitors generating revenues to the tune of \$2.6 billion in 2019. With an annual growth rate of 7% over the last decade, the country is one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in East Africa. These increases in number of tourists and revenues, mainly visiting the northern tourism circuit, could easily be quadrupled due to the country's abundant and magnificent natural



attractions that are lying idle in many parts of the country especially so in the Southern Tourism Circuit.

Tanzania's nature-based tourism rely on wildlife and other biodiversity assets depending on the long-term protection of large landscapes—a mosaic of land uses including strictly protected areas (national parks and nature reserves), game and forest reserves and wildlife corridors as well as community managed area in the form of wildlife management areas (WMAs) and village land forest reserves (VLFs). Protected areas have served as the main conservation tool in Africa and remain the fundamental building blocks of biodiversity conservation. They protect a diversity of ecosystems, provide key habitat and safe havens for wildlife, and support vital ecosystem services upon which wildlife and people depend. The protected areas are a key piece to the overall conservation puzzle. The Southern Tourism Circuit region is endowed with rich biodiversity comprised of natural, cultural as well as paleontological/archaeological resources. These include: iconic wildlife species (elephants, rhinos), watersheds, mineral and energy resources, marine life, the Kilwa historic/cultural sites, the Dinosaur of Tendaguru hill in Lindi as well as local traditions that are important potential source of economic growth through nature-based tourism.

The overarching goals of opening up Southern Tourism Circuit are three fold. Firstly, to facilitate the development of a Southern Tourism Circuit which is grounded on the basis of a sustainable, high quality ecotourism and cultural experience to visitors. Secondly, to provide opportunities for community tourism ventures whilst ensuring that the biodiversity values within the region are not eroded. Meaning that, we want to ensure that all tourism services, products and solutions proposed for the Southern Tourism Circuit revolve around the attainment of improved livelihood goal and poverty alleviation at the household levels. Thirdly, to establish the short, medium and long-term strategies that would support the sustainable tourism-led development growth of the country.

The Southern Tourism Circuit comprises of Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Morogoro, Iringa, Njombe and Mbeya administrative regions. This ecological landscape has a vast endowment of tourism assets anchored from a series of protected areas including the Nyerere and Ruaha national parks, the first and second largest parks in the country and East Africa; the Mikumi, Udzungwa Mountains, Saadani and Kitulo national parks; the Mnazi Bay and Mafia Island marine parks; the Selous, Lukwika-Lumesule, Liparamba and Msanjeli, as well as the Mpanga/Kipengere, and Usangu game reserves; Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Marine and the Kilombero Valley Ramsar sites; the Rondo, Uluguru, Uzungwa Scarp, and Rungwe Nature Forest Reserves; the Matogoro, Poroto, Livingstone/Mt. Rungwe Forest Reserves; the Ndonda, Mchimalu, Nalika, Liwale, Mbarangandu, Chingole, Kimbanda, Kisungule, Umamaruwa, Waga and Ukutu, Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and the Beach Management Units (BMUs) in Somanga.

The circuit's tourism services, products and solutions are unique and intricately linked together and constitute an important beach to bush marketing. The specialized tourism activities within the Southern Tourism Circuit should capitalize on:

- Economic exploitation that is sensitive to the natural resource bases that drive the entire ecotourism industry;
- Game drives and hiking activities that are augmented by wilderness walks in the virgin mountain forest reserves;
- Landscape viewing providing for a variety of tourism activities such as cultural interaction with local communities, traditional festivals and homestead visits, walking, Bird watching and adventure visits;
- Visits to paleontological/archaeological, cultural/traditional heritage sites;
- Visits to witness a broader natural resources governance system through 'collaborative fisheries management area - CFMA', 'wildlife management areas - WMAs', and 'village land forest reserves - VLFs', mandated with championing environmental awareness, promoting the local communities' participation in natural resources management, and encouraging the use of environmentally friendly natural resources utilization technologies; and
- Beach and Marine parks' visits to observe opportunities for scuba diving, spot fishing and white beach sun-bathing as well as observation of Whale Sharks in Mafia Island.

Other opportunities are the usual services associated with hospitality industries all over the country such as: Accommodation, Meals and Drinks, Laundry and Gift/Curio shop services.

All these opportunities are open for the private sector to engage in through investments in conservation business ventures that will help local communities improve their aptitude to safely manage, and regain natural resources stewardship and security in the long run. The desired tourism product include rustic accommodation types designed to match the outdoor activities that suit clients interested in minimum contacts with other tourists during visits in the wilderness and pristine areas that are available in abundance. In addition the Southern Tourism Circuit has opportunities for tourist hunting and the authentic beach to bush tourism product.

National Tourism Policy and Strategy The tourism policy underscores the need for local communities' involvement in decision-making and in sharing of tourism proceeds and resources, as well as providing strategies that will ensure increased benefits for local communities, balancing interests of the communities and the private sector and providing mechanisms for micro financing to SMEs. Moreover, the policy has other strategies like developing infrastructure to improve accessibility, enhancing quality, and marketing. Furthermore, the policy has some strategies to promote cultural

tourism, and positioning Tanzania as a leading destination in wildlife and hunting expeditions. In line with the broad national policy the government developed and adopted the Integrated Tourism Master Plan in 2002. The core of the Integrated Master Plan strategy is to develop an integrated tourism product that is capable of attracting a low volume, high yield segment of the international tourism market to spend their entire holiday in Tanzania as a "single destination" in their holiday plans. The primary focus of opening the Southern Tourism Circuit is to obtain sustainable benefits for the people by generating additional economic activity from available biodiversity assets/resources by addressing the six following primary areas:

- Creating greater awareness of Southern Tourism Circuit in the contemporary tourism source markets of South East Asia;
- Expanding tourism products (diversification);
- Securing a more competitive position;
- Maximizing the necessary services skills (capacity building); and
- Establishing the necessary structures and controls to underpin tourism development.

Therefore the need for government to increase efforts in the development of strategic infrastructure on roads, telecommunication, airports, to support lodges and hotels catering for the Southern Tourism Circuit and especially so in less known areas with new tourism products is urgent. Ultimately, there should be every reason to believe that tourism will continue to grow and provide an important industry for job creation and absorb majority of the youth and women from rural areas from some of the most remote areas of the country. It is envisaged that numbers of tourists will increase but most importantly the length of stay is expected to increase from an average of 7.5 nights to 14 nights as a direct result of increased tourism products, through opening of the Southern Tourism Circuit, and drive the tourism visitation to meet and surpass the targeted 5 million visitors by 2025, without detriment to the natural resources and biodiversity assets.

## Southern Tourism Circuit Unique Attributes and Pull Factors

Tanzania is a vast country whose infrastructure is not fully developed and therefore poses a serious constraint to the full utilization of the available tourism opportunities in the country. Other key constraints in the tourism sector include bureaucracy and high taxation both of which are being dealt with under current government. On the other hand, these constraints are also important opportunities for the country. The current tourists are mostly highly educated people and require more than just looking at and taking photographs of wildlife and wild places. Apart from requiring interactions with host communities, they need solitude and remoteness both of which Tanzania and the Southern Tourism Circuit has in plenty. Its landscape offer unique opportunities for undertaking different

complementary activities. There is a wide range of complementary activities which can be implemented that include but not limited to:

- Integrated tourism product development for "Southern Tourism Circuit" that includes national parks, marine parks, forest nature reserves, beach, paleontological/archaeological, cultural/traditional and historic products;
- Implement marketing and branding strategies for the promotion of "Destination Southern Tourism Circuit";
- Supporting and developing capacity within the local government and private sector to drive destination development and management;
- Supporting studies for the traditional and cultural aspects of the local ethnic groups to be included in the "Destination Southern Tourism Circuit";
- Establish strategic alliances with key agencies and tour operators currently operating to ensure the permanent promotion of Southern Tourism Circuit; and
- Identify, demarcate and map all tourism hotspots found within the Southern Tourism Circuit and undertake marketing strategies through development of a new, dynamic and evocative brand image emphasizing the variety of the tourism products in "Destination Southern Tourism Circuit".

The purpose being to expand the success of Tanzania's tourism industry that is being enjoyed in the Northern Tourism Circuit to the south, where there is a growing need for economic development through sustainable tourism industry by adapting to the unique local conditions obtaining in the regions. In addition recent government initiatives in allowing local communities' participation in conservation and management of natural resources and the protection of biodiversity assets through the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFs), and beach management units (BMUs) approaches, is critical to the success of conservation endeavors and to the tourism industry. Such conducive enabling environment is a magnet to entice the private sector to take advantage of by investing in the more remote areas of the country to diversify tourism products and generate more income. As they lie idle the country loses not only the income from these areas but also the opportunity to alleviate poverty through sustainable tourism development. In order for tourism to alleviate poverty and foster development of local communities in rural areas, a shift of emphasis has been implemented by government to include pro-active policies that end with more "trickle-down" and multiplier effects by involvement of local communities from decision-making to direct engagement in running tourism facilities through the WMAs, VLFs and BMUs. Tanzania has a competitive advantage over most of its competitors in the region because of the presence in its borders, vast and incredible endowment of tourism assets, which include opportunities for wildlife safaris, hiking, cultural tourism, and other activities like unique landscape scenery, the wilderness, and has a rich heritage of paleontological/archaeological, historical and cultural sites, a number of which have been designated as World Heritage Sites.

## Opportunity for Southern Tourism Circuit

The Southern Tourism Circuit is bound within regions that are endowed with rich biodiversity assets comprised of natural, paleontological/archaeological, cultural as well as historic resources that are anchored from a series of protected areas and cultural site as well as local traditions that are important potential source of economic growth through nature-based sustainable tourism. The goal is to enhance the sustainable economic growth and resilience of Southern Tourism Circuit through a Beach to Bush (B2B) tourism development strategy forming a basis for a sustainable, high quality ecotourism and cultural experience creating opportunities for community conservation business ventures whilst ensuring that the biodiversity assets, paleontological/archaeological and cultural values are maintained. At the local levels, rural communities across regions depend on biodiversity assets and the habitats for their livelihoods. Biodiversity assets contribute both economically and intrinsically to the natural capital, and therefore critical for future growth and sustainable development.

To be continued



# Recovery: What are we talking about?

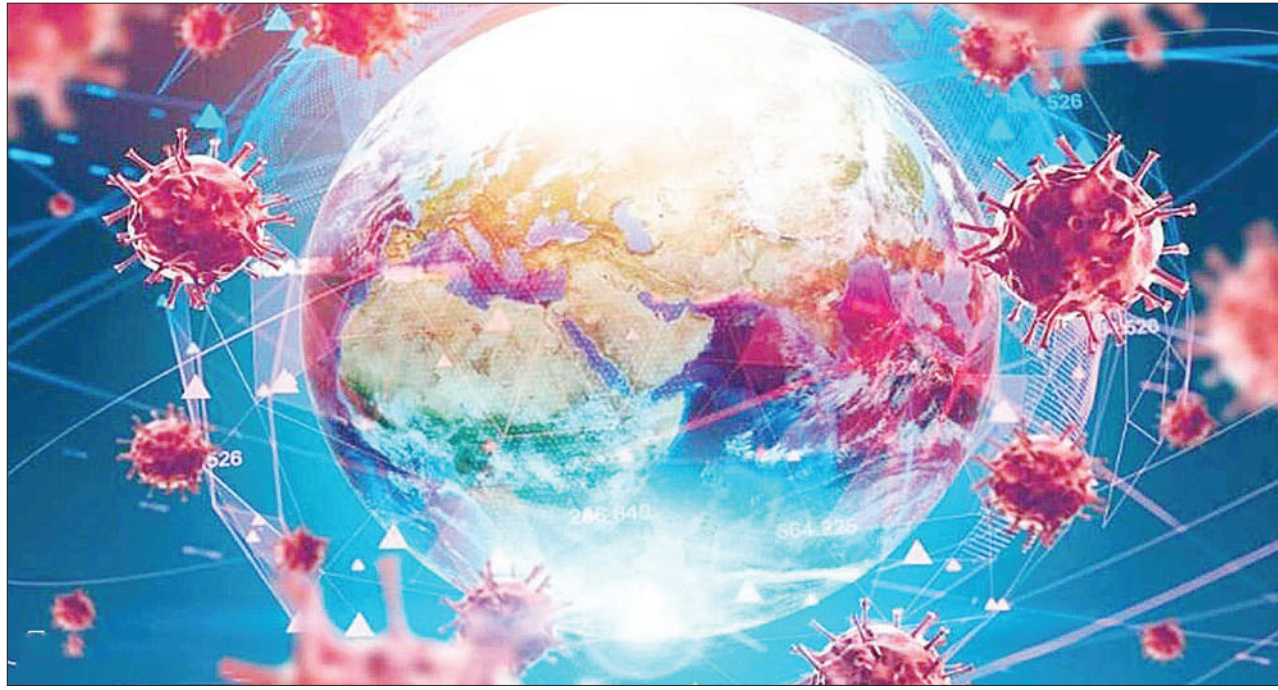
## MEXICO CITY

The new year has arrived, but the situation is worse than in the last months of 2020. The pandemic is still unleashed: the end of the year holidays, the official permissiveness, and the slowness of the distribution of vaccines seem to announce that the disease will continue to wreak havoc for several months in most of the world, particularly in America, Europe, and parts of Asia like India. It has therefore been required to redouble preventive measures: a new lockdown and the disruption of almost all economic and school activities. Therefore, the recovery looks still uncertain and distant.

On the health front, we can expect that infections will decrease thanks to the confinements and a greater number of vaccinated people, but the economic recovery will need more energetic action from governments. There is hardly any room for optimism, especially if you trust that things will be fixed by the inertia of the market forces.

On the one hand, it will be necessary to substantially expand the funds earmarked for programs already launched last year to support the neediest individuals and companies. In addition, it is urgent to design new measures that can ensure a faster recovery and prevent new crises.

Among the latter, various institutions and specialists (e.g., the Nobel Prize Joseph Stiglitz), have pointed out how enormously helpful would be the issuance of at least 500 billion dollars of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) by the IMF to launch an aid program for the poorest and developing countries. This program would not overwhelm the existing sovereign debts and would serve to finance the balance of payments and imports necessary for food, health, and improvement of the en-



vironment.

There can be no room for confusion. The recovery must be measured based on these indicators: reduction of sick people; increase in the number and quality of employment; and a greener production system.

Everything else, such as debt, parity of currencies, stock markets, the public deficits and even percentage points of GDP, should be understood as secondary issues or mere instruments to achieve the desired recovery.

Otherwise, there may be a simulated return to normality, apparently recovering what has been lost when in fact we will go backwards because there will be more poverty, inequality, pollution, and a decreased ability to prevent and face new catastrophes.

In the case of Mexico, the foregoing translates into the need to design a recovery program that does not exist today. The announced vaccination campaign is not enough if hospital capac-

ity and first-rate health care are not improved. A new economy must lead us to the production of cleaner energy and other measures that reduce pollution and inject vitality into new economic branches. You cannot trust the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and infrastructure works in progress as the only drivers to recover the jobs lost. A new legislation on unemployment insurance, outsourcing, digital platforms, and programs to support families, especially those who live in the informal economy, is necessary. A progressive salary policy, like the one that has been implemented, is not enough if regional, gender and age gaps are not reduced.

To elaborate on the issue of employment, fundamental for a true recovery, we have consulted the report that the ILO and ECLAC published at the end of last year. The paper recognizes that the pandemic will "lead to the worst GDP contraction in the region's

history (a projected downturn of 9.1% in 2020), which has already had and will continue to have profound labor and social consequences" (available at <https://www.cepal.org>).

According to this study, the existence of a large informal sector, without access to social security and therefore very vulnerable, has had and will have a strong regressive impact on the income and quality of life of millions of people. Formal jobs were also affected as many people were laid off; others kept their jobs, but suffered a significant decrease in their income, due to the reduction of hours worked or to the fact that they were sent home with unpaid vacations or leave with lower wages. The effect of these measures was more severe in our country due to the absence of unemployment insurance.

A remarkable phenomenon that this crisis produced was the enormous number of people who were left without work and

stopped looking for it. Technically they ceased to be part of the EAP (Economically Active Population) and joined the Economically Inactive Population (PEI). Women were particularly harmed due to their stronger presence in the sectors most heavily affected by the health crisis (domestic service, restaurants and hotels, commercial activities) but, also, to the prevalence of a macho culture that confined them to take care of the sick, children without school, the elderly and household chores.

The crises caused also that wage employment contracted less than own-account work. The reason is that the latter involve, for many of the activities, face-to-face contact, especially in the informal sector. In Mexico salaried workers fell by almost 14% in the second quarter of 2020 but self-employed accounted for a 30.9% drop. This decline has been reversed, but at the cost of a greater exposure of the informal workers to contagion, which would partly explain the growth in the number of sick and dead persons.

On the other hand, the study emphasizes the devastating consequences among young people: job losses affected them more than other workers. This situation, says the report, has been a factor that has accentuated "fatigue and loneliness... So, feelings of sadness, fear and distress are also more common among young men and women." The paper warns that: "the more time spent out of school and out of work, the greater the risks of precarious work and exclusion from the labor market throughout one's working life"

To avoid these tragedies, programs aimed at improving their training are required; and maintain and improve income transfer policies for young people who study, the workers adults, and households. Otherwise, it is highly likely that young people will be pressured to look for an income mainly in the informal activities. It would also restrict the possibilities of investing in improving their labor capacities.

The latest data, offered by the Mexican government, show the slowness of the recovery: in November 2020, the employed population was 52.93% (in relation to the total of working age population), a little lower than in October and, of course in March (55.76%). Furthermore, most of the people who returned to work did so in informal activities. With respect to formal jobs, the loss in eleven months, from January to November, was 369,890 posts. Nearly 278 thousand more were missed in December, as the president of the republic told in his morning press conference.

With this scenario, the recovery does not look so close or certain. The ECLAC-ILO study underlines that: "The health crisis has highlighted the importance of a solid and efficient public sector with the capacity to react quickly to shocks with strong economic and social impacts." The situation that we are observing at the beginning of the year requires that the institutions of the Mexican state redouble their efforts, do it as soon as possible and with a comprehensive program.

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## ROME

Portugal is today probably the most civilized country of Europe, a place of tolerance, harmony and civic engagement, much like Sweden in the 80s. And is the only credible country on the issue of immigration. In the Social Summit Lisbon will push to strengthen social Europe, after so many decades of a solely economic Europe. The outgoing German chairmanship was fundamental in abandoning the austerity dogma and move to an unprecedented plan of solidarity and institutional strengthening, made also possible by the blessed departure of England, and its anti-European historical bias. The fact that vaccination is a European plan, and not a hotchpotch of national attempts, is great progress in term of vaccination. And if it will continue on the same path, on the issue of climate control, and technological development, it will recover much trust from the citizens, who felt Brussels an unaccountable institution, far from their priorities. Now the EU deals with unemployment, with the economic and social disaster brought by the virus. It is a tribute to the virtues of multilateralism, solidarity and development. And Portugal will try to complete what the German Presidency was unable to conclude.

But if we look to the obvious need for a world's vaccination, the reality is much dimmer. Until now the rich countries have bought as many as possible vaccines. f. Europe, with 13% of the world population, has bought 51% of the total production. Israel is a case study. With a population of 9 million people, highly registered and organized in the health system, Netanyahu (who will do everything to stay in power), has bought the vaccines at an extra cost but is fast reaching all the population. Certainly, this cannot be the case of India, with nearly 1.4 billion people, and a very primitive system of health... Even the Pope has launched an appeal for distributing a free vaccine in the poor countries, and India and South Africa (which are a member of the G20), have

## Italy: Dubious honour of chairing the G20 - 2



Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte

asked the General Assembly of the World Health Organization for free distribution in poor countries. There has been strong opposition from the rich countries, that have financed at the tune of 10 billion dollars the development of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which now they buy at market prices, several times higher than those of AstraZeneca... And then those two vaccines use a new technology, whose side effects are still unknown, unlike AstraZeneca, which uses a well-experimented technique.

But even if we take the cheaper vaccines, there is a very basic issue: under which ethical and human logic, patents and money can be made over public goods, as the Pope has repeatedly asked? The patent industry has been patenting seeds, rice, plants, which have been existing for hundreds of years, and those new peasants cannot use them without paying a royalty to the company who patented

them. And then the pharmaceuticals tried to patent, parts of the human body... Citizens from several parts of the world have been setting up an association, Agorà for Humankind, that is conducting a campaign, for the elimination of patents and profits over public goods, as they belong to humankind. Also, an international alliance has been set up between the public and private sectors, the General Alliance for Vaccine Initiative, GAVI, which has the task to finance vaccination in 93 middle and poor countries. But funding is still far from coming. As things are now, at the end of 2021, only 30% of humankind will be vaccinated, basically from rich countries.

Yet, if there is something that should make all of us aware that we are in the same boat, is this pandemic. Until at least 70% of all humans will be vaccinated, the virus will continue to strike and kill. The British mutation, much more contagious, is a good example. The country with more cases is now Spain,

which has no physical contact with the UK. But it went to Gibraltar, the British colony since 1713 in the South of Spain. And from there spread to the surrounding Spanish villages and towns. Did the realization that viruses does not know borders help to make the new treaty for relations between Gibraltar and Spain? The answer is not really: it is trade. Yet, it does not require a virologist to assume that trade spreads the virus...

So, after this long ride among different subjects, its thread should be clear. We have gone from an era when the lessons of the Second World War created a generation of politicians who made of peace and development the common ground for international relations, even during a very dangerous Cold War. Would Trump, Johnson and Putin be at Yalta, instead of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, the outcome would have been very different. Most probably, we would have had no United Nations, no international organizations. Just think that the US, to push for the creation of the UN, agreed in its founding engagement, to pay 25% of its costs.

Then, beginning with Reagan and Thatcher, a profound change came. The interests of my country are more important than international cooperation, and the stronger I am, the more so. Multilateralism, cooperation, went under attack, and so the role of the State, its function of guarantor of social progress, equity and participation. Other organizations started to sprout, and weaken the UN, and the instruments of a social pact, like trade unions. From the spirit of the fall of the Berlin Wall, in 1989, a number of clubs of rich countries, like the G7, the G8, the G20, started to substitute the UN, and private clubs, like

the World Economic Forum of Davos, attracted more important personalities than the General Assembly of the United Nations.

We are now in a third phase, whose symbol abounds: nationalism, xenophobia, and the illusion that sovereignty is more important than cooperation. Brexit is a notable example. But Trump sets up an unprecedented level of legitimacy to what was once considered the betrayal of civism and democracy: exploit and exasperate the divides of a country, racial, cultural, gender, and run without any compliance to rules and traditions. He is accompanied by a variegated assortment of autocratic, populist, and narcs kind of new political generation: Bolsonaro, Orban, Kacynski, Putin, Modi, Sissi, Nehayanu, Duterte, just to cite the most known, while others, like Salvini, are poised to take the power. The virus, instead of uniting citizens, has further divided them. To wear the mask, is a left-wing declaration, like to worry about the climate, which is a survival concern. Military expenses are on a continuous increase. In 2019 they have reached an unprecedented amount of 1917 billion dollars. Enough to solve all problems of food, health and education worldwide. The UN is still the only organization able to provide the world with plans of global significance. Its Agenda 2030 gives a plan for the solution of our most significant problems. It costs a fraction of the military expenses. The G20 has paid some lip services, to Agenda 30, but never anything significant. The new generations of politicians are under general scrutiny, and it is not positive at all... I would say that is representative of our crisis, books still get published on a world of conspiracy, like

that the virus is used by Bill Gates to inoculate nanoparticles that will make it possible to control all human bodies. Or myths like the one on Bilderberg Club, one of the private's clubs meeting, as the place where decisions are taken by a small elite on how to run the world. This, when more than ever is clear that the system has lost its compass, and even the tragedy of climate and soon two million deaths are not able to bring back cooperation and multilateralism... but the explosions of conspiracies is a good sign of the decline of democracy...

So, Italy enters now the chairmanship of the G20. It is a position without any significant weight, with the task to realize a coming Summit, of the head of States, from which nobody expects much. If Trump's defeat has any significant meaning, by November the political situation could have improved, but we will have a Germany without Merkel, probably more nationalist, and the miraculous social engagement of the European Union, could come to a halt. Italy has a very fragile government, and the dubious distinction of having a very young minister of Foreign Affairs, whose only working experience was to be a steward at Naples' stadium. On the Health Summit, he does not look particularly commanding respect and authority. This will be Italy's first test. In May, it will be clear that without vaccination in the world, rich countries will not be out of danger. It should be easy to rally the 20 most important countries of the world, which include India and South Africa, to such obvious actions. But in those times, where interests and selfishness are the reality, it is legitimate to nourish many doubts... Anyhow, if 2021 will not be a year of regeneration and creation, we will be on an irreversible slipping decline... time is running out...

But it looks now like the solution to the problems is beyond the reach of the system.

The first part of this piece appeared in yesterday's issue of The Guardian

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# Over 400 needy students sponsored under Tandabui scholarships

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

OVER 400 students from poor families have been sponsored to pursue various health and related courses at Tandabui Institute of Health Science and Technology (TIHST) between 2012 and 2020.

This move is part of the Institute resolve to support President John Magufuli's commitment and drive aimed at assisting millions of poor Tanzanians in the areas of health, individual income, education and other pro-poor development sectors.

"Health is an important pillar for national development, that's why we, Tandabui have decided to support President Magufuli's pro-poor mission by sponsoring students from needy families to freely study various health course at our Institute," said TIHST Principal, Dr. Wallace Keto during the 8th Tandabui graduation held in Mwanza over the weekend.

"We are sponsoring students from poor families as part of our contribution to the community," he said, noting that during this academic year (2021) TIHST plans to award scholarships to 100 students from poor families to freely study various healthcare courses.

Without better health, he said, the national dreams of industrialisation and lift up the country's economic status to the international levels would not be realised, according to Dr. Keto, noting that "our country needs qualified health experts capable of providing high quality health services to the wider Tanzanian community, thus enhance efficiency and growth in the industrial, economic and other development sectors countrywide."

Speaking after conferring 1,935 graduates with various certificates and diplomas in nursing, pharmacy, medicine, medical laboratory and health records and information management courses at Tandabui,



These are some of the 1,935 graduands conferred with certificates and diplomas in nursing, pharmacy, medicine, medical laboratory and information management at Tandabui Institute of Health Science and Technology's graduation ceremony held in Mwanza city at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Nyamagana District Commissioner, Dr Phiris Nyimbi, urged graduates to utilise the knowledge and skills acquired to assist the country's strategies aimed at providing better health to the citizens, hence move Tanzania to the next and international level of development.

"All of your (graduates) are duty-bound to insure that this country moves forwards. You have to contribute to the government's strategy geared to improve provision of health services delivery to its people," said Nyimbi, showering praises on TIHST for

maintaining its profile, by providing high quality health education and produce qualified and competent health experts.

In his introductory remarks, TIHST principal said the college scholarship programme (targeting poor students) started 8 years ago, and that so far over 400 students have benefited from the programme.

He said the latest 100 scholarships announced officially over the weekend is part of "a strategic drive to review structures and settings of our scholarship programme so that we may reach out to as many needy

students as possible."

"We, as an institute, are doing business, but we have step up this programme to help students from needy families, complement to the fifth-phase government strategies that aim at increasing the number of health experts and ultimately enable the nation to make great strides in development," noted the principal.

"Our President has shown kindness help poor Tanzanians, and we, as an institute would like to support this well-intended initiative," state an official TIHST's statement.

TIHST is a fully accredited and registered nongovernmental institute by National Council for Technical Education (Nacte) and by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children (MHCDE&C). Its main campus, Mwananchi Campus, is situated in Nyakato, Mwanza City. Other facilities include four practicum sites for clinical and academic research activities at Nyamagana District hospital, Mwananchi hospital, Sekou Toure hospital and Bugando Medical Centre (BMC).

By Guardian Reporter

HELLO Tractor has been compared to an Uber for tractors. Like the ride-hailing app, it uses technology to connect farmers with tractor owners but there are differences. Agents assist with the bookings and tractor owners need to buy the company's GPS device to attach to their tractors to track movements and accept booking requests.

Founder and CEO, Jehiel Oliver, recognised an opportunity when he learnt of the lack of mechanisation in the African agricultural industry.

"Rapid urbanisation is depleting the available labour," he says. In this environment, machinery typically fills the gap. Yet, small farmers in Africa can seldom afford it.

"In smallholder farming systems, collaborative consumption is the only way to make tractors affordable. It makes no sense for an individual farmer to own a tractor," notes Oliver. "But if you can share a tractor, the cost of the service is significantly less than you would pay a human to do the same work." It's also faster, more efficient and produces higher yields.

Oliver was born in the United States and started his career in investment banking and private equity but slowly became interested in emerging markets and agriculture. Microfinance institutions have not been particularly good with supporting small farmers, so he investigated agriculture and how mechanisation can transform things.

Oliver adds that he wanted to use his finance skills to do good. After some research, he decided to move to Nigeria where he founded the company six years ago.

The typical Hello Tractor client is a small farmer with one to five hectares. "The vast majority are men," says Oliver. "They are typically a little older and about 86% live at or below the poverty line (\$5 a day) according

# Uber-for-tractors platform makes agricultural machinery affordable for African small-scale farmers



to our customer records." They have never used tractors before using Hello Tractor's service and traditionally relied on manual labour.

There are also the tractor owners, who vary from individuals with one tractor to large companies and private equity funds with sizeable fleets. The company currently has over 3,000 tractors and combines on its platform. Tractor owners usually get paid a deposit to deploy their tractors and then receive their balance payment after service is completed. They make 90% of the revenue whilst the other 10% goes to the booking agent.

Hello Tractor sells a GPS monitoring device that is installed onto a tractor. Owners can subscribe to the software-as-a-

service solution app to track their tractor and monitor the work it is doing, the operator's performance, fuel usage and maintenance needs. Hello Tractor doesn't earn revenue from the booking of tractors; it makes money from selling the GPS devices as well as from the software subscriptions.

"Our GPS device collects important data from tractors while they work on the field and pushes this data to our mobile and web applications where it is displayed in a user-friendly format and grants tractor owners insights into their tractor's activities on the farm, maintenance needs, fuel consumption and operator information. These valuable insights allow tractor owners to make informed decisions and

increase their profitability which is why they pay for the device," Oliver explains.

There is a separate app where farmers connect with the tractors on the platform which Oliver calls "the marketplace part of our business". Agents are recruited from the community and paid commission to sign up farmers and provide assistance. "As the season approaches, the agent will book the farmer's field for service. Once that booking occurs, the platform will connect that request to the nearest available tractor with an applicable implement," Oliver explains. "We don't really talk to the farmers about apps, because they connect through the booking agents who use our apps to register them."

Previously, farmers were required to send an SMS to the app, which connected the request to a nearby tractor owner, but they were hesitant because the size of the transaction wasn't something they were comfortable with doing electronically. Farmers preferred human interaction.

Oliver says customer acquisition through agents is slower but is far more sustainable; "Trust matters."

## Nigeria - a fertile market

Oliver chose to start the business in Nigeria because he liked the country when he first visited and it provided a fertile environment. There is a low level of mechanisation on farms, a sizeable farming community, as well as one of the largest surface areas of uncultivated land in the world. The people are also receptive to new ideas. "If something works and Nigerians see the value in it, they jump at it. They are keen on experimenting with new things and technologies," he says.

He did the groundwork to attract clients. "It was initially about understanding who the players are and who represented the lowest hanging fruit."

Oliver started Hello Tractor with a mix of savings and investment. "We bootstrapped in the beginning and then I exhausted my savings." He then raised "a bit of money", less than \$2 million, most of which was subsequently paid back to the investors with interest. The focus then turned to sales and organic growth.

In hindsight, Oliver says he wouldn't focus so much on raising investment again. "There's not a lot of money going into the venture space in Africa. As a result, entrepreneurs go through so much

due diligence for relatively

## Launching in other African markets

By 2019, the business expanded to Ghana and Kenya and eight other countries on the continent.

Oliver and his family moved to Kenya, which Hello Tractor is using as a springboard into Asia; a project slowed down by the Covid-19 pandemic. He hopes to use profits from Asia to subsidise expansion in Africa, where current volumes are too low to invest in growing overheads such as operating infrastructure or hiring more data scientists. He mentions India, where 730,000 tractors were sold in 2019 as opposed to only 14,000 on the entire African continent.

## Currencies, Covid-19 and other challenges

Some of the macro challenges facing the company are impossible to overcome, such as currency volatility, he says. There is also the pandemic. "We started the company during the Ebola epidemic and now we're in the midst of Covid-19. The way you mitigate these risks is to protect cash flow, move slowly, tighten your belt and taper some of your growth plans to weather the storm," maintains Oliver.

Human resources is another challenge. Hiring experienced technical managers within the markets where the company operates hasn't always been possible. People are committed but not always experienced at the senior level. "It's hard to find people who are comfortable managing those high-level relationships."

"There is so much space in the market for farm equipment that competition is not a huge worry. For now, we don't feel threatened by similar businesses," Oliver says. "There is enough space for someone to thrive and do incredibly well if you get it right."

It's still a big challenge to ask people to invest in tractors as an asset class. "Africa is full of opportunities for investment and people tend to expect returns quickly," he says. "Our biggest competitor is the attractiveness of buying an Uber vehicle or investing in class-A real estate."

Hello Tractor recently entered into a finance project with Mastercard to use Hello Tractor's data and card payment rails as well as Mastercard's banking partners, to launch a tractor finance product. "We're excited about getting more tractor finance and equipment into the market," notes Oliver.



BY MOHAMED M DIATTA

# Elections and instability as Africa enters 2021

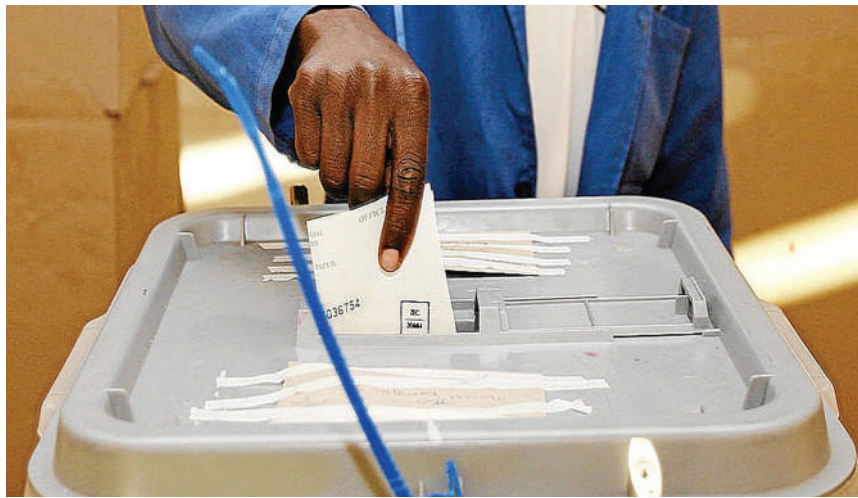
No fewer than 10 presidential elections are planned for 2021 - in Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, The Gambia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, the Republic of the Congo and Zambia. Ethiopia is also having all-important general elections.

Of these, South Sudan is in a state of active conflict and in the midst of a fragile political transition. According to a November 2020 report by the United Nations panel of experts on South Sudan, President Salva Kiir 'has locked the opposition out of the government's decision-making process,' including First Vice-President Riek Machar.

In Somalia, the opposition are already questioning the transparency and fairness of February's presidential polls. They've rejected the election committees appointed by the federal government, accusing them of bias towards the incumbent federal government. Tensions between the federal government and regional states are also high. This doesn't bode well for the country's precarious security situation, and could give al-Shabaab and Islamic State in Somalia an opportunity to wreak more havoc.

In Uganda President Yoweri Museveni, in power for 34 years and counting, is running for a sixth consecutive term. Term limits were scrapped in 2005 and the age limit for presidential candidates in 2017.

Chad's socio-economic vulnerabilities are well known and the threat of rebellion cannot be ruled out



With ten presidential elections and persistent governance problems, the continent faces another trying year. File photo

Uganda's civic space is closing, with crackdowns on public rallies and targeting of opposition leaders. The repeated arrests of Bobi Wine and intimidation of the opposition sparked protests which were repressed and led to dozens of deaths and arrests. With elections scheduled for 14 January, tensions are rising and election results are likely to be disputed again.

Zambia has historically held relatively peaceful elections, but after the disputed 2016 polls there are concerns that the same scenario - if not worse - could play out. President Edgar Lungu's government has undertaken numerous reforms, including revamping the voters register, which has raised suspi-

cions of impending fraud. South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia will hold general elections - both presidential and parliamentary - and the outcomes of the parliamentary elections will also be important for governance in these countries.

Benin is also scheduled for elections in April and May. President Patrice Talon is expected to run for a second term after a tumultuous first term in office. Talon is said to have undermined some of the key tenets of Benin's nascent democracy through reforms that have weakened the opposition.

Algeria's parliamentary elections are another opportunity to determine whether reform is possible

In Chad the die is pretty much cast. President Idriss Déby, who celebrated 30 years in power on 1 December 2020, will probably be re-elected. A constitutional amendment passed in May 2018 not only allowed him to remain in office until 2033 but strengthened his presidential authority. The country's socio-economic vulnerabilities are well known and the threat of rebellion cannot be ruled out.

The Gambia's upcoming elections will be the first since Yahya Jammeh lost power in 2017. President Adama Barrow's first term has largely been about rebuilding after more than 20 years of Jammeh's rule. This mammoth task requires reforming every sector of the country, not least of which the economy and the security sector, and finding avenues for the country's youthful population.

Parliamentary elections are also planned in Algeria and Côte d'Ivoire. Algeria has struggled to free itself from the tentacles of ousted president Abdelaziz Bouteflika's regime. The polls are another opportunity to determine whether and what kind of reforms can be conducted in the country.

In Côte d'Ivoire, where

incumbent Alassane Ouattara was re-elected to a controversial third term, parliamentary elections might constitute another casus belli, depending on how the opposition decides to approach them.

Economic recovery plans must be paired with efforts to improve governance issues that preceded COVID-19

The protracted conflicts in Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Libya and the Central African Republic (CAR) will probably remain on the agenda of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC). Tensions sharply rose with attempted armed marches on Bangui before the CAR's December presidential and legislative elections. The opposition is contesting the poll results while armed groups continue to threaten peace and stability.

Meanwhile, more attention must be paid to the conflicts in northern Cameroon and northern Mozambique. Gruesome killings during 2020 in both countries are a stark reminder that Africa needs to act quickly and decisively on early warnings of violence.

Ethiopia's fragility has come to the fore with the outbreak of an armed conflict in November 2020 between federal government forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front. Further conflict could undermine stability both in Ethiopia and the entire Horn of Africa region. General elections were postponed from August 2020 to June 2021.

In the Sahel and West Africa, democratic governance deficits have contributed to political tensions and instability, and enabled terrorism. Several ad hoc measures have been taken, but the dynamic nature of the underlying causes will continue to present major challenges to peace and security in the region.

In 2021 the effects of COVID-19, including lower economic output, job losses and growing poverty, might lead to more demands for social intervention from governments already facing protests over inadequate service provision. There is also a likelihood of continued popular protests in Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda, as witnessed in 2020.

More robust and sustainable African responses are needed to tackle the continent's many complex problems. Plans for economic recovery from COVID-19 must be paired with addressing the governance issues that preceded the pandemic.

The PSC should proactively table issues, while the AU Commission chairperson could mobilise resources such as preventive diplomacy and mediators. AU member states need to adhere to continental norms and instruments such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo will chair the AU in 2021, and must contend with these continental issues. This comes as President Félix Tshisekedi tries to consolidate his power domestically. There is little doubt that 2021 will be yet another challenging year for Africa.

AGENCIES

# Will a second term for Guterres undermine campaign for first female UN chief in 76 years?

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations has been one of the most vociferous advocates of gender empowerment and a persistent critic of gender discrimination worldwide.

But still, it has continued to fall far short of its own lofty ideals.

The UN has never had a female secretary-general (SG) in its 75-year history while only four women have been elected - amid 71 men - as Presidents of the General Assembly, the organization's highest policy making body.

On January 11, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, a former Prime Minister of Portugal, announced he will be "available" for a second term - perhaps upending the longstanding campaign for a female UN chief.

But that final decision, however, will depend not only on the 193 member states, but also, most importantly, on the five veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) who will have the last word on who should, or who shouldn't, be the next secretary-general, come January 2022.

Historically, Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt (1992-1996) was denied a second term by a single veto by the US even though he



appointed to high-ranking positions.

He told delegates last year "we achieved gender parity - 90 women and 90 men - in the ranks of our full-time senior leadership, two years ahead of the target that I set at the start of my tenure, and we have a roadmap for parity at all levels in the coming years".

The cynics, however, argue the unusually high gender representation may also be a subtle attempt - or a hidden agenda - to stall any campaign for a female Secretary-General since he has an outstanding track record in the field.

Purnima Mane, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) told IPS the call for a woman SG at the UN has been made repeatedly but in the 75-year history of the UN, this call has not met with success.

In the 1975 International Women's Year, there were special efforts made by feminist groups to get women to be nominated for

this position.

Since then, she pointed out, the call has only grown, with multiple groups including groups of Member States banding together to advocate for a woman to lead the prestigious organization.

At the end of his tenure, former Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon of South Korea, was quoted as saying it was "high time" for a woman leader of the UN.

But it was only in 2016, for the first time, there seemed to be some signs of change on the horizon. At one stage, 50% of the proposed candidates were women, she noted.

However, member states eventually endorsed Mr. Antonio Guterres unanimously, said Mane, a former President and Chief Executive Officer of Pathfinder International, a global leader in sexual and reproductive health.

Prisca Chaoui, Executive Secretary of the 3,500-strong Staff Coordinating Council of the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG), told IPS last year that in the past, despite the

existence of competent women in the UN, it has largely been the reality that when women do achieve career progression, it tends to be mostly women belonging to certain geographical groups or regions.

"There are concerns that implementation of the UN's Gender Parity Strategy may follow a similar pattern. It is crucial that this important initiative ensures a diverse gender parity that includes women from the global South, women of colour, and women from developing and underrepresented countries," she noted.

Outlining some of the steps he plans to take in the future, Guterres said last year: "I have reminded the entire senior leadership team about the special measures we have in place to advance parity throughout the system".

If a male candidate is hired in an office or department that has not yet achieved gender parity, and where an equally competent female candidate had been identified, an explanation must be sent to my office detailing the reasoning for the decision prior to final selection being made, he declared.

Antonia Kirkland, Global Lead on Legal Equality & Access to Justice at Equality Now, told IPS since the United Nations was founded in 1945, there have been nine male Secretaries-General but not one woman.

"This is unacceptable and needs to change. Unfortunately, the campaign to select a woman as the next leader of the United Nations ended in disappointment in 2016, despite there being numerous highly qualified and eminent women candidates with impressive resumes in the running".

She said this was abundantly clear for all to see thanks to an unprecedentedly more transparent new selection process that was actively supported by HYPERLINK "http://www.1for7billion.org/news/2020/11/12/now-is-the-time-to-plan-for-the-2021-selection-process-of-the-next-un-secretary-general" \t "blank" 1 for 7 Billion and others.

"It is high time that a woman Secretary-General is finally selected to lead the United Nations and we hope that 2022 heralds the election of a woman, one who adopts and implements a feminist agenda to advance women and girls rights globally.

Kul Gautam, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the UN children's agency UNICEF told IPS: "I

believe Antonio Guterres deserves a second term as Secretary-General of the United Nations"

He was unduly hampered from doing much during his first term, which sadly coincided with that of Donald Trump as President of the US. As the whole world knows now, Trump did not care much for international organizations and was an anti-UN unilateralist.

"In the absence of a more supportive US president, Guterres needed to be able to count on the strong support of at least 2 or 3 other Permanent Members of the Security Council and some of the more influential emerging powers and the G-77".

Sadly, with leaders like Vladimir Putin, Boris Johnson, Jair Bolsonaro, Narendra Modi, Tayyip Erdogan and Mohammed bin Salman, Guterres was really hamstrung. And the COVID-19 crisis further diminished his scope of action.

Nevertheless, said Gautam, Guterres has been generally highly principled, consistent, eloquent and passionate in advocating for a bold agenda on climate change, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and gender equality. He has been highly successful in bringing more women in senior positions at the UN.

But still, said Gautam, "Guterres has been a bit too soft-spoken on human rights, and in more forcefully confronting the likes of Saudi Arabia, Hungary, Philippines, Egypt and China on human rights issues."

But on balance, he has proven to be thoughtful, measured, wise, mature and diplomatically very deft. It will be hard to find another person who combines his qualities and commands the unanimous support of the P-5 in 2021, he added.

"The chances of getting someone worse are far higher than getting someone better, unless the whole election/selection system for the UN's top leadership positions is completely overhauled, which is highly unlikely at present."

After Guterres' second term, in 2026, he said, "let's hope we will have a revamped election/selection system and several shining female candidates".

"Already, we should seek a commitment from the UNSC, as well as the UNGA, that they will make every effort to proactively search for a highly qualified female leader as the next UNSG".

AGENCIES

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 169 00--

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

3 LETTERS: CCM, USE, ANT  
4 LETTERS: SIFE, LAOS, ISLE, PROA, ACME, AVOW, (7 WORDS)  
5 LETTERS: FLOAT, SCORE, EMEND, MINES, WINDS (5 WORDS)  
6 LETTERS: NUANCE, FRANCE, CAREEN, ADDICT, TSE TSE (5 WORDS)  
7 LETTERS: SALVAGE  
8 LETTERS: UGANDANS  
10 LETTERS: SALVATIONS

CLUES: Across  
1 made dirty or imperfect by being displayed in a shop  
5 among  
7 ulema  
8 people descended from a common ancestor  
10 live in a complex social colony  
11 a person who have access to the World of good and evil spirits  
13 a student's fraternity  
15 extending below  
17 assumed artificially  
19 not certain  
20 an Internet service consisting of thousands of newsgroups

Down:  
1 can be seen in the sky at night  
2 an obituary  
3 avoiding work, lazy  
4 a stoat  
6 a cylindrical metal container  
7 an open source of software  
9 an elected officer in a county, responsible for keeping peace  
12 a son of a king or Queen  
14 a playing card with three spots  
16 a daughter of one's brother  
17 afflict in mind  
18 Feed Force Unit in Tanzania

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS



## BUSINESS

## EXPLOITATIVE

## Africa's cocoa producers want chocolate makers to break off a much bigger piece of profits

## ACCRA

Chocolate demand remained strong throughout the pandemic as the world's most popular comfort food was one of the pleasures continued to enjoy from their own homes. The farmers who grow precious cocoa, however, saw little benefit.

Cocoa is the essential ingredient of chocolate and has no substitute. More than 70 per cent of the world's supply of cocoa comes from West Africa, according to Netherlands-based industry monitor Cocoa Barometer.

Of this, half comes from just two countries - Ghana and Ivory Coast. Other regional countries such as Nigeria and Cameroon are also expanding production, keen to grab a slice of the market that supplies the \$130 billion chocolate industry.

"Cocoa has been an important commodity for our country," says Hajia Maria Adamu-Zibo, the chief executive of Federated Commodities, a Ghana-based cocoa trader. The company is one of a growing number of local firms moving into an industry traditionally dominated by offshore companies from the US and Europe.

"Cocoa is not just a cash crop for us; it has also become part of our politics. The cocoa sector feeds about 800,000 people in the country and issues that affect the industry can be quite emotive." Just how emotive it can be was demonstrated in December, when US confectionary company Hershey's enraged the primary suppliers in Ghana and the Ivory Coast, when it purchased a large quantity of cocoa through ICE Futures, a New York-based commodity exchange.

As one of the world's largest confectionary producers, Hershey's would usually purchase directly through West African in-country brokers. This time it went outside the usual channels, it is said, because it wanted to avoid a \$400 surcharge these countries recently started to impose.

The 'Living Income Differential' (LID) as the surcharge is called, is paid directly to farmers, and is intended to

increase their incomes. Farmers, who typically earn half a dollar a day over a 12-month period, would see their returns boosted by a third, thanks to the LID.

"Any brand that is seen not to be serious in accepting the LID by mid-December 2020 must consider all its cocoa beans from Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire as conventional," Joseph Aidoo, chief executive of Ghanaian regulator Cocobod told the World Cocoa Foundation's conference in November.

By 'conventional', Mr Aidoo was referring to the various certifications coveted by confection makers, that declare their products are sourced from exploitation-free farms, that do not use child labour, or contribute to deforestation. "We are prepared to name and shame these brands," he said.

Certifications are increasingly important to consumers, especially younger, more socially-conscious chocolate buyers. Exploitation-free productions command a premium, and so Hershey's quickly caved and said it would pay the LID.

Cargill, the US food and agricultural trader, published a study in December that shows consumers are happy to pay a premium for ethically-sourced cocoa. "Consumer expectations are higher now than ever before," says Niels Boetje, managing director Cocoa at Cargill.

Among 18-to-34-year-olds, 76 per cent of those polled by Cargill said sustainability has become more important to them in the past year when choosing chocolate products. Just over half of these also declared they were swapping conventional products for those deemed to be ethical, even if they cost more. "Our research suggests that increasingly, consumers look for responsibly-sourced brands."

The \$400 LID supplements the \$1,400 or so that farmers earned per ton, over the last season. This puts farmers' earnings per ton over \$1,800, meaning the farm gate price is closer to the \$2,500 per ton cocoa currently fetches on international commodities exchanges.



Workers sort cocoa beans in Enchi, Ghana. Some 70 per cent of the world's cocoa comes from West Africa, with Ghana and the Ivory Coast providing half of that amount.

## APPRECIATION

## Bonite Bottlers happy to be associated with Kili Marathon for a whole decade



Bonite Bottlers sales and marketing head, Christopher (R) Loiruk speaks at a past event.

By Guardian Reporter

**N**ON alcoholic beverages manufacturer, Bonite Bottlers Limited of Moshi is happy to be associated with Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon for past ten years through its flag carrier brand, Kilimanjaro drinking water. Bonite Bottlers' Head of Sales and Marketing, Christopher Loiruk said recently that the company has been one of the main sponsors of the annual event for the past decade out of the 19 years that the event has been taking place.

"This event is important to our business because the water is consumed by both locals and foreign participants who take part in the annual event. Kilimanjaro Mara-

thon promotes tourism because the participants do not only run but also tour various tourist attractions with Kilimanjaro as their water of choice," Loiruk said.

He said the company's water has been quenching the thirst of the marathon participants for more than a decade with positive feedback from both local and foreign consumers. "The athletes need a lot of water and other soft drinks as it helps them to restore lost energy and avoid dehydration," he noted saying during the marathon, water points are located randomly along the route.

Commenting on participation in the marathon, Loiruk said Bonite Bottlers' staff members are currently undergoing regular training

to shape up for the event which is due to be held at the end of February and will include 42kms, 21kms and 5kms. "We have been allowing them to participate in other marathons to ensure that they prepare well for the multinational and prestigious Kilimanjaro Marathon to be held in February," he added.

The Bonite Bottlers' Sales and Marketing Head, further noted that they will enrol for the corporate challenge this year because they have won it a couple of times in the past. "We hope to do well this year as preparations are in top gear," he noted adding that Kilimanjaro water customers should look forward to having favourite products from the company.

Loiruk saluted other sponsors

of the marathon who include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager which sponsors the 42 kilometres main event; Tigo Tanzania which sponsors the 21kms half marathon; and Grand Malt which sponsors the five kilometres fun run. Others are water table sponsors, Kibo Palace Hotel, TPC Limited, Unilever Tanzania, Simba Cement, Absa Bank Tanzania and official suppliers Keys Hotel, Garda World Security, and CMC Automobiles.

He also paid tribute to the organizers, Kilimanjaro Marathon Company and national coordinators, Executive Solutions Limited for ensuring that the event is held under global standards hence attracting participants from other African countries and the entire globe.

Kili Marathon local race Director, John Bayo commended the sponsors such as Bonite Bottlers for playing a major role in ensuring that the event meets global standards hence attracting athletes from all corners of the world. "I want to appeal to all participants to ensure they quench their thirst with Bonite Bottlers drinks but also those of other sponsors to restore lost energy and avoid dehydration," Bayo said.

Executive Solutions' Managing Director, Aggrey Marealle backed Bayo in thanking the sponsors saying their valuable support has made the annual event a global affair. "More than 11,000 athletes are expected to take part in the marathon this year come February if we go by the online registration currently taking place," Marealle said.

## PERFORMANCE

## DSE equities, bonds and market capitalisation appreciate in Q4 2020

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

OUTSTANDING listed bonds, domestic equity and market turnover (liquidity) all registered growth during the last quarter of last year but the bond segment slowed down.

Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange CEO, Moremi Marwa said in Dar es Salaam on Monday while presenting the bourse's performance for the year ending December 31, 2020 that cumulatively, the market size for the 22-domestic listed companies, as measured by market capitalization, increased slightly by 1.77 per cent or 159.03bn/-.

Marwa said total domestic market capitalization also increased from 9,002trn/- in September 2020 to 9,161trn/- by December 2020. He further pointed out that the increase was a result of appreciation of CRDB Bank Plc's shares whose prices rose by 30 per cent; NICOL Plc by 12 per cent; and Twiga Cement Plc by eight per cent.

"The increase in domestic market capitalization was also boosted by the listing of new shares of Jatu Plc as well as Mucoba Plc following its acquisition by People's Bank of Zanzibar to the tune of 75 per cent,"



Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange CEO Moremi Marwa

he said.

Marwa further noted that the price increase involving the five counters on the total domestic market capitalization was proportionately higher compared to the decrease in prices on Simba and Tanga Cement Plc which was -17 per cent; and SWIS-SPORT at -5 per cent hence leading to the overall increase in domestic market capitalization.

The DSE CEO added that total market capitalization which covers all 28 listed equities also experienced a marginal

decline of 0.36 per cent during the period compared to the previous quarter of the year ended 30th September 2020.

Total market capitalization decreased by 54.37bn/- from 15,149trn/- to 15,094trn/- during the period. "This followed decreases in prices of some of the domestic and cross-listed companies," he added.

He explained that the equity market liquidity and market turnover increased substantially during the quarter compared to the third quar-

ter. Equity trading turnover increased 12.7 times compared to the transaction turnover in the quarter ended 30th September 2020, from 35.5bn/- to 443.67bn/-, mainly contributed by a one-off transaction on NMB Bank Plc's counter worth 408bn/-.

"Other companies that led in liquidity generation were: TBL, CRDB, TCC, TWIGA, DSE, NICOL and JATU," he underlined.

During the period under review, weighted average market price earnings ratio for domestic listed companies was trailing at 21.00 times which was slightly lower than that the PE ratio's 21.36 times as of September 2020.

"This decrease was attributed to the increase in prices on some counters relative to their earnings. The trailing weighted average dividend yield declined to 3.9 per cent compared to 4.2 per cent that was reported as of September 2020," Marwa explained.

As for the fixed income bond segment, total outstanding listed government (Treasury) bonds increased by 3.5 per cent, from 12,243trn/- to 12,666trn/- during the period.

On the other hand, outstanding corporate bonds listed at the bourse decreased from 143.4bn/- for the three outstanding corporate bonds issued by EXIM Bank, NMB Bank and TMRC to 120.1bn/- as of December 2020.

Marwa further said trading activities in the secondary market fixed income and bonds decreased during the quarter to 432bn/- (on the face value of 410bn/- compared to 509bn/- (on the face value of 502bn/- that transacted during the third quarter of 2020. This was a record decrease of 15 per cent compared to the previous quarter. Transactions in the corporate bonds market decreased to 200m/- from 763m/- recorded during Q3, 2020.

## OPTIMISM

## Investors bullish on prospects for commodities

## LONDON

Commodity investors are back in full force, with record wagers that crops, metals and oil are set for a rally.

A weakening dollar is making materials denominated in the currency more appealing at a time when equities are on a tear and the world is on a path to recover from the coronavirus pandemic. All of that has prompted speculators to pile back into commodity markets, boosting combined bets on rising prices to the

highest in at least a decade.

That's a stark turnaround for a corner of the financial market that had been struggling to lure investors since the China-driven commodities super-cycle earlier this century. The backdrop is looking familiar: The Asian powerhouse is on a buying spree again and investors are looking for alternative places to put their money as central banks try to prop up economies.

"Commodities are on a winning streak right now," said Michel Salden, head of

commodities at Vontobel Asset Management. "Markets are rallying due to the combined effect of US dollar weakness, the cyclical recovery from Covid-19, central bank stimuli, and increased fiscal spending on infrastructure."

Investors are so bullish that they were holding a net-long position, or the difference between bets on rising prices and wagers they will fall, of 2.3 million futures and options contracts in the week ended January 5, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's

the most since at least January 2011.

The calculations include 19 of the 22 raw materials in the Bloomberg Commodity Index. They exclude aluminum, zinc and nickel, which are reported by the London Metal Exchange on a different basis.

Money managers' bullish bets on corn are currently at the highest in almost 10 years. China is loading up on American crops, having already bought a record amount of the grain, while soybean purchases are running

at the fastest pace since 1991. Sugar has also caught investors' attention, with Alvean, the world's largest trader of the sweetener, forecasting two years of shortages ahead.

"Even grains, that had been on a downward path since 2012, have rallied more than 45 per cent over the last six months due to La Nina-related droughts in Latin America," Salden said. He also highlighted China's role in securing strategic reserves of commodities. Oil, which is rebounding from an

unprecedented crash triggered by the pandemic, has rallied to 10-month highs after Saudi Arabia's surprising decision to unilaterally cut production by 1 million barrels a day for February and March.

The rally has also extended beyond headline crude prices and into options and signs of strength on both ends of the oil futures curve. Speculators boosted bullish bets on Brent to an 11-month high, while net-long positions in petrol climbed to a 10-month high. "Crude oil looks like a great

play as the economy reopens, demand picks up and people build confidence around the vaccine," said Phil Streible, chief market strategist at Blue Line Futures in Chicago. "Saudi Arabia really bent over backwards to try and help support prices." Bets on rising gold prices rose to a 16-week high, and platinum net-longs are at the highest since February. Investors also boosted net-long positions bets on silver for the fifth week in six.



## FAMILIARIZATION

# Minister Mwambe urges WMA to make regular inspection of gadgets in market

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

**W**EIGHTS and Measures Agency officials have been challenged to undertake regular inspections of weighing scales and machines to ensure that business people don't tamper with them to deceive customers.

Minister for Industry and Trade, Geoffrey Mwambe said in Dar es Salaam on Monday while on a visit to the WMA head offices that a major challenge facing the local market is dishonest businesspeople but also some manufacturers who cheat consumers.

"There are some business people who are not faithful and tamper with packaged manufactured goods, for example a cement bag with 50 kilograms content, is tampered with and the consumers buys 49kgs only," Mwambe alerted saying such traders should be identified and charged in court



Industry and Trade minister, Geoffrey Mwambe (L) is welcomed by Weights and Measures Agency CEO, Stella Kawa as board chairman, Dr Adelm Meru (R) looks on during his visit to the agency's head offices in Dar es Salaam on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

to solve the problem completely.

He said his ministry has agreed with WMA management and board members to ensure regular

and impromptu inspections are done in retail and wholesale outlets but also factories to make sure that there is use of proper certified

weighing scales and equipment.

Mwambe said he is happy with how WMA conducts its daily activities so far to protect

consumers but insisted that the agency needs to be more creative in coming up with new strategies to improve delivery of services.

"I know that you have tried at your level best to go around the whole country despite having limited resources. You have done well in putting an end to middlemen deceiving farmers through oversize bags popularly known as 'Lumbesa' which was very famous in the country," he added.

The newly appointed Industry and Trade Minister pledged to support the agency's work in serving the public saying as in charge of industries and trade, his aim is to see an increase of businesses and industries make use of legitimate weighing machines to contribute to rapid economic growth.

## RELIEF

## KRA offers waiver on tax penalties of the past five years

NAIROBI

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has kicked off waivers on tax penalties incurred over the past five years in a bid to mop-up additional revenues amid a collection crunch caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The authority on Monday announced that taxpayers will now get full or partial relief on penalties and interest on the undisclosed taxes, in a programme that runs from January 1, to December 31, 2023.

The Voluntary Tax Disclosure Programme (VTDP) was introduced through the Finance Act, 2020 and seeks to grant relief on penalties and interest on any tax liability disclosed in respect to the period between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020.

"VTDP applies to all tax liabilities accrued/derived in the specified period including individual Income Tax, Corporate Tax, PAYE, Withholding Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Value Added Tax, Withholding VAT, Excise Duty, Monthly Rental Income Tax and Turnover Tax," the authority's Commissioner for Domestic Taxes Department said in the statement.

KRA also said the programme is part of providing relief to taxpayers, due to the hardships brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. The type of relief a taxpayer gets will, however, depend on how soon they pay, with the first ones most favoured.

"Persons who make full payment of disclosed taxes in 2021 will get 100 per cent relief in penalties and interest while those who pay in 2022 and 2023 shall get relief at a rate of 50 per cent and 25 per cent respectively," the authority stated.

It also added that those who take advantage of the programme will not be prosecuted for disclosed tax liabilities, appeal or seek other remedies with respect to the taxes, penalties and interest it remits. Those under audit, investigation, compliance verification, or who have been served notice of intention to perform such will, however, not benefit from the programme.

"A taxpayer will not be eligible to apply for relief under the programme if he/she is a party to an ongoing litigation in respect to the tax liability or any matter relating to the tax liability," the authority added.

Those who disclose and pay the taxes will also be issued with a VTDP certificate to prove they took advantage of the programme, the authority stated. The move comes as the KRA struggles to expand its tax base and just when it is dealing with an underperforming economy.

## Zimbabwe's Kuvimba to raise \$1 billion for new mining projects

HARARE

Zimbabwe's unlisted Kuvimba Mining House is seeking to raise \$1 billion for its gold and platinum projects, including a gold mine that could produce 150,000 ounces a year, as well as exploration, its chief executive said on Friday.

Kuvimba was established last year and is 65 per cent owned by the government with the balance held by management through a Mauritius-based company Quorus. David Brown said in emailed responses to questions from Reuters that the bulk of the capital expenditure would be spent on bringing Shamva Gold Mine, which was bought from British-based Metallon Corp in 2019, into full operation in around three years' time. Metallon had put Shamva under care and maintenance in early 2019 because of mounting debts.

Zimbabwe, grappling with its worst economic crisis in more than a decade, is pursuing an ambitious plan to raise mining output and earn the country \$12bn a year. Platinum and gold mining are seen as an anchor of that drive. Rising metals prices could help attract investors into mineral extraction to generate much-needed foreign currency.

## FORECAST

# Almost half of SA's oil refining seen shut until 2022

JOHANNESBURG

South African plants owned by Glencore Plc and Petrolim Nasional Bhd that make up 43% of the nation's oil-refining capacity are expected to stay shut until at least 2022, according to energy consultant Citac.

Astron Energy, a unit of Glencore, has yet to restart the 100 000 barrel-a-day Cape Town refinery after a deadly explosion and fire in July. Petronas unit Engen's Durban plant also stopped production in December after a fire.

The closures will force South Africa to rely heavily on fuel imports. All four of South Africa's oil refineries - with a total capacity of more than 500 000 barrels a day - have had accidents or are under review, with the industry already hit hard by the Covid pandemic. A pending national clean-fuels policy is also likely to increase costs to upgrade machinery.

Engen said options are being considered for its 120 000 barrel-a-day plant after a local news website reported it's expected to shut in 2023 and may be converted into a fuel-storage terminal. If the plan is to close in two years, "it would not make economic sense to invest into bringing it back up," said Elitsa Georgieva, an analyst at Citac.

Astron and Engen didn't immediately reply to emailed requests for comment. The Sapref refinery, a joint venture of Royal Dutch Shell and BP, also faces uncertainty as Shell reviews its shareholding in the business. Sasol has also been



Firefighters dousing the fire at the Engen oil refinery in Durban, in December 2020.

deciding on plans for its Natref refinery since conducting a review of the plant.

Meanwhile medical-grade oxygen usage is surging in South Africa amid a second wave of coronavirus infections, leaving suppliers struggling to keep pace with demand.

As infection rates and deaths reach records, Air Liquide SA, Afrox Healthcare Ltd. and Air Products are boosting deliveries to hospitals, with some now taking place daily rather than weekly. Air Liquide mainly supplies private hospitals, while Afrox supplies mostly government facilities.

"Consumption from our hospital customers has increased by three to four times," Air Liquide said in a response to queries. "Some regions have experienced a more than six-fold increase, while some specific hospitals have experienced an as much as 10-fold increase in consumption."

The rise in demand has caught hospitals and their suppliers by surprise as the authorities and the scientists advising them expected the second wave of infections to begin in February rather than November. The emergence of

a more transmissible variant of the virus is among the main factors behind the acceleration in new cases.

"The health system had been laid out to see a resurgence of the pandemic, but not so early," said Ian Sanne, an infectious diseases doctor who heads Right to Care, a non-profit that provides treatment to people with HIV and associated diseases.

Sanne, a member of Health Minister Zweli Mkhize's Ministerial Advisory Council on Covid-19, said an audit of government hospitals identified 150 that needed upgrades to

their oxygen supplies. Thirty-six of those have been completed, with the process taking as long as six weeks at each facility, he said.

Many of the hospitals that haven't been upgraded are dependent on oxygen supplied in 10.2 kilogram (22 pound) gas cylinders. There is a risk of cylinder shortages, with single Covid-19 patient using as many as 10 a day, and cylinders that are usually used for nitrogen, argon or air are being repurposed, according to Sanne. There is a need to urgently train more people to drive oxygen tankers, he said.

## DIGITIZATION

# Electronic fiscal devices: Pilot phase to end in first quarter

MAPUTO

The experimental roll-out of electronic fiscal devices, designed to consolidate revenue collection in the country, will end in the first quarter of the current year.

Speaking a few days ago in Maputo, project coordinator Justino Muzima said that the procedure would improve the

management of Value Added Tax (VAT) and Simplified Small Contributors Tax (ISPC) payers.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the visit of Mozambican Tax Authority (AT) president Amélia Muendane to Maputo, Justino Muzima explained that, following the trial roll-out, his institution would extend

the use of these devices to other provinces for full implementation.

The AT proposes to collect about 265.6 billion meticaís this year, and the fiscal machinery project is seen as a considerable contribution to improving revenue collection by combating tax evasion. Currently, the pilot phase focuses on the province of

Maputo, with the next step being the expansion of the electronic invoicing system [e-invoicing], according to telecommunications capacity in the country.

The AT considers one of the advantages of fiscal machines to be reliable information about sales, reducing the costs of collecting the tax, especially in terms of personnel required

for time-consuming audits.

In recent years, AT has been carrying out reforms to simplify and facilitate the process of complying with tax obligations and, consequently, improve the business environment and broaden the tax base, resulting in the optimization of revenue collection for the realization of public expenditure.

The AT sees the use of information and communication technologies in taxpayer and tax management as the only way to create an internationally competitive business environment in Mozambique. Aware of its responsibilities, the AT has invested in the development of information communication

systems which respond to the challenges the current situation imposes on it. In addition to fiscal machines, technological projects such as e-Taxation (for the management of taxpayers and internal taxes) are underway, in partnership with the Centre for the Development of Financial Systems of the State (CEDSIF), among others.



OPTIMISM

# India's central bank warns rise in bad bank loans will likely threaten financial stability

NEW DELHI

India's central bank expects banks' bad-loan ratios to almost double this year and warned that soaring markets and a weakened economy threaten financial stability.

The Reserve Bank of India forecasts non-performing assets will rise to 13.5 per cent of total advances by the end of September from 7.5 per cent a year ago, according to its semi-annual Financial Stability Report published Monday. If that number holds until the fiscal year ending March 2022, it would be the worst since 1999.

"Domestically, corporate funding has been cushioned by policy measures and the loan moratorium announced in the face of the pandemic, but stresses would be visible with a lag," the Reserve Bank said. "This has implications for the banking sector as corporate and banking sector vulnerabilities are interlinked."

Like global peers, Indian lenders have been hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak, which triggered an unprecedented economic slump hurting borrowers' ability to repay debts. Banks came into the year already weakened by a two-year-old shadow lending crisis and are now struggling with one of the worst bad-loan ratios among major nations.

In response, the RBI has taken unprecedented steps, including a loan repayment moratorium that ended in August, followed by a two-year debt restructuring program. But the measures have made it harder to assess the extent of the problem.

"Congenial liquidity and financing conditions have shored up the financial parameters of banks, but it is recognised that the available accounting numbers obscure a true recognition of stress," Governor Shaktikanta Das wrote in the report. "It is in this context that banks must exploit the congen-



Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das urged lenders to take advantage of current "congenial financial conditions and the conducive policy environment" to add to their capital buffers.

ial financial conditions and the conducive policy environment to plan for capital augmentation and alterations in business models that address emerging challenges."

The RBI expects banks' capital ratios will erode to 14 per cent in September from 15.6 per cent in September 2020. This may worsen to 12.5 per cent in a very severe stress scenario, under

which nine banks may fall short of meeting the minimum capital requirement of 9 per cent.

Most banks have raised capital in the past six months. Private lenders led the pack, followed by state-run peers, including the country's largest lender State Bank of India, which raised funds via additional Tier 1 bonds. The S&P BSE Bankex Index in 2020 saw its first annual drop in

five years even as the benchmark gauge rose 16 per cent.

RBI governor Das also warned of a widening "disconnect" between "certain sections of the financial markets and the real economy". India's benchmark stock index has followed its global peers in surging to record highs while the government estimates gross domestic product will fall 7.7 per cent in the year through March 2021, the biggest contraction since 1952.

"Stretched valuations of financial assets pose risks to financial stability," Mr Das said. "Banks and financial intermediaries need to be cognisant of these risks and spillovers in an interconnected financial system."

CONCERN

# Semiconductor shortage forces car makers to slow production

NEW YORK

A widening global shortage of semiconductors for auto parts is forcing major car companies to halt or slow vehicle production just as they were recovering from pandemic-related factory shutdowns. Officials at Volkswagen, Ford, Fiat Chrysler, Toyota and Nissan all say they have been hit by the shortage and been forced to delay production of some models in order to keep other factories running.

"This is absolutely an industry issue," Toyota spokesman Scott Vazin said in an email on Friday. "We are evaluating the supply constraint of semiconductors and developing countermeasures to minimise the impact to production." If the chip shortage lasts, production cuts could reduce the inventory of cars, trucks and SUVs for sale in the US and other markets. That comes at a time when the industry was just starting to replenish inventory lost when factories shut down last spring to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Toyota was forced to slow production of the Tundra pick-up truck at a factory in San Antonio, Texas. Ford had scheduled down time next week at its assembly plant in Louisville, Kentucky, but moved it ahead of this week. The plant makes the Ford Escape and Lincoln Corsair small SUVs.

Fiat Chrysler has temporarily closed car factories in Brampton, Ontario, and a small SUV plant in Toluca, Mexico, while Volkswagen said in December it was facing production slowdowns due to the shortage.

SLOWDOWN

# Surprise November dip in eurozone unemployment masking the true picture

BERLIN

Eurozone unemployment fell slightly in November for the second month in a row with the jobless rate dipping to 8.3 per cent of the workforce from 8.4 per cent in October.

The figure for those out of work decreased by 172,000 in November, said the EU's statistics agency Eurostat, as the declining jobless rate followed a similar pattern to October, however, the positive data might mask the real picture. The jobless rate was substantially higher than the 6.6 per cent in November 2019, with unemployment rising by 1.42 million as the pandemic takes its toll on the economy.

Eurostat said the data might understate the economic damage because the figures disregard people registered as unemployed but are no longer looking for a position or aren't available for work -- for example, because they have to look after their children.

"This leads to discrepancies in the number of registered unemployed and those measured as unemployed," Eurostat said. "The Covid-19 outbreak and the measures applied to combat it have triggered a sharp increase in the number of claims for unemployment benefits across the EU." The November dip surprised economists, who were expecting a slight increase to 8.5 per cent, but with much of the region under heightened restrictions the outlook is less positive.

"In 2021, we expect unemployment to continue to rise, peaking at around 9 per cent, and think it is unlikely to regain its 2019 fourth quarter level until the end of 2022," said Capital Economics. Retail sales across the eurozone plunged by 6.1 per cent on the month in November, when much of the bloc was subject to movement restrictions, in the biggest decline since the first lockdown in April.

The European Central Bank boosted its monetary stimulus by €500 billion (\$611.93bn) in December, taking the total stimulus since the start of the pandemic to prop up companies and households to €1.85 trillion. While eurozone unemployment improved slightly across the working population as a whole, younger workers were not so fortunate, with the unemployment rate for under-25s rising to 18.4 per cent in November from 18 per cent the previous month. Italy's unemployment rate fell to 8.9 per cent with about 63,000 jobs created, according to statistics bureau Istat.

Italy was the first Western country hit by coronavirus in February, with the country regaining control of the outbreak after a lengthy lockdown. The more positive figure was also reflected in the youth unemployment rate for 15 to 24 age group, which fell to 29.5 per cent from October's 30.3 per cent. Italy's overall employment rate, one of the eurozone's lowest, rose to 58.3 per cent in November from 58.1 per cent.



## ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

<p><b>ITV</b></p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY 6 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingira</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt</p> <p>10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang</p> <p>19:00 Ijue sheria</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>23:00 The Base</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>2:00 DWTV</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 7 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingira</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>10:30 Shamba lulu rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Ijue sheria rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt</p> <p>13:30 Tanzania yetu</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi rpt</p> <p>18:30 Jagina</p> <p>19:00 Usafiri wako</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p>	<p>21:00 Malumbano ya hoja</p> <p>23:00 The Base</p> <p>00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>FRIDAY 8 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingira</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 KumeKucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt</p> <p>10:30 Usafiri wako rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Jagina rpt</p> <p>13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base (DJ Show)</p> <p>17:30 Kiislam</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>19:00 Shamba lulu</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipima Joto</p> <p>23:00 The Base</p> <p>00:00 DWTV</p> <p><b>SATURDAY 9 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingira</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:00 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang</p> <p>13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:20 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>17:00 Shamsham za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang</p> <p>19:00 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Art and lifestyle</p> <p>21:30 ITV TOP 10</p> <p>22:10 Isidingo rpt</p> <p>00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>SUNDAY 10 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazingira</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 KumeKucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 Watoto Wetu</p>	<p>10:00 Isidingo</p> <p>11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>12:00 Movie rpt: Funzo</p> <p>14:00 Tamasha la Michezo</p> <p>15:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>16:30 ITV Top 10</p> <p>17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Matukio ya wiki</p> <p>19:30 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko</p> <p>21:05 Mizengwe</p> <p>21:30 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>22:14 Bongo Movie: Huba</p> <p>00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p><b>CAPITAL</b></p> <p><b>Wed 06 Jan</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Culinary delight rpt</p> <p>17:00 Innovation rpt</p> <p>17:30 Out n'about rpt</p> <p>11:30 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>12:00 Usafiri wako rpt</p> <p>12:30 Eco@Africa rpt</p> <p>13:00 Business edition rpt</p> <p>14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt</p> <p>17:45 Bundesliga kick off</p> <p>18:15 Capchat rpt</p> <p>19:15 Mizengwe</p> <p>19:30 The Decor</p> <p>20:00 Korean Drama: The Slave hunter</p> <p>21:00 Out n' About</p> <p>21:30 Movie: Street Kings</p> <p>23:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 10 Jan</p> <p>08:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 In good shape</p> <p>10:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>11:00 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter</p> <p>12:00 Jagina rpt</p> <p>12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt</p> <p>13:00 In good shape rpt</p> <p>13:30 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>15:15 Abu yako</p> <p>15:30 Rev rpt</p> <p>16:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>16:45 Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>17:00 The Decor rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt</p> <p>19:30 Tanzania yetu</p> <p>20:00 Series: Itohan</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Dakika 45:</p> <p>22:45 The Décor</p> <p>23:15 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Thurs 07 Jan</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Business edition rpt</p> <p>17:00 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<p>04:00-05:00HRS SPOTI (marudio)</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b></p> <p>05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM</p> <p>09:00-13:00HRS RAHA (marudio)</p> <p>13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO</p> <p>14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101</p> <p>16:00-18:00HRS DALA</p> <p>18:00-18:10HRS HABARI</p> <p>18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME</p> <p>21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS</p> <p>22:00-00:00HRS DALA (marudio)</p> <p>00:00-04:00HRS RAHA (marudio)</p> <p>04:00-05:00HRS SPOTI (marudio)</p> <p><b>THURSDAY</b></p> <p>05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM</p> <p>09:00-13:00HRS RAHA (marudio)</p> <p>13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO</p> <p>14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101</p> <p>16:00-18:00HRS DALA</p> <p>18:00-18:10HRS HABARI</p> <p>18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME</p> <p>20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS</p> <p>21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA</p> <p>23:00-01:00HRS MUSIC &amp; JINGLES</p> <p>01:00-05:00HRS RAHA (marudio)</p>
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A pedestrian passes by a closed shop in Berlin, Germany



## WORLD

## Italy's coalition at risk with one party threatening to quit

By Bloomberg

A JUNIOR partner in Italy's ruling coalition is considering ditching the alliance as early as yesterday, threatening to bring down Premier Giuseppe Conte's government just as the country is battered by a resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic, according to officials.

Former premier Matteo Renzi, leader of the centrist Italy Alive party, is weighing pulling two ministers out of the government before or after a cabinet meeting called for 9.30 pm, according to officials who asked not to be named discussing private conversations.

While Renzi controls just a handful of lawmakers, Conte needs his support to command a majority in the Italian Senate.

Renzi's withdrawal would throw the Conte administration into turmoil but it wouldn't necessarily force the prime minister into a snap election.

Conte could seek to piece together an alternative majority if Renzi leaves the coalition, and some officials have speculated that Renzi may be maneuvering to increase his leverage in a future Conte cabinet - with little support among voters, Italy Alive would risk being wiped out in an election.

Tensions between Renzi and Conte have escalated over recent weeks as the former prime minister lambasted the government's plans for how to invest money from the Euro-

pean Union (EU) recovery fund as well as its governance.

Yesterday's cabinet meeting sets the stage for a potential showdown as ministers will discuss how to spend an estimated 196 billion-euro (US\$240 billion) windfall from the EU rescue package.

Renzi did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether he will dump the coalition yesterday. Several other officials said his party is assessing a new version of the government's recovery plan, sent to coalition members on Monday evening.

The latest government plan draws on the EU package to earmark 223 billion euros for investment and other projects to boost an economy that was weak even before the pandemic, according to a draft seen by Bloomberg.

Spending on infrastructure including railways, highways, ports and logistics totals 32 billion euros, while investment to make Italy's economy greener totals 69 billion euros. Health spending is at 19.7 billion euros.

The draft suggests Conte has made some concessions to Renzi, particularly on health-care spending, but lawmakers in Renzi's party have stressed that the ex-premier also wants Conte to share more power with coalition parties, speed up public works projects and give up control of the secret services.

The coalition infighting comes at a terrible



Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte

moment for Italy with the government still struggling to contain a second wave of COVID-19, which has infected more than 2 million people and triggered a crushing recession.

President Sergio Mattarella, who would oversee any attempt to forge a new government, has asked Renzi to ensure that parliament approves the recovery plan before he plunges the government into crisis and was given assurances to that effect, according to officials.

Renzi could pull out his ministers this week but still guarantee external support to ensure parliament approves the recovery plan later this month, other officials said.

For Conte, it would be the second time a key ally abandons him. A former law professor, he was plucked from obscurity in 2018 to head a government with the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the anti-migrant League. Conte forged a second coalition the following year after League leader Matteo Salvini ditched the alliance. Conte's current administration is backed by Five Star and the center-left Democratic Party.

Whether Conte can yet again hold on to power depends on how many centrist and unaffiliated senators decide to back him, if he decides to appeal to parliament.

The unelected Conte, who has no party of his own, needs to fill a gap left by Renzi's 18 senators.

Possible scenarios to resolve the political turmoil include a third Conte government perhaps with Renzi as foreign minister, a similar coalition with a different premier, a broad alliance headed by a figure like ex-European Central Bank head Mario Draghi, or early elections.

Uniting many lawmakers across coalition parties is the fear of early elections as opinion polls show Salvini's center-right bloc would win. Besides, many lawmakers would not be re-elected as the number of seats in both houses has been shrunk to downsize parliament.

Agencies

## Israel wants to derail Biden's plan to rejoin Iran nuclear deal

BY BLOOMBERG

ISRAEL is already plotting how to derail one of Joe Biden's signature foreign-policy promises.

The high-profile campaign that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waged against the Obama administration's nuclear deal with Iran failed to block the 2015 agreement.

Officials are now weighing whether that sort of public crusade or behind-the-scenes engagement will be the most effective strategy with Biden, a senior Israeli official said, emphasizing that no decision has been made.

Israel will start by sending a stream of envoys on visits to Washington, the official said, requesting anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

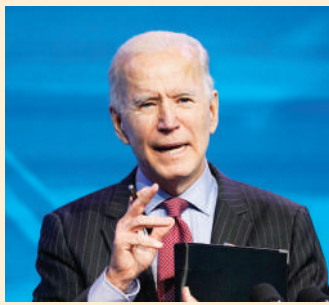
It's stated publicly that it doesn't want the US to abandon sanctions on the Islamic Republic without a new deal, and that a

tougher stance should be taken toward its nuclear project, ballistic missile program and regional proxy forces.

That strategy runs against the Biden team's willingness to re-enter the deal, then negotiate an expansion of its terms. It's conditioned on Iran's returning to compliance with the accord, whose limits it breached after President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the agreement in 2018.

"It seems to me that we have to learn some lessons, first of all not to give up the sanctions five minutes before we start the negotiations," Zohar Palti, head of the political-military bureau in Israel's Defense Ministry, said at a conference last month.

Iran says it'll welcome the US back to the accord but won't renegotiate. It's also demanded US\$70 billion in compensation for lost oil revenue as a result of US sanctions.



Israel also has a higher-risk card up its sleeve: the potential to upend diplomatic efforts through covert operations against Iran. Tehran blames Israel for the assassination of a top Iranian nuclear scientist in November, and its foreign minister this month accused Netanyahu's government of trying to goad the US into war in an attempt to derail Biden's efforts to revive the deal.

Netanyahu has been open about his intention to thwart renewed US participation. In a rare public split, he rebuked his envoy to Germany for support-

ing Berlin's push to expand the deal.

"There should be no return to the Iran nuclear agreement of 2015 - a deal which is flawed to its foundations," Netanyahu said.

Facing another round of national elections in March, Netanyahu is campaigning on his foreign policy and security record and highlighting his staunch opposition to the Iran accord, a consensus position in Israel that likely will hold no matter who wins the vote.

That included a controversial address to the US Congress in 2015, where Netanyahu tried to persuade lawmakers to oppose Obama's Iran policies.

The speech was made without notifying the White House, a breach of diplomatic protocol viewed as an insult to the then-president.

Biden, who was vice president at the time, will seek a construc-

tive relationship with Netanyahu and try to avoid public disagreements, according to a former senior US official in close contact with the Biden team. But general policy isn't up for debate, the person said.

Immediate changes to Iran policy under the new US administration could include loosening access to humanitarian aid and making its trade mechanism with Europe work better, the former official added, asking not to be named because he wasn't authorized to speak for the president-elect.

"There won't be a honeymoon between Biden and Netanyahu, but there doesn't need to be the kind of soap opera that characterized the relationship under Obama," said Aaron David Miller, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a former Mideast official at the State Department.

Agencies

## WHO: Virus origin tracing is about scientific answers

GENEVA

THE mission of the research team to arrive in China for novel coronavirus origin-tracing is about scientific answers, a senior World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Monday.

"Understanding the origins of disease is not about

finding somebody to blame, it is about scientific answers," Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said at a virtual press conference from Geneva.

Answering a question on whether the WHO might send teams to any other countries, Maria Van Kerk-

hove, technical lead on COVID-19 response at the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, said that the research studies will go where the initial patients were identified and the WHO is also working with different networks.

China said Monday it supports scientists of all coun-

tries in carrying out global scientific research on the origin and route of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, and supports member states in conducting cooperation on the animal origin of the virus under the leadership of the WHO.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian

made the remarks at a press conference in response to a question regarding China's announcement that an international expert team of the WHO will arrive in China tomorrow to conduct joint research with Chinese scientists to trace the origin of the novel coronavirus.

Xinhua

## Xi: Dual-circulation ensures good start for 14th FYP

BY MO JINGXI

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping spoke on Monday of the importance of implementing the new development philosophy and advancing the new development paradigm of "dual circulation" in the country's new development phase to ensure a good start for the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period.



Xi (pictured), who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remark when addressing the opening of a study session at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, attended by provincial and ministerial-level officials.

Xi called for ensuring a good start for fully building a modern socialist country, adding that the next three decades will be a new development phase during which the Chinese people achieve a tremendous transformation from standing up and growing rich to becoming strong under the Party's leadership.

To deal with unprecedented opportunities and challenges faced by China during the new phase, Xi urged the whole Party to remain modest and prudent and make all-out efforts to realize set goals with perseverance.

"The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, but time and situation are in our favor," Xi said.

He stressed the importance of following the people-centered philosophy in order to completely, accurately and comprehensively implement the new development philosophy. The development philosophy on building a modern socialist country is only correct when it insists that development should be for the people, rely on the people and be shared by the people, Xi added.

Xi urged efforts to narrow interregional, urban-rural and income gaps in development so the people have a strong sense of fulfillment, happiness and security and thus achieve shared prosperity for everyone.

As China already stands at a new historical starting point, Xi said, the new development philosophy should be implemented in a more accurate way with targeted and pragmatic measures to earnestly address development imbalances and inadequacies and realize high-quality development.

Given the evolution of the principal contradiction facing Chinese society as well as the change in the world power structure, Xi also underscored the importance of becoming more aware of potential dangers, keeping in mind worst-case scenarios and getting prepared to deal with a more complicated and difficult situation.

He emphasized the need to dare to struggle with proper strategies and methods.

Calling a smooth economic circulation crucial for fostering the new development paradigm in which the domestic market is the mainstay and the domestic and foreign markets complement each other, Xi called for efforts to deepen supply-side structural reform, promote independent innovation, expand domestic demand and further open up to the outside world.

Xi also stressed strengthening overall Party leadership to achieve socialist modernization and urged continuous efforts to advance the modernization of the system and capacity for governance.

Xinhua

## Russia extends UK flight suspension until February 1

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will keep flights to and from the United Kingdom suspended until February 1, 2021, the anti-coronavirus crisis center said in a statement yesterday.

"The anti-coronavirus crisis center has decided to keep flights to and from the United Kingdom suspended. In order to protect public health, the suspension has been extended until 11:59 pm on February 1, 2021," the statement reads.

Russia suspended flights to and from the UK on December 22.

According to the World Health Organization, a new, more contagious strain of the coronavirus, initially found in the UK, has been recorded in more than 40 countries.

Russia detected the new strain in late 2020. Head of the country's sanitary watchdog Anna Popova said that Russian testing systems were capable of detecting the new variant of the virus.

British Health Secretary Matt Hancock said on December 14 that the country's researchers had discovered a new strain of COVID-19, which could be the reason behind a rapid rise in infections in the country.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced at a press conference on December 19 that according to preliminary data, the new coronavirus strain could be 70% more contagious than others though there was no evidence that it was more deadly.

OVER 604,000 farmers and herdsmen in southwest China's Tibet autonomous region had secured jobs with the assistance of the government as the end of October this year. These jobs generated an income of 4.54 billion yuan (about \$688 million).

A total of 77,289 of them found jobs in other cities and prefectures within the autonomous region, while 5,546 worked outside of it.

Phusang, 52, is one of the many that have found a job with the government's assistance. He now works at a cattle breeding workshop in a modern agriculture and husbandry demonstration park in Lhundrup county, Lhasa, capital of Tibet autonomous region.

"It was beyond my imagination that cows can be raised this way," he told the People's

## China's Tibet helps farmers, herdsmen find jobs

Daily, pointing to the modern workshop where a huge digital screen was demonstrating real-time production.

The demonstration park is an important livelihood project built in 2018, as well as a pair assistance program of east China's Jiangsu province. It aims to turn around the low production efficiency in the past when it always took five or six years before cattle were slaughtered and when the mortality was high.

The project, with an investment of 150 million yuan, is mainly used to breed yaks and process forage grass for the animal. It offers jobs for surrounding farmers and herdsmen, who are able to earn over 3,500 yuan each month.

Phusang said he was totally unprepared when arriving at the demonstration park for the first time. The cowsheds were equipped with modern facilities, and cameras were installed over every cattle. Traditional coarse fodders were replaced by scientifically designed ones, and there were employees giving injection to, taking temperature for and cleaning the cattle.

"The herdsmen were used to extensive ways of cattle breeding. In order to help them adapt to modern husbandry as soon as possible, we held a series of training courses," said Li Fashu, head of the demonstration park. Now, Phusang has been promoted to a group leader of cattle breeding, and acquired abundant skills after receiving training. Some-

times he even teaches his colleagues how to be more efficient in breeding the cattle.

Both he and his son work in the demonstration park. "We turned from farmers into workers. Though the cattle don't belong to us, our days are better," he said.

Many regions in Tibet suffer from underdeveloped industries due to remoteness and poor transportation. Apart from offering training sessions, local government also helped establish cooperatives. These cooperatives carried out training sessions in weaving, sewing and driving, as well as automobile, motorcycle and agricultural machine repairing and maintenance, so as to comprehensively improve farmers' and herdsmen's professional skills.

People's Daily



## Belt and Road cooperation between China, Africa to have brighter future - Chinese FM

BEIJING

THE Belt and Road cooperation between China and Africa, which has overcome the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and external interference, is covering most of the African continent and will surely have a brighter future, said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Wang made the remarks during an interview with the People's Daily as he concluded on Saturday his visit to five African nations, namely Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Botswana, Tanzania and Seychelles.

The socio-economic development of African countries has overcome various hardships and maintained overall stability, demonstrating resilience and vitality, Wang said.

Meanwhile, as they are facing more prominent structural problems amid the COVID-19 pandemic, African countries are eager to speed up their economic transformation and look forward to strengthening the Belt and Road cooperation with China, so as to break their bottlenecks in infrastructure, funding and human resources, and enhance their capacity for independent development, Wang said.

He noted that during his trip, the DRC and Botswana signed respec-

tively a memorandum of understanding with China on jointly building the Belt and Road, becoming successively the 45th and the 46th African partner countries to participate in Belt and Road cooperation.

China is willing to make joint efforts with Africa to strengthen strategic alignment and build consensus on cooperation in line with the expectations of African countries, and push forward the joint building of the Belt and Road between China and Africa, Wang said.

First, with a focus on infrastructure construction, China will help promote connectivity in Africa, Wang said, noting that the completion of such Belt and Road projects as the Mombasa-Nairobi railway and the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway have greatly promoted the industrial development and resource circulation along the routes.

China will continue to actively participate in Africa's infrastructure construction in such areas as transportation, energy and communications, and inject momentum into Africa's economic development, he said.

Second, China will support the construction of Africa free trade area and foster a large market between China and Africa, Wang said.

Noting that the Chinese market is a market for the world, he said China is



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

more willing to share China's development opportunities with African brothers.

China, he added, stands ready to take the opportunity of China's construction of a new development paradigm and the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area to expand the import of high-quality African products, strengthen the connectivity of the supply and

industrial chains of both sides, drive the Chinese and African markets to reinforce each other and jointly cultivate a China-Africa market boasting a population of 2.7 billion.

Third, China will optimize the distribution of capacity investment to help accelerate Africa's industrialization, Wang said.

The Asian country, he added, stands ready to encourage Chi-

nese enterprises to increase investment in Africa, actively explore cooperation in industrial parks, special economic zones and regional development belts, and enhance the aggregation and added value of Africa's industrialization.

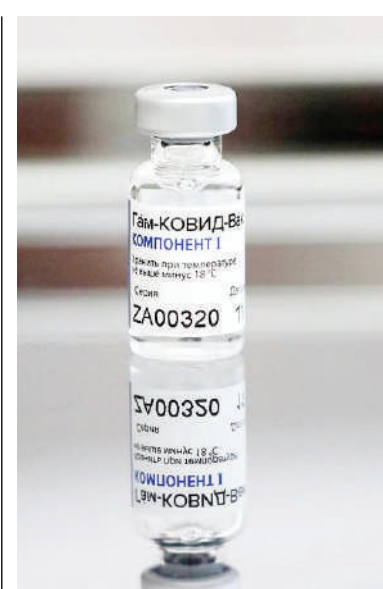
China will help Africa transform more resource advantages into development advantages at an early date, help Africa realize economic diversification and build up its internal driving force for independent development, he said.

Fourth, China will bolster cooperation in scientific and technological innovation to help Africa achieve leapfrog development, he said.

Noting that digital economy bears on the future of mankind and represents a development direction that African countries generally attach importance to, Wang said China is ready to share digital economy technology and experience with Africa and support African countries in catching up with the fourth industrial revolution.

China is also ready to work with Africa to jointly build a green economy and pursue green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable development, he added.

Xinhua



## Palestine becomes first country in Middle East to register Sputnik V vaccine

MOSCOW

THE Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) has announced the registration of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine against coronavirus by Palestine's Health Ministry, the Fund said in a statement on Monday.

"The vaccine was registered under the emergency use authorization procedure without additional clinical trials on the territory of the state," the statement said.

Supplies of the vaccine to Palestine are planned for Q1 2021, the first batch is expected within a month, according to RDIF.

Supplies of the vaccine will be facilitated by RDIF's international partners in India, China, South Korea and other countries.

Sputnik V was registered under the same procedure earlier in Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia and Serbia.

Agencies

KAMPALA

## Uganda protests Facebook's closure of accounts of supporters

UGANDA on Monday protested Facebook's closure of accounts belonging to supporters of incumbent President Yoweri Museveni ahead of the Thursday general elections.

Don Wanyama, Museveni's spokesperson told Xinhua by

telephone that the closure of more than 50 accounts by the tech giant and Twitter is unfair. "The President's supporters have been unfairly blocked by those tech giants. We need fair playing ground on social media," Wanyama, whose Facebook

and Instagram accounts were also blocked, said. He described the blocking of the accounts as "tech-colonialism". Wanyama said the tech giants were being used by opponents of the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party to stifle

pro-NRM voices. "Shame on the foreign forces that think they can aid and plant a puppet leadership on Uganda by disabling online accounts of NRM supporters. You can take away your platforms, you won't take away Museveni's votes," Wanyama said.

Frank Tumwebaze, another Uganda government official, also protested the blocking of the social media accounts of the supporters of NRM. "Please International Telecommunications Union Secretary General, one of the threats we must

speak against in our digital ecosystem is this abuse of communication platforms by tech giants," Tumwebaze, who is the minister of gender labor and social development, said. "Connectivity should not be a right to enjoy at the mercy of tech giants."

Xinhua

## Pair assistance helps SW China's Yunnan combat poverty

WITH the pair assistance provided by Shanghai and south China's Guangdong province, southwest China's Yunnan has reached many results in poverty alleviation.

Yunnan province has fully encouraged enterprises, government-affiliated institutions, and social organizations in Shanghai and Guangdong in investing in impoverished counties in the province.

Shanghai and Guangdong have guided enterprises to invest over 16.2 billion yuan (\$2.48 billion) in Yunnan, helping 410,800 impoverished people. They have built 26 industrial parks that attract 63 firms and assisted in the construction of 698 poverty alleviation workshops, creating jobs for 50,500 residents.

More and more products from Yunnan find their markets in Shanghai and Guangdong thanks to a long-term pairing mechanism for production and sales. This year, the sales of Yunnan's products for poverty alleviation in the two regions have exceeded 6.6 billion yuan.

"My house is the work of a designer from Shanghai," said Zhang Dayou, a resident in Yunnan province.

The villager from Lancang Lahu autonomous county, Pu'er city of Yunnan was overjoyed after moving from a shabby bamboo house into a new one combining unique



Photo taken on Oct. 8 shows the Weilaba Zhuhai residential compound, a poverty-relief relocation site in Daxingdi town, Lushui city, Nujiang Lisu autonomous prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan province. Built with the help from Zhuhai city in south China's Guangdong province, the compound, with 815 apartments of 79 buildings, houses over 2,200 people from 681 households of Lisu people. (File Photo)

ethnic style and Shanghai architecture.

Thanks to the pair assistance offered by Shanghai and Guangdong, more and more impoverished villagers like Zhang have moved to decent houses and become better-off.

In Mangshi city of Dehong Dai and Jingpo autonomous prefecture, Yunnan, residents are busy cultivating vegetables, many of which are then sold to Shanghai citizens.

In 2017, Qingpu district of Shanghai paired up with Mangshi in poverty alleviation and helped more than 2,000 local peasant households grow a dozen varieties of vegetables including potato, sweet corn, and wild rice shoot. In this way, Shanghai and Yunnan have achieved win-win outcomes as green agricultural products of plateaus in Yunnan have found

market in the metropolis.

In a dust-free workshop of Yunnan Tianyu Medical Equipment Co., Ltd. in Zhaotong city of the province, mask production lines are rolling at high speed. The city couldn't produce masks at all at the beginning of this year, and yet it now has a production capacity of 240,000 masks per day thanks to the company.

In January, after learning about the preferential policies on assisting Yunnan with poverty alleviation, Xia Juwen, chairman of the company, decided to introduce machinery, equipment and technology from Dongguan city in Guangdong to Zhaotong in the Wumeng Mountain area.

The workshop has provided jobs to impoverished residents who have moved out of the mountains, and ninety percent

of the workshop's 153 employees are locals in Zhaotong.

The minimum monthly wage for general employees is 3,500 yuan, while the salary of technicians reaches a maximum of 15,000 yuan, according to Xia. The operating costs are much lower in Zhaotong than in Dongguan, Xia said, explaining that the electricity price in Zhaotong is 0.28 yuan per kilowatt-hour, compared with more than 1 yuan in Dongguan, and that the local government offers tax and fee breaks, and subsidies for salaries paid to registered impoverished households.

Since 2016, Yunnan has received more than 14 billion yuan of financial aid funds from Shanghai and Guangdong and completed 6,614 pair assistance programs.

The two regions have dispatched 837 officials and 3,680 professionals and technicians to help Yunnan fight poverty, injecting new momentum into the province's poverty alleviation.

Besides, 280 hospitals in Shanghai and Guangdong have paired up with 259 medical and health care institutions in Yunnan to help combat poverty. Similarly, 413 schools and 3,284 companies in the two regions have provided pairing-up support for 422 schools in poor counties and 3,768 poverty-stricken villages in Yunnan, respectively. *People's Daily*

## US terror designation of Houthi rebels to have 'serious repercussions'

UNITED NATIONS

THE United States government's decision to designate Ansar Allah, more commonly known as the Houthi rebel group in Yemen, as terrorists, is likely to have serious repercussions, a UN spokesman said on Monday.

"It's clear that the decision is likely to have serious humanitarian and political repercussions," Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said at the regular press briefing.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States will designate Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels as a foreign terrorist organization, a move aid groups have warned could hamstring attempts to deal with what many consider to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Pompeo cited the Dec 30 attack on Aden Airport, which killed at least 26 people and injured more than 50 others.

The US chief diplomat will present his plan to the US Congress on Jan 19 and, if the United States follows through on his threat, imports of food, and other essential items, could be negatively impacted, at a time when more Yemenis are starving, Dujarric warned.

Pompeo's statement on Sunday acknowledged concerns that the designations would have an "impact on the humanitarian situation in Yemen," adding that the United States would put in place measures to reduce their impact.

Dujarric called for the United States to ensure that licenses and exemptions are granted, so that humanitarian assistance continues to reach the people who need it, and the private sector can continue to function in order to stave off complete

economic collapse and large-scale famine.

The huge humanitarian operation in the country, the largest in the world, cannot replace the private sector or compensate for major drops in commercial imports, he added.

The political process in Yemen also risks being destabilized as a result of the terrorist designation, Dujarric said, and the positions of the opposing sides in the conflict that has riven the country since 2015, could become even more polarized.

According to figures released by the United Nations in December, more than 230,000 Yemenis have died in the war, mostly because of a lack of food, health services and infrastructure.

Dujarric pledged that the world body will continue to work with all parties to "resume and continue an inclusive political process to reach a comprehensive negotiated settlement to end the conflict."

Xinhua



A woman holds a malnourished boy at the Aslam Health Center, in Hajjah, Yemen. (PHOTO / AP)

## Indonesia retrieves black box from crashed Sriwijaya Air plane

JAKARTA

INDONESIAN authorities have retrieved one of the black boxes from a Sriwijaya Air plane that crashed into the Java Sea at the weekend, Navy spokesman said yesterday.

The recording device was transported to Jakarta's port, spokesman Fajar Tri Rohadi told Reuters.

Local television footage had earlier showed a white plastic box holding the device aboard a speed boat.

Indonesia's military chief Hadi Tjahjanto said he was highly confident that the cockpit voice recorder could be found soon, following the retrieval of the flight data recorder.

He was speaking at a joint news conference later in the day, where Transport Minister Budi Karya Su-

medi confirmed the data recorder had been found on Tuesday, three days after the plane crashed.

The Boeing 737-500 plane with 62 people on board plunged into the Java Sea on Saturday, four minutes after taking off from Jakarta's main airport.

Earlier on Tuesday, more human remains were found at the crash site, as well as personal effects such as wallets containing identification cards.

"Today we are focusing on finding the victims," Yusuf Latif, a spokesman for search and rescue agency Basarnas, said.



Indonesian Navy divers position their boats near marker buoys as they continue the search for the wreckage of the crashed Sriwijaya Air passenger jet in the Java Sea, near Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. (AP)

**Unmanned vehicle**  
Indonesia has deployed a remotely operated underwater vehicle to help divers

search for the remains of victims and recover the flight recorders from a Sriwijaya Air jet that crashed into the

sea three days ago soon after takeoff.

Indonesian police made the first identification of a victim from the crash on Monday. Flight attendant Okky Bisma was identified by his fingerprints, said a police official.

"My super kind husband... Heaven is your place... Until we meet again darling," Okky's wife, who is also a flight attendant, wrote on her Instagram account.

The Boeing 737-500 jet was headed on a domestic flight to Pontianak on Borneo island, about 740 km from Jakarta, before it

disappeared from radar screens.

It was the second major air crash in Indonesia since 189 passengers and crew were killed in 2018 when a Lion Air Boeing 737 MAX also plunged into the Java Sea soon after taking off. The jet that crashed on Saturday is a largely different design.

Divers have narrowed down an area where they believe the flight recorders, known as black boxes, are believed to be but search efforts have been hindered by debris, officials said.

A remotely operated underwater vehicle has been

deployed to help scour the seabed, while navy vessels with sonar search from the surface.

Once the flight data and cockpit voice recorders are found, Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee (KNKT) expects to be able to read the information in three days.

With few immediate clues on what caused a catastrophic loss of control after take-off, investigators will rely heavily on the flight recorders to determine what went wrong.

The Sriwijaya Air plane was nearly 27 years old, much older than Boeing's problem-plagued 737 MAX model. Older 737 models are widely flown and do not have the stall-prevention system implicated in the MAX safety crisis. *Agencies*





Simba SC's midfielder, Francis Kahata.

## Gor Mahia fans unhappy with cash prize handed over to Simba SC midfielder

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S Premier League champions, Simba SC, posted on their twitter handle the cash prize that the outfit's midfielder, Francis Kahata, was presented with after he was voted as the best player of the match when the side took on Mtibwa Sugar in this year's Mapinduzi Cup tournament in Zanzibar last weekend.

Simba commanded 2-0 victory over Mtibwa Sugar in the Group B duel, played at Amaan Stadium, to qualify for the competition's semi-finals.

The eventual winners' goals were scored by Hassan Dilunga and Miraji Athumani in the first half of the game.

Kahata, who put scintillating displays for Simba in the tie, received 200,000/- in cash prize from the tournament's Organizing Committee after he was voted as the duel's best player.

Soccer followers that are backing Kenyan side, Gor Mahia, Kahata's former side, were however not happy with the cash prize, noting it was extremely little.

Kahata, aged 28, joined Simba, alias 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi', from Gor Mahia after playing for four years at the Kenyan side from 2015-2019.

Gor Mahia's other player, defender

Joash Onyango, recently joined Simba SC from the former and he is now Kahata's teammate at Simba.

Gor Mahia fans were angered by Simba's announcement, stating that the amount was meant to belittle Kahata.

The fans converted the amount into Kenyan shillings, stating that it was approximately Kshs 20,000.

Some fans were also mad with the club's decision to play Kahata in less important matches.

Kahata helped Simba bundle Mtibwa Sugar, the Mapinduzi Cup competition's defending champions, out of the showpiece.

The Kenyan international has been on the sidelines for quite sometime now and it was even rumoured that he was in his way out of the outfit due to his less playing time.

The midfielder's impressive displays come at a good time when Simba have confirmed their place in this season's CAF Champions League group stage.

Simba, placed in Group A of the tournament, will face familiar faces in the likes of the showpiece's holders, Egypt's Al Ahly, Sudan's Al Merreikh and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita Club.

## The Beyonce effect: Break dance style making strides in recent gospel lyrics

By Correspondent John Kimbute

DIVERSIFICATION is the watchword as gospel entertainment moves to fresh grazing areas, making the music more exciting while keeping the message largely intact.

A definite innovation in rhythms is afoot with a design that continually interrupts and picks up within verses and between stanza, making it a cycle of repeating words and expressing feelings with a different touch.

Thinking aloud, one figures out that it has to do with Beyonce Knowles-Carter, perhaps the most notable rhythmic performer in the US Black music circus at present.

It is a continuing innovation of dance music into gospel, constantly refashioned.

Gone are the days where choir songs in the classic standing still tradition would make a round of church and community interest generally, as most prayer gatherings have something like amateur music bands at a corner of their assembling halls.

While mainstream prayer groups are also evolving, and rather fast, it is the newer congregations without an established tradition which are more innovative,



Tanzania's prominent gospel singer Christina Shusho.

seeking to make a number of familiar tunes and rhythms so as to burst into song in unison.

They avoid old churches' tunes; at times it is the church leader who comes up with a skeleton song the band group adorns it with 'flesh.'

At the age of 39, perhaps it is the right time for Beyonce to take the lead in female Black music in the US, after those of the past generation who made great headway at the start of the millennium (usually preferred to the start of the century).

Each musician, or female Black musician for that matter, have rhythms of their own and periods on stage, but female Black musicians in the US must be credited with retaining their heads on the ground with stylish rhythm and blues while their men folk were getting a bit intoxicated in the rap-activist music.

Female creativity took rhythm and blues to a

higher level, not to rap.

Given the sophistication with which gospel music has been taking for the past few years, a smooth ride since mainstream music radios and television came up around 2000, more is likely to come from this genre of creativity at the local level.

It is a form of meaningful and fairly solemn singing seeking space in a commercial sense among a myriad of styles and rhythms, where many of the bands have performance houses in one or other church in the city and elsewhere, yet what counts more is how they make it in audience ratings or viewings, as visitations attract advertising, invitations and esteem of composers, etc.

Listening to rhythmic gospel music, two sorts of stylistic sources appear to contend most, in the shape of innovating from African rhythms including past local beats, and picking up inspir-

ing foreign tunes like US rhythm and blues, and in this particular situation, from Beyonce.

Other rhythms that are inspiring a number of singers include classical Tanzanian dance music of the 1960s and 1970s, with artistes like Cosmas Chidumule having shifted from the older camp to the new one, and picking up motivation of themes and styles from their older occupations. Reggae has largely faded, while Griot music is in mode.

What makes all this creativity possible appears to be a shift from solemnity to happiness as the core motive of the singing, which is be- hooed on changes in the gospel message itself and how it affects audiences.

Old time choir songs reflected the sermon and preaching, tied up with strict controls of mannerisms like dress on the part of parishioners and choir participants, as well as an underlying puritanical ethos, even if not always followed.

Themes of singing revolved around the church calendar of events, not inviting imagination into more routine facets of life like hope and anticipation as in this music.

But it is not from the music that the change came but from preachers, starting from the 'crusades' of the 1980s

and 1990s, which coincided with the onslaught of HIV/AIDS and developing themes of US black evangelism, instilling a sense of self-esteem among Black people.

It was not case of thinking up novel Black community themes but taking up 20th century psychology for the Black cause, for instance the way the theory of relativity enables a reformulation of ideas of creation, or transformation.

It became a matter of 'thinking big' and trusting that you can do it, for things to start going in a different, inspired direction.

What the preachers did was to show how all this is possible, by illustrating their thinking with verses, on the basis of what has never really been pointed out, that the verses are not really for each individual but for prophetic figures in tune with highest religious inspiration.

But while the prophetic tradition was special to a few chosen individuals, the later apostolic movement opened the doors to nearly everyone who has the right inspiration.

It has thus altered scripture reading as a whole, to eliminate heroes, admit everyone - which case any Black man in America or Tanzania is no longer 'nigger,' so long as he can think big, pray.

## FC Platinum's players, officials still in isolation in Dar

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

ZIMBABWE'S FC Platinum's six players and three officials have still remained in isolation in Dar es Salaam after testing positive for Covid-19.

The club had faced Tanzania's Simba SC in a return leg of this season's CAF Champions League's which took place in the city last week, ending with latter notching 4-0 win over the former.

Simba SC, therefore, booked a place in the group stage of the premier continental club competition with 4-1 aggregate win over the Zimbabwean club.

There was an uproar before the match, with the Zimbabwe champions being suspicious of the Covid-19 test results that ruled five players out of the duel.

The players are keeper Petros Mhari, defender Lawrence Mhlanga, midfielder Ransom Pavari,



Simba SC midfielder, Luis Miquissone (R), dribbles past FC Platinum defender in a first leg of this season's CAF Champions League first round duel, which took place in Harare. FC platinum posted 1-0 win over Simba PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

striker Silas Songani and Congolese national, Felly Mulumba.

What further infuriated FC Platinum was the fact that their players' results were first availed to Simba SC.

However, following retests, five players and three officials returned positive results, with another player Kevin Mangizi also testing positive.

"The six players and three officials all re-

mained in isolation in Tanzania in line with the Covid-19 health protocols," the FC Platinum spokesperson, Chido Chizondo, noted.

He stated: "They will do another test after

the mandatory isolation days after which, if negative, they will then fly back home."

Following their elimination from the CAF Champions League, the Zvishavane-based side went into the CAF Confederation Cup's play offs, joining 15 other CAF Champions League's first round losers.

The FC Platinum will face Association Sportive et Culturelle Diaraf (ASC Diaraf) of Senegal in the play-offs that will be played over two legs on February 14 and 21.

The FC Platinum will be at the National Sports Stadium in Harare in the first leg of the play off before traveling to Dakar for the return fixture a week later.

If the three-time Zimbabwe Premier Soccer League champions prevail, they will qualify for the CAF Confederation Cup group stage, whose matches will run from March 10 to April 28.



Tanzanian model, Flaviana Matata (C), rejoices with Coast Region's Msinune Primary School's pupils shortly after she had handed over stationaries to the latter in Chalinze recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Flaviana hands over stationaries to Coast Region pupils

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE Flaviana Matata Foundation, belonging to renowned Tanzanian model Flaviana Matata, has handed over stationaries to Coast Region's Msinune Primary School's pupils.

Flaviana handed the stationaries, which include pens and school bags, to the youngsters, whose school is located in Msata Ward, Chalinze District, recently.

She said shortly after the event her foundation started renovating the school in 2016.

The model stated the school's buildings are now much better, compared to the state they were in before the renovation.

The Flaviana Matata Foundation's Director noted the renova-

tion as well included improvement of water and electricity supply at the school.

She stated studying environment at the school is presently much friendly to the pupils, noting the foundation is seeking to as well build houses for the school's teachers.

She pointed out before the start of ever school term, the foundation hands over stationaries to a section of secondary schools and higher learning institutions in the country.

She appealed to people that they should not prevent their female children from attending school, so the youngsters can fulfil their dreams.

"I'm moreover requesting Chal-

inze Constituency's Member of Parliament to present some of construction materials for the initiative in an effort to see to it we accomplish the plan to renovate the institution," she said.

"Pupils and teachers should be in a friendly environment."

Chalinze Constituency's Member of Parliament, Ridhiwani Kikwete, expressed his willingness to work on the request, noting he believes the constituency's people, in cooperation with Flaviana Matata Foundation, will build the teachers' houses.

Kikwete moreover appealed to Flaviana to help the Chalinze Constituency's pineapple traders access market for their produce outside the country.



## UEFA boss predicts 'full stands' at summer's Euro

LONDON

THE fate of the rescheduled Euro 2020 soccer tournament will not be decided until March but organisers UEFA are hoping that vaccination efforts will allow them to stick to their original plan for June's pan-European tournament.

The 24-nation, month-long showpiece, a major revenue generator for the continent's soccer governing body UEFA and the national federations across Europe, was postponed by 12 months after last year's COVID-19 outbreak.

The 2020 edition (broadcast on ESPN networks), brainchild of former UEFA president Michel Platini, was planned to be the first staged across the continent, rather than by a single nation or joint hosts.

The host cities are Glasgow, Dublin, Bilbao, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Munich, Rome, St Petersburg, Bucharest, Budapest and Baku, with the semis and final set for London's Wembley Stadium.

UEFA had hoped that a year-long wait would have allowed fans to be present at games but, with most football continuing to be held behind closed doors, that prospect clearly depends on an improvement in the situation.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin is hoping vaccination programmes, moving at different speeds across the various host countries, will be the key to sticking to the original plan.

"Vaccination has started and I think we will be able to have full stands in the summer," Ceferin said in a recent interview with Serbian newspaper Informer.

"For now, the plan is to play in all 12 countries. Of course, there are backup options in case a country has a problem."

But the Slovenian accepts that there may need to be some juggling of the hosting plan and perhaps different levels of stadium capacity use.

"We are ready to organise competitions in 11, 10 or nine cities... and even only in one country, if necessary. However, I am 99.9 percent sure that we will have the European Championship in all 12 cities, as planned," he said.

UEFA confirmed that they have been working on four operational scenarios -- for full stadiums, 50-100% capacity or 20-30% capacity and games behind closed doors.

The host cities have been asked to come up with two to three plans out of those options and it is possible different approaches will be taken in each venue.

"A decision on which scenario will be applied individually in each city during the tournament will be made on 5 March 2021," UEFA said in a statement.

Given the broadcast deals in place for the tournament, UEFA has a strong commercial interest in the event taking place as planned.

Even if the entire tournament had to be held without fans it would still allow UEFA to meet its contractual requirements and avoid a major financial hit.

One threat to the tournament would come if, like last year, domestic leagues had to stop due to the pandemic, pushing back the domestic and European club competitions.

So far, European leagues, with strict protocols in place for secure games without fans, have been able to continue playing, although plans for the return of fans have been affected by the recent upturn in COVID cases.

(Agencies)

## Laporta leading way as Barca candidates dwindle

BARCELONA

THE race to become the next Barcelona president has been whittled down to just four candidates, with Joan Laporta leading the way with more support than his three rivals put together.

Monday marked the deadline for the nine presidential hopefuls to hand in the signatures they had obtained from club members, with 2,257 needed to make polling day on Jan. 24.

Laporta, who was the Barca president between 2003 and 2010, led the way with 10,257 signatures, corroborating his tag as the favourite to succeed Josep Maria Bartomeu, who stepped down in October.

Victor Font handed in 4,710 signed forms at Camp Nou shortly after Laporta and is expected to be the closest challenger when club members vote in the election later this month.

Former board member Toni Freixa (2,821 signatures) and ex-vice president Emili Rousaud (2,510) also made the cut.

The signatures must now be validated and Barca will confirm on Thursday if all four candidates have been able to present the 2,257 signatures required to stand in the election.

Jordi Farre, who promised free pizzas in exchange for signatures, Xavi Vilajoana, Lluís Fernandez Ala, Agustí Benedito and Pere Riera all failed to gather enough support.

Laporta's first spell as Barca president is remembered fondly in Catalonia. He oversaw the appointment of Pep Guardiola, Lionel Messi's progression into the first team and the six-trophy calendar year in 2009.

He told ESPN in December that the "trust" he has with Messi gives him the advantage over the other candidates when it comes to persuading the forward to extend his contract at the club beyond the end of June. (Agencies)

## Can Neymar prove he's one of the very best of his generation?

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

NEYMAR turns 29 in a few weeks. He should be at his peak as he enters a vital two-year period of his career, starting with shaking off his latest injury and ending with the 2022 World Cup and, with Brazil's hopes resting on his shoulders, a sixth title.

These two years will do much to establish his place in the game's pantheon, though winning the World Cup and the Champions League is not the only objective. The era of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo is drawing to a close. The throne of the world's best player is up for grabs and Robert Lewandowski is unlikely to be a long-term candidate at 32 years old. By some measures, almost certainly including his own, Neymar's career will have fallen short of potential if he's unable to claim the honour for himself.

Some will surely (and understandably) see this as an exaggeration, a foolish trap of placing too much attention on a subjective individual award in a team sport. But Neymar is Brazilian and therefore, he grew up with the concept of the best player award as



Neymar's inability to move beyond the mistakes and missteps of his youth is arguably costing him his shot at the throne deserved for the game's best. (Agencies)

something of a national birthright. Romario, Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Ronaldinho, Kaka: it seemed a given that the outstanding Brazilian player would also be seen as the best in the world.

It may well be the case that the quest to claim this award is proving counter-productive, that there are moments when it adds too much pressure on him to shine. That certainly seemed the case in last year's Champions League final, the biggest game he has ever played. It was striking that from the moment that Bayern Munich scored their goal, Neymar's game collapsed. He was unable to help Paris Saint-Germain out of a 1-0 hole and, confronted with a

crisis, couldn't do the simple things to keep the ball ticking over. He looked like a man under too much pressure, and the events of the last few days may have cranked the pressure up another notch.

An obvious criticism that Neymar received after the Champions League final was not that he looked like a man under too much pressure, but that when push came to shove, he was still coming across as an adolescent. In subsequent months, the narrative shifted towards a new phenomenon: Neymar the adult. It was said that he had grasped a tough, but undeniable, truth: his career was finite and the time had come to make a difference. He

was also widely praised for his leadership role when PSG and Istanbul Basaksehir walked off during their December Champions League clash following accusations of racism. As Fernando Kallas, a Brazilian journalist based in Spain, put it in a recent social media post: "This week I was full of praise for the maturity of Neymar, the position he took against racism and how his image here in Europe is improving." Kallas completed the post with an emoji of a hand slapping a head -- a visual confession that he'd spoken too soon about the star forward.

The reason? The controversial festivities alleged to have been held by Neymar over a five-day period be-

tween Christmas and New Year. The Brazilian media reported that he was hosting a party for 500 people (though it was claimed that the attendance was capped at 150) at his property in Mangaratiba, on the Rio de Janeiro coast, in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic that has been especially severe in Brazil. After a respite, the daily death toll in Brazil is once more around the 1,000 mark, and the grim overall figure will soon hurdle beyond 200,000. These are not times to hold a big party; even traditional New Year's Eve celebrations were cancelled up and down the country out of concern for public safety.

The response was swift. "It hardly matters whether there are 500 or 150 at the party," wrote SporTV journalist Mauricio Noriega, "What speaks louder is the attitude of someone who emulates a footballing Michael Jackson, stuck in a Neverland, isolated from the outside world and living like a star-struck adolescent."

There may be extra bitterness in his words because Noriega was another who had recently praised Neymar. "I came across as a sucker a few days ago," he noted, "when I wrote that he had emancipated him-

self as an athlete and a person when he took part in the protests" following that Champions League walkout.

Former midfielder Ze Elias, who spent a decade in Europe, sounded a similar note on Brazil's ESPN TV channel.

"Neymar is the product of an environment that has been created for him from the start -- a mentality of 'This kid is a star, let him do what he wants.' He grew up like that, he got used to it and no one stops him." Reflecting on the internal repercussions, he said that "this is why Brazil will never be seen as a serious country." There has been criticism from veteran TV commentator Galvao Bueno, while former-star-turned-pundit Walter Casagrande commented that Neymar "continues to be small in the things that really matter."

If Neymar wants to grow into the boots of the world's best player, he must now do it carrying a heavier load. There is now more pressure. Those who want to defend him find it harder to do so, while those who seek to attack have an extra motive. And hopefully the coronavirus death toll is left untouched by whatever took place in Mangaratiba.

## Haaland's latest goals record caps off incredible first year at Dortmund

By Chris Wright, ESPN Toe Poke writer

IT'S almost exactly a year since Erling Haaland made his debut for Borussia Dortmund, and over the course of that wild 12 months he has more than delivered on his promise as one of Europe's top young talents.

And the 20-year-old laid down another big marker in Saturday's win at Bundesliga rivals RB Leipzig when he broke a record formerly held by Uwe Seeler, one of the most famed strikers in the history of German football.

With his brace in Dortmund's 3-1 victory, Haaland set a new Bundesliga record by scoring a phenomenal 25 goals in his first 25 league games in the German top flight.

Hamburg legend Seeler's long-standing record of 23 goals in the same number of games dates back to the Bundesliga's inaugural 1963-64 season. Marek Mintal is third on the all-time list, having scored 21 goals in his first 25 Bundesliga games for Nurnberg back in 2005.

Roy Maakay is fourth (20 goals in 25 games) while Paco Alcacer, a predecessor of Haaland's at Dortmund, is eighth after roaring out of the blocks with 18 goals in his first 25 league games upon joining the club in 2018-19.

Haaland's record-breaking 25 goals for Dortmund have come from just 73 shots, giving him a scarcely believable conversion rate of 34.24%. He's also averaging a league goal once every 75 minutes, which is a better ratio than any other player in Bundesliga history to have scored 10 goals or more.

To brand Haaland a bargain buy is underselling his value-for-money return by several orders of magnitude. In all competitions thus far, the 20-year-old striker has pitched in with 35 goals in 34 competitive games since Dortmund signed the Manchester United target from FC Salzburg in January 2020 for an initial fee of just €20 million.

It didn't take him long to get up and running either -- roughly 180 seconds, in fact -- after coming off the bench in the 56th minute to make his debut against Augsburg on Jan. 18 last year, and before the final whistle he had scored three goals in the dramatic 5-3 comeback win (although, as far as Germans were concerned, it wasn't technically a hat trick).

Those strikes sparked a run of five goals in his first two games and then seven in his first three (both feats setting Bundesliga records).

Since then, Haaland has become the first-ever Dortmund player to score on his debuts in the Bundesliga, the German Cup, the Champions League and the German Super Cup.

The Leeds-born Norway international also broke new ground this season when he became the youngest Bundesliga player ever to score four goals in a single game. At the tender age of 20 year and 123 days, and on the day he won the Golden Boy award as Europe's best young player, Haaland shovelled four goals past Hertha Berlin in November.

Haaland is, unsurprisingly, also the youngest player to score a Bundesliga hat trick, usurp-



Erling Haaland

ing the record Walter Bechtold had held since 1965 when he scored three goals for Eintracht Frankfurt as a teenager. U.S. teenager Matthew Hoppe leapt straight into third place on the list following his three-goal haul on Saturday, which ended Schalke's 30-match winless run with a 4-0 victory over Hoffenheim.

The Dortmund poacher has scored at least twice in eight of his 25 appearances to do so (four fewer than anybody else).

That milestone came in February 2020, when the Dortmund star scored both goals in his side's 2-1 win over Paris Saint-Germain in the

competition appearance with a hat trick in Salzburg's 6-2 drubbing of Genk. Amazingly, it was already the then-19-year-old striker's fourth hat trick of the season.

It was no fluke either, as Haaland has maintained his formidable continental form since moving to Dortmund, where he became the quickest player ever to reach the 10-goal mark in Champions League history, taking just seven appearances to do so (four fewer than anybody else).

That milestone came in February 2020, when the Dortmund star scored both goals in his side's 2-1 win over Paris Saint-Germain in the

first leg of the Champions League round of 16.

Haaland called his second goal of the evening (an unstoppable left-footed missile from outside the area) the "best goal he's ever scored" and it's not hard to see why.

The Dortmund forward was so awestruck by his own handiwork that he reached a state of zen and chose to celebrate with a quick bit of cross-legged meditation on the Signal Iduna Park pitch.

Unfortunately, Haaland's serene pose soon came back to haunt him as PSG fought back to win the second leg 2-0 and advance to the quarterfinals.

Given his mercurial calendar year with Dortmund, his first in one of Europe's big five leagues, it should come as no surprise to learn that Haaland is now one of world football's most valuable players.

According to CIES Football Observatory's latest transfer value list, Haaland has enjoyed a bigger surge in his estimated market value than any other player across Europe's top divisions after leaping 13 rungs up the ladder in the last six months.

While Marcus Rashford may top the list with an estimated transfer value of €165m (\$204m), Haaland is tucked in just behind the Manchester United man in second place after seeing his value swell from €107.3m up to €152m since last June, thus catapulting him all the way up from 15th place.

The way things are going for Haaland right now, it's hard to see his stock doing anything but rise higher in 2021.

ESPN's Germany correspondent Stephan Uersfeld contributed to this report.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

AND THE WINNER IS...





# SPORT

Can Neymar prove he's one of the very best of his generation?

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**TONIGHT @ 7:00**

**EATV SAA 1**

**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 SSELKTI  
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.

**eastafrica 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



## Yanga rope in promising defender

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Tanzanian defender from Mtibwa Sugar Club, Dickson Job, has officially signed a two-year contract with Yanga, currently leading the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL).

Job (pictured), who had been the first-choice defender for Mtibwa Sugar which is based in Turiani, Morogoro, is now owned by Yanga.

He joins another domestic defender, Bakari Mwanjeto, along with Ghanaian Lamine Moro, at Yanga's central defensive spot.

Job was promoted from the Mtibwa Sugar's youth setup and has greatly helped the team to do well in VPL and other domestic tournaments.

He was part of Mtibwa Sugar squad that won the 2020 Mapinduzi Cup tournament, beating Simba SC 1-0 in the final.

The 20-year-old defender has moreover played for the national youth teams in all ranks, among those was the national U-20 squad 'Ngorongoro Heroes'.

He was one of the squad's players that featured in the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U-20 Championship in Zambia in 2017, which was the 14th edition of the tournament.

He also led Tanzania's national U-17 football team 'Serengeti Boys' to qualification for the 2018 AFCON U-17 Championship, which took place in Gabon.

He also won the 2019 CECAFA U-20 tournament with the Ngorongoro Heroes in Kampala, Uganda, after beating Kenya in the final.

Job joins former Mtibwa Sugar fullback, Kibwana Shomari, who moved to Yanga last season from the Morogoro side.

Shomari was also the Serengeti Boys' player, who achieved multiple glories alongside Job.

Job received his first senior national team's call-up last year and he is currently on his second call-up in the squad heading to Cameroon to battle it out in the 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals.

The defender is under the management of his brother namely George Job, who is also a journalist and a sports pundit in the country.

## Union SC cricketers hold sway in 2021 TCA Seifee Cup tournament



Union SC's player Danish Unia fields during his club's encounter with Jaat Blasters Club in the 2019 GP Gymkhana Shield cricket competition, played in Dar es Salaam. : COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

By Guardian Reporter

UNION SC has showcased intention to make its presence felt in the 2021 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Seifee Cup tournament, given the squad is enjoying the driver's seat in the competition's Group A.

Dar es Salaam's Annadil Burhani Club has hosted the competition, bringing together 14 clubs from across the city, in cooperation with TCA in an effort to step up promotion of the game at the domestic level.

Union SC boasts of the best statistics in Group A of the competition, raking up victory in five outings and conceding one defeat in six matches to collect 10 points.

They have posted a net run rate of 2.7533, recording 590 runs and giving away 413 runs. Despite being level with group leaders on points,

number of matches won and lost, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) is placed second, given the outfit has an inferior net run rate.

The SKLPSC has notched a net run rate of 2.1431, given the squad has amassed 481 runs and leaking 369 runs.

Union SC's cricketers had, in their recent fixture, failed to hold their own against their closest challengers SKLPSC, conceding a four-wicket loss to the latter.

Union SC went in to bat first and amassed 51 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the allotted 10 overs.

The SKLPSC, in response, smoothly chased Union SC's total, notching 53 runs for the loss of six wickets in 8.2 overs.

Caravans Club, ALAF Aces Club and Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) are placed third, fourth and fifth respectively, with the former posting victory in four outings out of six matches played.

ALAF Aces Club has notched victory in two games out five outings, whereas MCC has emerged victorious in two games out of six outings.

One of the tournament hosts Annadil Seifee are placed sixth in Group A with two wins in five outings, fol-

lowed by bottom-placed TCA Development team, rooted to the position without victory in six outings.

In Group B, General Petroleum (GP) Club leads the rest of the pack, having notched victory in five outings and losing one match.

The group leaders recorded a net run rate of 1.2708, amassing 473 runs and leaking 415 runs.

Second-placed K&P Constructions side is hot on the group leaders' heels with victory in four outings and one loss.

The K&P Constructions team have posted a net run rate of 1.3890, given the team have amassed 378 runs and leaked 337 runs.

Third-placed Annadil Burhani, the hosts' other outfit, has notched victory in three games and lost two games, posting a net run rate of 0.4066.

Estim Club, Dar Black Panthers, Sandy's Super Strikers and Patel Brotherhood team are placed fourth, fifth, sixth and last respectively in the group.

Annadil Burhani's oval hosts the competition, which started on November 21 last year and has the teams locking horns in 10-over format duels.

## Hashim Thabeet heads to Taiwan Basketball League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN basketball player, Hashim Thabeet, has found home in the Taiwan P. League+ Basketball Championship, in which he is turning out for Hsinchu Lioneeers.

Thabeet had joined the outfit this season from the USA's Fort Wayne Mad Ants.

The center previously turned out for USA National Basketball Association (NBA) League clubs, Houston Rockets, Oklahoma City Thunder, Memphis Grizzlies and Portland Trail Blazers.

He is spending his first ever tenure in Taiwan for the first time in his professional career.

He garnered interest from multiple clubs in Europe and Asia in recent months, ultimately choosing the Hsinchu Lioneeers for a larger playing role.

Prior to signing in Taiwan, Thabeet signed a contract in the NBA Development League, G League, last fall and was drafted in the first round by the Fort Wayne Mad Ants, NBA League's Indiana Pacers' G League affiliate.

The team concentrated on playing a small-ball brand of basketball in the weeks that followed, ultimately leading to Thabeet's camp asking for a release.

The Former NBA No.2 over-all pick has developed his game such that he is a regular player as the starter for Hsinchu Lioneeers in this current P League+ season.

He has upgraded his game of offensive wise and mostly defensive by protecting the rim and blocking shots attempted by opponents.



Hsinchu Lioneeers's Hashim Thabeet (R) takes part in a past Taiwan P. League+ Basketball Championship's duel. AGENCIES

In addition to being an effective rim-protector, Thabeet has improved offensively and is known for his leadership.

The USA's NBA League's Brooklyn Nets' superstar Kevin Durant has previously stated that Thabeet was one of the best teammates he has ever had.

The towering Thabeet last appeared in an NBA League game during the 2013/14 season when he and Durant were turning out for Oklahoma City Thunder.

The Tanzanian, a 7 feet 3 inches shot-blocker who spent three seasons at University of Connecticut (UConn), believes he is in the best physical and mental shape of his career.

The 33-year-old player worked out for teams such as the New York Knicks, Denver Nuggets, Milwaukee Bucks and Golden State Warriors as recently as last year.

Something that has been productive for his current team and himself such after a dominant performance in Taiwan, he will have a plethora of new opportunities.

Joining the Lioneeers gives Thabeet a chance to prove his worth, with potential opportunities in China and NBA League still on the table down the road.

The veteran center carries several years of experience and has played overseas before, holding a past stint in Japan during the 2017/18 season with the Yokohama B-Corsairs.

His current team, Lioneeers, have had a slow start in the P League+ and Thabeet and team mates look eager to turn things around from their current 20% win to a better win upgrade, as they sit bottom of the league standings with only one win.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

IS IT TOO EARLY TO DROP MY NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

