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**'Local seeds reliable for most food needs'**

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ACTIVISM against genetic modification of grain seeds and other food varieties is catching up, with the National Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA), lately requesting that the state conduct an operation to sweep out all seeds derived from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), still found in stores.

They also appealed to the government to promote the use of traditional seeds as they are safe, reliable and proven to yield better results in food production.

John Safari, MVIWATA chairman in Arusha Region said that it is vital for state organs to comb all major grain outlets, especially supermarkets and department stores found in cities, to take off the shelf all packaged food

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# I am watching you, JPM tells project supervisors



President John Magufuli exchanges greetings with nuns shortly after prayers at a Catholic church at Chato in Geita Region yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has warned public officials charged with implementation of development projects not to sleep on the job as he is watching each and every step of such ventures.

Addressing public officials at Bukoba municipality in Kagera Region yesterday, the president directed government institutions overseeing key projects to ensure that all scheduled works go according to plan.

The Directorate of Presidential Communications said in a statement that the projects the president emphasized that they must be carefully overseen are road infrastructures, rehabilitation and construction of new schools, health facilities and water supply projects.

"The president assured the public that pledges made in the CCM Manifesto for 2020-2025 will be implemented to the letter to achieve economic growth and prosperity of the people," it said.

Dr Magufuli is today slated to lay a foundation stone for the construction of a Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) centre for Kagera Region.

He will also preside over the opening of Ihungu Secondary School, which

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## Cane miller locks plant after bridge is flooded

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Morogoro

MTIBWA Sugar Estate Ltd has suspended production following heavy rains that caused water to flow over the temporary bridge used by vehicles to ferry cane from Dakawa farms to the factory.

After the temporary bridge was flooded, vehicles ferrying sugarcane to the factory were left stranded at the weekend without other options as there is no permanent bridge across Wami River to the factory.

The situation prompted the regional authorities to speed up work at the new Makutano Bridge which is still under construction so that it connects Dakawa sugarcane farms to the factory.

Nassoro Abubakari, the Mtibwa Sugar farm manager told researchers from the

Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), that the two sugarcane growing areas of Mtibwa and Dakawa were separated by massive water overflow at the temporary bridge with the current heavy rains in some parts of Morogoro Region.

The situation prevented vehicles ferrying sugarcane from Dakawa to reach the factory, thus within two weeks the factory lost more than 500 metric tonnes of cane stationed at Dakawa. When processed, this haul produces 50 tonnes of sugar priced at around 100m/-, he said.

Rains have been pounding the area for the past two weeks, waylaying some weak infrastructure in various areas, he pointed out.

This reporter saw decaying canes

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## Beer prices rise as new law comes in

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

BEER prices in Zanzibar have shot up, with a standard brand now selling at 4,000/- to 5,000/- a bottle instead of 3,000/- or slightly above, with the coming into effect of the Zanzibar Alcohol Control Act (No 9 of 2020).

Importers of alcoholic drinks in Zanzibar will now have to seek permits from the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board, and after an alcohol importing tender was floated

only three firms came forward. The usual big importers did not participate, a situation that greatly decreased importation of alcohol in the Isles thereby spurring the price rise.

"This is a big challenge. The prices of alcoholic drinks including beer have shot up and I think the government should quickly intervene," said Oscar John, a regular beer customer.

He said Zanzibar depends on tourism hence having in place stringent

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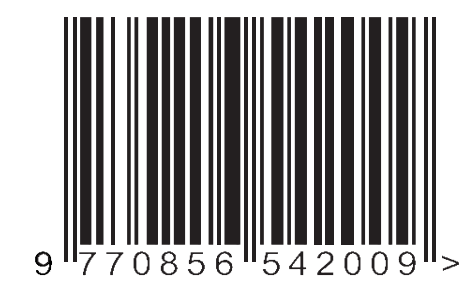
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## Military college planning to build teaching hospital

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Military College of Medical Sciences (MCMS) has unveiled plans to construct a hospital which will, among others, focus on research development and treatment of communicable diseases.

The head of the college, Brigadier General Charles Mwanziva, said over the weekend during the second graduation ceremony held at the college's premises in Lugalo, Dar es Salaam.

He said the MCMS is a military teaching college of health sciences and currently runs three academic programmes including diploma in clinical medicine and nursing. MCMS also has a division of military studies which teaches military medical trade courses for non-medical personnel and military medical officers' leadership and administration Course.

During the graduation, 29 graduates were awarded diplomas in nursing while 20 were awarded

diplomas in clinical medicine.

The Brigadier General said the college currently depends on Lugalo military hospital for practical purposes as well as research, so the establishment of the hospital is an important step.

Either, he said the specialists to serve in the forthcoming hospital will come from the college and Lugalo Hospital.

"We have good relationships with other colleges all over the country but it is our plans to cement this relationship more so that we benefit from the expertise of our fellows" Brigadier General Mwanziva said.

According to him, the college has recorded a number of achievements since its establishment as it started with 40 students but due to several improvements, the college can now accommodate up to 400 students.

Lt Col Miraji Mawaka, one of the college lecturers said the college was introduced in 1972 with the intention to produce quality health practitioners who can attend to army soldiers injured during military operations.



Brig Gen Charles Mwanziva (2nd-L), Head of the Dar es Salaam-based Military College of Medical Sciences, congratulates one of the Diploma in Clinical Medicine graduands at graduation ceremony held in the city on Friday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## I am watching you, JPM tells project supervisors

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was being rebuilt after an earthquake extensively damaged its facilities in September 2016.

The Saturday September 10 earthquake of 5.9 on the Richter scale hit Kagera Region 44 kilometres from Bukoba, on the western shores of Lake Victoria.

It destroyed a number of public and private facilities, some of which are yet to be restored.

The earthquake struck near Ngunga from a depth of 40 kilometres, experts said.

A Joint Damage and Needs Assessment Report prepared by the Prime Minister's Office and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tanzania said that the

earthquake killed 17 people died, injured 440 others with 252 hospitalized. A strong aftershock was felt in Bukoba at 22h15 the following day, the report indicated.

Before heading to Bukoba, the president and the first lady attended Sunday mass at Chato Catholic Parish where he appealed to farmers to work hard at this time when other countries are in lockdowns or curfews due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Good days await hard-working farmers since many countries will soon start experiencing food shortages and at that time those with surpluses shall 'mint money,' he stated.

"It is time for us to work hard, produce more food so that we sell surplus to those who are not producing now," he

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loaded in several vehicles at Dakawa, after delivery to the factory failed, as Makutano Bridge is still under construction.

"This situation has forced the factory to stop sugar production to wait until the weather stabilizes, the manager noted, lamenting the loss of 500 metric tonnes of cane worth 100m/- when processed into sugar.

"These are the challenges we face with heavy rains. We urge the government to push the contractor to finish this job early before the long rains start in March so that we have smooth operations at the factory," he appealed.

He said the company made plenty of effort to maximize its sugar output, "but one of our biggest challenges is the weak bridge on the big river."

Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd wants to make sure that the sugar production

## Cane miller locks plant after bridge is flooded

goal is achieved, but to achieve this the government must push the contractor to work around the clock so that the factory can resume full production of sugar rapidly enough and avoid further losses, he emphasized.

"Our factory can produce about 65,000 metric tonnes per annum but currently our production stands at 40,000 metric tonnes of sugar. We are working hard to ensure we produce more to reach the 100,000 metric tonnes of sugar in the next five years," he stated.

TARI Director General Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo commended the ongoing construction work on the bridge saying the government was addressing

challenges facing the private sector and seeks to ensure that the bridge is completed on time. This will enable private sector firms to run production activities smoothly, he asserted.

"TARI will continue working with Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd in every field including devising technologies, innovation and good agricultural practices related to sugar cane and sugar production.

TARI-Kibaha manager Hildelitha Msita urged the sugarcane outgrowers to increase uptake of technologies generated by the centre to improve and increase production of canes and therefore of sugar production nationally.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation technicians dig a trench at Minondo in Kigamboni District at the weekend to enable the laying of a 150-meter pipe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Local seeds reliable for most food needs'

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products containing genetically modified organisms.

He said the network supports the recent directive seeking the total prohibition of GMOs in the country, conveyed by the Minister of Agriculture, Prof Adolf Mkenda.

For his part, the network's secretary general, Richard Masandika said that 80 percent of seeds used in Tanzania are traditional kernels derived from farmers' own seasonal harvests,

and 20 percent are hybrids described as high yielding varieties.

"Traditional seeds are cheap, safe, and healthier and boasts drought and disease resistance, adapt to the environment and are readily available," pointed out Masandika, citing the advantages to sticking to traditional kernels that have always been reliable.

Anna Efatha, the deputy chairperson of the network, said traditional seeds, especially of crops such as maize, features

great taste and allow farmers to select what is best for their farms, unlike imported varieties that are not produced with a particular area in mind.

Network officials spoke on behalf of their members in Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions, with Thomas Laizer who represented local farming communities of Arusha pointing out that promotional drives to shift to using imported seeds varieties considered as high yielding are handicapped as the products

from these varieties fail to deliver and are a disappointment for growers.

The network has a mission of empowering smallholder farmers economically and socially through capacity building, undertaking lobbying and advocacy especially by strengthening farmers' groups and networks, facilitating communication and learning so that they are capable of representing their demands before relevant administrative organs.

## Beer prices rise as new law comes in

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legislation on alcoholic drinks is likely to have a negative impact on the Isles' economy.

Speaking at the weekend, the Zanzibar Minister of State in the President Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Masoud Ali Mohamed said there was a tussle among alcohol dealers and the Zanzibar Alcohol Control Board.

He said before the control legislation was passed and signed by the Zanzibar President in May last year, stakeholders in the alcoholic drinks sector jointly discussed the matter with Permanent Secretaries.

He said the aim of the law's passage was to control importation and distribution of alcoholic drinks in order to remove complaints from the people, as well as ending the smuggling of alcoholic drinks into the Isles.

"It would be better if the law is adhered to as it has enlisted individuals and firms allowed to import alcoholic drinks, but there are also challenges that can be solved without violating the law," the minister said.

He stated however, that it was too early for the law to be amended before seeing its benefits and challenges since it has just come into effect this year, and the board should educate the various stakeholders.

Abdulrazak Abdulkadir Ali, the chairman of the control and advisory board, said the board issued licenses to six firms instead of three after taking into consideration government revenue collection.

The new law replaced a 1928

Ordinance, established the control board mandated to issue licenses and specified permits to hotels, bars, liquor stores warehouses and alcohol distribution centres, as well as permission for holding special occasions involving extensive use of alcohol.

The new law tightened the importation, storage, sale, distribution and usage of alcohol in the Isles, including introducing 25 years of age as the lower age limit for a person to be sold alcohol for personal use.

It also puts hoteliers who sell alcohol in a tight corner as they aren't allowed to employ a person under the age of 25 to sell alcohol.

Anvild C. Asawua, the leader of the Zanzibar alcohol importers and distributors community thanked the government for seeing the need to allowing more than three companies to obtain permits to import alcohol.

He however suggested that the Zanzibar Alcohol Control Act be revisited as many bars were in danger of being closed due to the harsh conditions of the provisions of its section 28.

The law has set the condition of establishing a bar that must be located at a distance of 1,000 meters from social service facilities like houses of worship, schools, hospitals and madrasas, noting that given the "geography of Zanzibar" these are very strict conditions, thus many bars will be closed.

Sheikh Abdallah Mnuhi Abbas, the secretary of the ethics committee of the Islamic Institute said they intend to submit their grievances to the board for the issuance of permits to more than three companies, insisting that it is illegal.





An environmental cleanliness campaign well under way at Msasani Beach in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. It was organised by youths under the Serving Waters Initiative, with support from Rotaract Club of Rafiki, Ney Cassava, Tatiana Cakes, JJ Lights and volunteers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt to review scrap metal business policy

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is set to review scrap metal trading policy including time limit for issuance of licences.

Speaking at the end of a consultative meeting of government officials and scrap metal dealers at the weekend, Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Umyy Mwalimu said the government wants to improve scrap metal business. The take-off point is to cut short the time for securing the trading permit because currently it takes between five to seven months to get a permit. She did not specify

the time limit within which a trader will get the permit.

But the minister assured that the permit will be valid for three years from the present one year.

The minister also assured entrepreneurs that the government values the scrap metal business because it contributes significantly to the gross domestic product.

However, she was emphatic on punishing severely dishonest traders. The government recognises that this business is important to the growth of the national economy. But we shall punish very severely dishonest traders by confiscating their permits and taking them to court

on charges of economic sabotage, she warned.

The minister appealed to traders to refrain from damaging and trading parts of national installations, especially damaging rails, building, bridges, communication and electric transmission lines.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary, Engineer Joseph Malongo, said local industries need and must get raw materials locally. One strategic source, he said, is scrap metal within the country. He said trade in waste metal will be improved as part of the implementation of the national industrialisation agenda.

The Director General of

the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Dr Samuel Gwamaka, said NEMC will produce new regulations that are friendly to metal business based on the inputs of stakeholders who attended the consultative meeting. Delegates complained that they are taking too long to get and the permit and that fees are very high. These are the kind of inputs that will help us in formulating new regulations, he said.

A delegate, Robert Yohani, said duration for getting permits and fees have always been a huge hurdle and a source of frustration in doing business. We hope such problems will be history after this meeting, he said.

## 'Revoke licences for operators tarnishing the country's image'

By Guardian Reporter

Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr. Damas Ndumbaro has instructed the Tanzania Tourism Business License (TTBL) board to ensure that it revokes licences for tourism operators, and guides who tarnish the country's image by committing inappropriate behaviour against tourists.

In addition, he instructed the board to ensure that tourism trade agents buy products available in the country instead of buying them abroad and then selling them at higher prices.

He issued the directive over the weekend during the inauguration of the board, which has a total of 12 members, including the chairman of the board and is made up of experts from the private sector and others from government institutions.

He said there are some tour operators that have been licensed to run tourism businesses, but have been using the opportunity to deceive tourists which has been hurting the tourism industry.

He added that there are tour guides who have been at the forefront of stealing tourist property and such acts have been polluting the country on the face of the globe.

"You (board) have the authority to issue and revoke licenses, make sure you revoke the licences of tour guides and operators that violate ethics in the tourism

industry," said Dr Ndumbaro.

"In my leadership I don't expect to see tourists robbed of their properties and not cheated while there are personnel responsible to address such challenges."

He said: "Everyone involved in the tourism business must be licenced and paid for the license which will help to reduce complaints from tourists who have been complaining about fraud, theft and others being left at airports without being received by the company."

Dr. Ndumbaro said every year the government has been spending a lot of money to advertise tourist attractions in and out of the country and "then few people for their own personal interests have been cheating and robbing tourists, he said such behaviour had been an obstacle to the growth of the tourism industry so they must be stopped."

On tourist hotels, he said there has been a trend of some hotels importing foods including meat and various ingredients including tomatoes from abroad when the products are produced in the country that this has led to the food being sold to tourists at high prices thus depriving the country of revenues from tourism by buying locally produced goods.

"The board has the authority to make sure it controls the licenced tourism traders and then they do not buy locally available products instead they buy the goods from abroad," the minister said.

In another development, Dr Ndumbaro has asked TTBL to ensure it regulates some of the tour operators, but have a very close relationship with foreign sister companies that when tourists come to the country they pay all costs to the sister companies abroad and so here in the country the only money to enter the gate in the parks.

He said the act was money laundering that was undermining the country's economy, calling on the board to ensure it properly manages companies to prevent loss of revenues.

TTBL board chairman Saleh Pamba has assured, Dr Ndumbaro that he and his team will implement the directives in accordance with the law and advise the minister where necessary for the tourism industry's growth.

He said that so far there are more than 2,000 tourism companies licenced which is a very small number and will ensure that the number increases and all those licenced pay the appropriate taxes to the government.

## Dr Mwinyi calls for peace and stability

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has urged political parties, government, religious leaders, the media and the public in general to continue working together to maintain stability and peace for the country's socio-economic development.

Speaking during the 2nd Peace Forum held in Mazizini on the outskirts of Zanzibar, Dr Mwinyi said that for the country to attain its development goals, it was vital for Zanzibaris to enhance peace and unity.

Organised by the ministry in the President Office, Constitution, Legal affairs, Public Service and Good Governance in collaboration with the office of Mufti and Friends of Zanzibar Organisation, the forum was attended by several private and public leaders, ambassadors, religious leaders, political parties and several participants from inside and outside Tanzania.

"We formed the government of national unity for promoting and protecting peace and stability that we have, the 2020 General Election was held peacefully, so we should ensure that we maintain the situation for our economic development," he said.

According to him, the government will continue taking several measures to ensure that peace remains as to honour the founding and former leaders of the nation.

"It is an irrefutable fact that peace is everything in any country which is fighting to achieve its development goals, so we should all work hard to ensure that we maintain this unity and tranquility," Dr Mwinyi said.

He also emphasised the need to continue strengthening peaceful relationships with neighbouring

countries and Africa in general.

President Mwinyi emphasised the need for religious leaders to continue preaching peace and stability in churches, mosques and in communities.

He also called on the media to ensure that they always remain vigilant and avoid disseminating information that could endanger peace.

"We should all be aware that it is easy to destroy peace but always very hard and expensive to restore it," Dr Mwinyi insisted.

He also urged participants of the forum to visit various tourism attractions in the Isles as there are a lot of things to learn from the Island including Zanzibar culture and foods.

Zanzibar First Vice President Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad also said that maintaining national unity was vital so as to enable future generations to inherit it.

He commended the organisers of the forum saying that having a peaceful country also stimulates development activities.

Earlier, envoys from the European Union (EU) including German, Norway and Switzerland commended President Mwinyi for his deliberate efforts in ensuring that the government of national unity is protected.

The envoys promised to continue working closely with Zanzibar and support it to achieve various development goals including promoting peace.



**We should all be aware that it is easy to destroy peace but always very hard and expensive to restore it**

## Expression of Interest for NMB Board Membership

Ref 32294

NMB Bank Plc (NMB) is the leading full service commercial bank in Tanzania.

It provides banking services to a customer base reflective of Tanzania as a whole, and this includes Government and state-owned institutions, large corporates and institutions, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), civil servants and salaried employees, farmers and cooperatives, and reaches out to traders and the unbanked.

NMB is currently looking for one (1) dynamic Independent non-Executive Board member with expertise to effectively support the growth ambitions of the Bank.

The Board members are responsible for providing strategic guidance and effective oversight to management and promoting ethical and responsible decision making within the Bank. The day-to-day management of the business and affairs of the bank are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers.

The responsibilities of a Board Member include but are not limited to the following functions:

1. Determining and reviewing the business strategy, organizational structure and allocation of resources;
2. Governing the bank by establishing and monitoring policies and objectives and establishing proper delegation of authorities;
3. Selection, appointment, supporting, assessing and remunerating Executive Management (EM);
4. To monitor EM for their execution of policy, strategy and operations through setting clear goals;
5. Determining proper financial management practices and approving the annual budget;
6. Determining that adequate risk management practices are implemented;
7. Monitoring compliance with the law, statutes and internal and external regulations;
8. Understanding and taking into account the interests of shareholders and relevant stakeholders.

Person Specifications

The new Board member will be expected to add value and expertise to help drive the continued growth of the Bank. In this regard, the Bank is looking for an individual with the following qualifications:

- i. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or other relevant area of study and/or professional accounting qualification;
- ii. Technically proficient and respected in chosen area of expertise;
- iii. Minimum of ten (10) years' work experience at director/senior management level, preferably in financial services with at least five (5) of those in the banking industry;
- iv. Current knowledge of the local and/or international banking sectors;
- v. Previous Board membership experience;
- vi. Good track record of integrity and ethical conduct, committed to advancing the best interests of NMB;
- vii. Possess other skills and competencies in areas that are relevant to NMB's activities;
- viii. Not involved in any kind of activity or relationship that could constitute a material conflict of interest to the role of an independent director of the Bank.

NMB is an equal opportunity employer and is aiming for gender parity at all levels in the organization. Women are strongly encouraged to apply.

Duration of Appointment

The tenure of appointment is three years renewable, subject to performance.

Meetings

The Board of Directors usually meet four times a year. There are also meetings of Board Committees. Therefore, the successful candidate will be expected to have adequate time for this assignment.



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To view the full job description go to [www.radarrecruitment.co.tz](http://www.radarrecruitment.co.tz) and enter the Job Reference Number in the search field.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 10th February 2021.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

NMB



Umyy Mwalimu, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), addresses a consultative meeting for government officials and scrap metal dealers held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. She is with permanent secretary (VPO - Union & Environment) Joseph Malongo (R), National Environment Management Council board chairperson Prof Esnat Chaggu (L) and permanent secretary (Industry and Trade ministry) Prof Riziki Shemdoe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





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## VACANCIES

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One Group under ROSATOM from Russia, is focused on the potential development of Uranium Mine at the Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region. Mantra is committed to the highest level of safety and environmental practices, the respect of the culture of Tanzania and her peoples, the provision of employment opportunities for Tanzanian nationals, and the development of business linkages at the district, regional and national level.

To that end Mantra is seeking to recruit individuals who can meet the technical requirements and demonstrate a commitment to continuously perform and improve in the area of project development and operations, to fill the following vacancies.

### MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT (1 POST)

The successful candidate will provide leadership and technical support to the Mkuju River Project to ensure that all Mantra Tanzania site and plant maintenance activities comply with best practice and standards.

**Location:** Mkuju River Project  
**Roster:** 6 weeks on and 3 weeks off

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Maintenance Superintendent has the following accountabilities and authorities:

**Safety:**  
Provide direction to the team in reducing the number of significant hazards in the area of accountability. Through the use of issue based risk assessments in your section, you will ensure all staff remains vigilant in identifying and rectifying any hazards and risks that have the potential to injure people, property or the environment, your focus must be on zero harm to all staff. You will furthermore be expected to drive the process of conducting quality Planned Task Observations (PTO) per the scheduled.

#### Standards, Strategy and reliability:

Using strong operational experience and knowledge of the equipment support the Site Operations Manager in achieving the required outputs of the unit in support of the project development and the company, as a whole. Ensure the equipment is maintained according to OEM standards and Mantra guidelines so as to provide reliable cost effective equipment for use in achieving the company production outputs. Equipment reliability is and will always be a key aspect of Asset Management within Mantra.

#### Cost control:

Cost control is also one of your accountabilities. You are required to manage your costs and cash flow in line with the prepared budget.

#### Maintenance:

- Ensuring that work carried out by personnel for the purpose of maintaining equipment in an acceptable condition is done through prescribed methods of inspection, detection and correction of incipient failures, i.e. changing engines, transmissions, final drives, pump transmissions, hydraulic cylinders, etc. and the testing of such components to make sure they are operating to OEM specifications.
- Manage the execution of the unplanned stoppages as they occur in the field (all pit and surface operations), management of the service bay including refueling and quality control inspections. The focus is to ensure quality diagnosis of all faults, executing recovery work as required to either returning the equipment to work or recover the equipment to the workshop for repair.
- Maintenance of all graders, loaders, dozers, water trucks ancillary equipment and all site equipment's as required so as providing reliable cost effectively maintained equipment within the services function.
- Maintenance of all heavy mining equipment, auxiliary equipment, light vehicles, light trucks, lighting plants, generators, cranes and other minor ancillary equipment within the auto electrical function as required, providing reliable cost effectively maintained equipment within the function.
- Ensure all LME service work is carried out to the OEM specification and quality required. The light mining fleet reliability starts with the detailed inspections and service work carried out in this function.
- Maintenance of all heavy mining equipment, buckets, shovels, jaws, blades, and all other ancillary equipment within the Welding/Fabrication function.
- Manage the execution of the "Adhoc Work" function to the highest standards. Adhoc work is unique in that the tasks will vary across all equipment therefore requiring rigid systems of work to ensure quality, cost effective work.
- Maintenance of Uranium Plant in line with OEM standards and specifications.
- Ensure that all machinery maintains market value through a cost-effective, efficient, high quality maintenance program which will increase the reliability and performance of machinery and equipment.
- Oversee a rolling planning horizon for the major work that is to be carried out on the mine. This must include refurbishments / rebuilds and planning of component change outs. This plan will be used by the supply chain team for their spares ordering and forecasting processes.
- Develop new maintenance schedules in line with OEM standards and specifications for Plant, HME and LME. Constant review maintenance programs to improve strategies and maximize machine and equipment availability.
- Manage and lead engineers and technicians who design machinery, plan and develop civil projects and oversee production and quality control.
- Coordinate project, operations, quality assurance, testing, or maintenance in industrial plants.
- Determine the preventive and corrective maintenance requirements of the HME/LME Fleet in close coordination with equipment suppliers.

- Working with the mining team in coordinating weigh studies to all dump truck and rompad loader with a purpose of determining extend of the effect of the current loading on tyres, truck frames and suspension cylinders.

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Relevant degree in mechanical engineering or related field.
- Must have an excellent knowledge of hydraulic, pneumatic, Electrical, and water supply systems
- Good experience in maintaining roads and other construction activities
- At least over 15 years post graduate experience in an industrial plant.
- Significant experience in a mining environment would be advantageous.
- Note, it will be advantages if the applicant resides within Ruvuma region (our company's labour policy promotes the hiring of individuals based in and around the mining area)

#### KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Mantra Tanzania Limited is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is very committed to environmental, health and safety Management. Please avoid conman as Mantra Tanzania does not solicit bribes for employment.

- PM management systems
- Proven Management skills
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- Presentation skills
- Fluent in English
- Advanced computer literacy skills

### PROJECT PROCUREMENT SUPERINTENDENT (1 POST)

The successful candidate will provide leadership and technical support to the Mkuju River Project to ensure that all Mantra Tanzania site procurement activities comply with best practice and standards.

**Location:** Dar es Salaam

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Project Procurement Superintendent is accountable for purchasing commodities including equipment, services and goods, and plays a crucial role in reducing a company's financial expenditure; ensure that the best quality goods are purchased at the most competitive price. Must also work with procurement systems and other computer applications to keep track of these activities.

The Procurement and Logistic Superintendent accountabilities include:

#### Project Daily Buying:

- Enquiry, adjudication and Purchase Order creation and amendment functions for Local and International purchases.
- Enquiry, adjudication and Contract creation and amendment functions for Local and International procurement.
- Maintain dynamic cost and service information to model commodity pricing and market cost changes for effective Purchasing at the most competitive cost and quality.
- Establish P/O templates based on accepted commercial conditions and according to the laws of the country.
- Effectively structure and manage purchases within the country requirement for VAT, Withholding Tax and Corporate Tax and at the least legal risk to the Company.
- Manage cost applications and negotiations.
- Proactively manage the relationship with the Service Providers for contractual compliance.
- Implement cost saving projects and manage deliverables.
- Implement a dynamic Supply Base and manage the process to increase local spend.

#### Procurement – participate in the contract process to ensure:

- Contracts are put in place in full compliance with company policies and procedures in collaboration with legal departments
- Review enquiry scope of work, pricing template and enquiry conditions to ensure that tenders submitted are in accordance with the intended deliverable.
- Participate in tender site meeting and adjudication process to ensure pricing and conditions will result in effective contracting, at the least commercial and legal risk.
- Select and approve suppliers or partners for the organization, based upon a thorough selection process, in order to ensure that the supplier/partner selection is in accordance with the Mantra strategy.
- Review contracts, amendments and applications for scope and price change to ensure compliance to the required contractual deliverables.
- Participate in contract termination process to manage cost, performance, contractor close out and where applicable, contractor commencement. Compile and maintain a contract master file including contract scope, specification, cost structure, escalation, duties and responsibilities, contractor employee numbers, safety requirements and compliance.
- Develop and maintain proactive relationships: Develop, maintain and manage a relationship with vendors and internal customers on all organizational levels that will deliver mutual benefits for Mantra.

#### Management – participate with service originators to ensure effective management of:

- The contractor compliance to contract conditions.
- The achievement of contractual performance
- Validation of invoice detail and correctness to contract pricing.
- The review and investigation of scope and price claims including recommendations.
- Identification of performance and cost initiatives, negotiate and agree, expedite and obtain performance.
- Maintain and publish management reports.
- Undertake subordinates Performance Effectiveness Review; introduce training programmes for employees and proactively manage localisation programmes.

#### Strategy, Innovation, Policy and Procedures:

- Continually challenge current processes, investigate and introduce approved Supply Chain enhancements.
- Contribute in the design, development, implementation and maintenance of procurement, purchasing, logistics and distribution directives, rules and guidelines, in order to achieve the most cost-effective processes for the organization, leading to operational excellences.

#### Qualifications and Experiences

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent degree in Engineering, Supply Chain Management, Logistics or Business Studies
- Post qualifications on related field / MBA preferred
- At least over 15 years relevant purchasing and logistics experience in Africa supply chain mining industry & in managing procurement and logistics in an international environment

#### Must have relevant knowledge:

- Must have experience with large purchase orders and contracts
- Must be a good negotiator to act as intermediary between suppliers and user groups
- Must be analytical, organized and efficient, with solid judgment and ability to make good decisions
- Need to be good at networking and dealing with numbers, as well as dealing with other factors such as sustainability, risk management and ethical issues.
- Interest in market dynamics along with business sense
- Working experience of vendor management software

#### Deadline of Applications is 29th January 2021

Applicants are invited to submit their resume (*indicating the position title in the subject heading*) via e-mail to: mantra@uranium1.co.tz or postal address to; The Manager: Organizational Development & HR Mantra Tanzania Limited P.O. Box 23451 Dar es Salaam Tanzania

Only Shortlisted will be contacted. If you are not contacted by Mantra Tanzania Limited within fourteen (14) days after the closing date, you should consider your application as unsuccessful. Late applications will not be considered.

# World Bank pumps 37 billion/- into Tanzania's energy project

By Marc Nkwame – Arusha

ABOUT 645 students will be enrolled at renewable energy training and research centre at Kikuletwa in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region.

The coordinator of Kikuletwa renewable energy training and research centre, Engineer Sithole Edwin Mwakatage, disclosed here that the World Bank had injected 37bn/- into what will serve as a sub-regional training centre for renewable energy.

"The World Bank is supporting Kikuletwa renewable energy initiative to the tune of US \$16.25 million," explained Engineer Mwakatage adding that the project is being executed within the framework of the Eastern Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP). And out of the initial intake of 645 students, at least 30 per cent of the lot will be female students, to encourage balanced gender participation in a future of clean, safe, reliable and environment friendly energy.

It will not just train, but Kikuletwa Centre remains a power churning plant capable of producing 17 megawatts of electricity which will be auxiliary power to be supplied into the national grid as from 2022.

With ongoing expansion

programmes the centre is soon also going to be able to increase the number of students it will be able to accommodate each year to 1,500. This strategy will not only enable Tanzania to train its technicians on site but also train other candidates from east and central african regions.

Previously technicians used to go to Zambia for such trainings, but Zambia only provides short-term training and focuses just on hydroelectricity. Kikuletwa Centre will offer full-time training and cover all forms of renewable energy.

The new renewable energy training centre will teach students in several technical fields, including hydro; solar; wind as well as organic bioenergy and is intended to be a hub for such training in East Africa.

Undertaken by Arusha Technical College (ATC), the renewable energy training and research centre at Kikuletwa plays the role of East Africa's centre of excellence in renewable energy and will be rooted on the same grounds and premises formerly serving at Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (TANESCO) hydro-electric power plant.

Speaking during the Arusha Technical College's 12th graduation ceremony, ATC acting Rector Dr Mussa Chacha

said Kikuletwa centre reflects President John Magufuli's recent statement of urging Tanzania's centre for excellence initiative to be exemplary.

ATC is currently providing training in the following areas: principles of operation and maintenance of hydropower plants, principles of design and maintenance of electricity transmission and distribution, programmable logic controllers (PLC) for hydropower engineers, and design, installation, service and maintenance of solar photovoltaic systems.

This project also benefits from the support of Norway, which injected 8.3 billion Euros in 2014. For five years, this support has made it possible to set up training in hydroelectric power at Kikuletwa training centre, says the rector.

Eastern Africa skills for transformation and regional integration programme, which is being implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia aims to develop specialised technical skills in priority sectors, including transport, energy, agricultural processing, manufacturing and information and communications technology. Tanzania plans to open 42 technical training centres in other areas throughout the country.



Sospeter Magesse (with microphone), NMB Bank Plc's western zone manager, presents a donation of 15m/- worth of roofing materials to Urambo district commissioner Angelina Nkwingwa 15m/- in support of three schools in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Mwita Waitara has instructed Morogoro Municipal Council to construct new dumpsite to ensure effective waste management.

Waitara issued the directive at the weekend immediately after visiting the dumpsite at Viwandani area in the municipality which he found to be overwhelmed.

Accompanied by National Environment Conservation Management Council (NEMC) officials with the aim of inspecting environmental management in the region, the deputy minister said that the situation at the available dumpsite contravenes environmental safety requirements.

He said the place is in non-compliance with the dumpsite criteria including its lack of a

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Government has dispelled fears from people living around Lake Victoria on reports spreading in the social media over widespread dying of the Nile Perch in the lake, saying the reports were false and should be ignored.

Refuting the reports to reporters in Mwanza at the weekend, the Livestock and Fisheries Permanent Secretary (Fisheries Division) Dr Rashid Tamatamah said reports of Nile Perch dying in great numbers in the Uganda's side of Lake Victoria were reported since early this month.

Tamatamah said after receiving the reports the ministry including its institution - Tanzanian Fisheries Research Institute

## Municipality ordered to construct new landfill site to control waste

system to sort out various types of wastes. Also, there is no fence within the area.

"There is no good waste management practices here. We cannot rely on this kind of dumpsite when it is obvious that it does not meet the standards. You told me you set aside an area of 174 acres. Draw up a plan to build another dumpsite because this place is not suitable and not friendly to environment," he said.

Waitara also stressed that education should be provided especially to young people to employ themselves in the use of decaying waste in making fertilisers for agricultural activities.

Speaking at a meeting with regional and municipal council officers, held at the Regional

Commissioner's Office Waitara directed primary and secondary schools to supervise each student to plant a tree.

"I direct all district and environmental directors in the regions and districts to ensure that every student grows a tree, for primary school students to take care of it for seven years and for secondary school students to take care of it for four years and this will help in not only environmental protection but also access shelter and fruits," he said.

In addition, Waitara urged environmental officers to visit environmental clubs located in various schools to encourage students who form such clubs to continue to participate in environmental stewardship.

## Govt refutes reports of Nile Perch dying in Lake Victoria

(TAFIRI) based in Mwanza liaised with Lake Victoria fisheries officials on the Tanzania side including the Tanzania Fishing Union (TAFU) and after following up there was no such thing anywhere on the Tanzania's side of the lake.

The PS further said death to the Nile Perch was normally attributed by seasonal water up and down circulation in the lake and that this kind of fish live in the middle and upper waters which have enough oxygen for them.

"In our follow up on the issue we liaised with Uganda's fisheries officials who informed us that they sent samples of the dead fish

to the laboratory for examination to find out whether they died by any kind of poisoning.

Uganda Fisheries Department assured us that no traces of poison were found of the dead fish examined adding that such incidents happen every year due to mixing of water, very deep water with little oxygen mixing with surface water," he added.

Tamatamah said even though such deaths of fish have not been reported in the Tanzania's side of the lake, but there was always the possibility for that to happen, hence he said, the ministry and other fisheries stakeholders were closely following up on the issue.





**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



**PAN AFRICAN POST DAY, 18 JANUARY 2021**

**STATEMENT BY HON. DR. FAUSTINE E. NDUGULILE (MP),  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY ON THE OCCASION OF THE PAN AFRICAN  
POSTAL UNION DAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021**



**Hon. Dr. Faustine E. Ndugulile (MP),  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATION AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**"The Post: Building resilience in time of crisis"**

I am delighted to convey my warm greetings to the postal fraternity as I participate for the first time in the celebration of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) anniversaries. I am pleased and delighted to join other postal sector Ministers in the African continent to say a few words regarding this important sector during this Anniversary. The theme of this year's celebration is "The Post: Building resilience in time of crisis". When we talk of "The Post is building resilience in time of crisis" on the occasion of PAPU Day, one gets impression of the wonderful work of Postal Services in building relationships. The Postal Services bring people and business together for the purposes of communications, trade and exchange of information and ideas. During the COVID-19 Pandemic Postal workers like never before, have demonstrated their role in providing essential service that is both indispensable and sustainable to majority of population during the crisis. Nobody can stand against irreplaceable role of the Postal Services in providing link among people, bringing people and business together for the purpose of communications, trade and exchange of information and ideas during this crisis time. I have been informed that today the Africa fraternity will discuss

on how the Continent will focus on financial services, particularly remittances, with special emphasis on migrant transactions. The Government wishes to ensure efficient and secured Postal Services including postal financial services is available to all citizens regardless of their locations in the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Covid-19 has taught all of us a lesson to have contingency planning for time of crisis. Contingency planning aims to enable all stakeholders be ready to respond well to an emergency and its potential humanitarian impact. It will be possible to identify in advance, ways to mitigate the COVID-19 Pandemic impact - particularly in regard to reduced number of working hours and staff in some postal outlets as well as loss of revenues.

Developing a contingency plan involves making decisions in advance about the management of human and financial resources, coordination and communications procedures, and being aware of a range of technical and logistical responses. It is from this premises that the Postal sector may plan an efficient operations of postal business in times of crisis.

Trade on services like postal business is dependent on well-functioning and crisis-resilient transport infrastructure assets, mail circulation plans and proper technologies. At the same time, postal services can help create economic and social resilience by promoting sound Information Communications Technologies, interconnectivity, diversified production, enhanced productivity and adding value to exports. Building resilience for and through postal services needs to be part of the solutions to the Covid-19 crisis.

I am informed that in commemorating the PAPU anniversary today, the continent has organised a virtual conference in which experts will share experiences on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on remittance services with special focus on remittance services delivered via Africa's Post with a view to drawing lessons that would enable the sector to not only build its resilience in future, but also leverage on its multifaceted capabilities to grow to greater heights. May I remind all stakeholders that enhanced crisis resilience and adaptation for postal infrastructure is a matter of strategic socio-economic importance and will be key in achieving progress on many of the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be my interest to follow the deliberations of the PAPU virtual workshop.

As I conclude my statement, it is my hope that PAPU will solidify its position as a continental body to enable stakeholders in Africa be more adaptable to changing environment and have greater exchange of information between African Designated Postal Operators. The Covid-19 may stay longer than we expected and it will be upon our consciousness and innovations to face the challenge and remain relevant in the logistics and delivery services.

**I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TANZANIA  
COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY, ENG. JAMES M.  
KILABA ON THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAN AFRICAN  
POSTAL UNION (PAPU DAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021)**



**Eng. James M. Kilaba,  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TANZANIA  
COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

Today, the United Republic of Tanzania is joining the postal fraternity in Africa to celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU). On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Postal sector in Africa and Pan African Postal Union Secretariat which is based in Arusha, Tanzania, on this anniversary.

The theme of this year's celebrations is: "The Post: Building resilience in time of crisis". The theme emphasizes the postal sector rightful role of being a key socio-economic stimulator. The Postal service is now using technology to improve business processes and meet the growing demands of digitally-savvy customers - to ensure they remain commercially viable into the future. Furthermore, the Postal service is more important in a major public crisis like the one we face today (COVID-19 pandemic). With COVID-19 the world is experiencing shutting down of workplaces and business and caused the transition to digital communication and remote working has been increasing rapidly. In this circumstance, the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and the suppression of the working environment aimed at management of the crisis have changed the way we live, operate and consume.

However, the exchange of physical goods is still needed. This

why the Postal Sector find themselves on the list of "critical infrastructure." The Postal Sector resilience in time of crisis has been shown vividly by their solidarity and assurance on supporting governments, public administrations, and citizens. Besides, Postal Sector has stepped in to offer everything from picking and delivering the critical personal protective equipment (PPE) to testing kits and medications. They are also contributing in delivering education materials so that students can be learning at home effortlessly.

During this COVID-19 crisis, we have witnessed that, the postal sector customers have made a quick move to operate online. Digital communication is pushing in-store postal services to scale up operations, evidence of understanding new innovations in last mile delivery for e-commerce as well technology adoptability by the sector. So, the need to urge the importance of digital postal services as the efficient, central communication center and secure tool to support this transformation of working modes is authoritative in the Postal Sector. The TCRA has already started to work on these changes by preparing the platforms for digital signature. Also, in collaboration with the Postal and courier operators the process of reconsidering guidelines by resetting of mail service levels such as service standards, delivery points also frequency of deliveries in order to address challenges caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

The TCRA will also continue to monitor closely the performance of the entire postal sector to ensure efficiency and quality in the services delivered.

May I take this opportunity to say a few things regarding the Postal sector regulation in the country. To date the TCRA has licensed 118 postal and courier operators into six different categories as follows:

No	Licence Category	Total
1	Postal Designated Postal operator	1
2	International courier services	7
3	East Africa courier services	2
4	Domestic courier services	29
5	Intra-city courier services	15
6	Intercity Transporters	64

The TCRA would like to regulate the postal sector in order to facilitate and enable postal customers to draw maximum benefit from social, technological and economic changes.

The Authority will continue to work closer with the Pan African Postal Union for the fulfillment of their mission. We are committed to support its activities as far as practicable possible for the benefit of all members. We wish the PAPU to work hard to ensure that it recharge itself as a catalyst for socio-economic development in Africa.

Lastly, I recommend everyone to show commitment to the sector's development and use Postal services for the development of social economic activities in Tanzania. A very Happy New Year 2021

**PAN AFRICAN POST DAY, 18 JANUARY 2021  
Theme: THE POST: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF  
CRISIS MESSAGE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL**



**Younouss Djibrine,  
THE PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION  
SECRETARY GENERAL**

**"Inventing management amidst the unforeseen"**

Since February 2020, the entire world has been in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, arguably considered by many as the gravest shock our planet has witnessed in decades. In addition to hundreds of thousands of lives lost, the global economy has plunged into its worst recession since the 1930s, characterized by job and income losses, and further aggravated by temporary or permanent shutdowns as well as contraction of activities of businesses for some companies. Unfortunately, the global postal industry as a whole and Africa's postal sector in particular has not been spared by this downward economic spiral. In a study conducted by the PAPU General Secretariat in June 2020, the impact on the continent's postal industry was comprehensively assessed. The findings were that the postal sector as a whole and designated operators in particular have been faced with a host of challenges that have had a devastating impact on their activities. More especially, these unforeseen circumstances have led to the closure of airports (both national and international) and land borders, restriction of movement of workers, customers and vehicles, social distancing, health risks for workers, additional costs for providing personal protective equipment (PPE), depletion of resources for funding universal service (with the emergence of new government priorities), a proliferation of public demands for much-needed basic postal services at community level, among many other implications. This has resulted in low volumes of inbound and outbound items, declining customer traffic at post offices, dwindling sales and revenues, downsized volumes, growing customer queries and complaints, inadequate supply of PPE, just to name a few.

With the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 pandemic, we can expect the global postal industry in general, and the African postal sector in particular, to continue being quite volatile with no significant growth this year, as the impact of the pandemic, which has spared no one, cannot be taken lightly. Indeed, the crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has become an "existential" threat to humans and organizations alike across all continents.

It is therefore imperative for the postal sector, which has been severely tested, to rebuild momentum and take multifaceted approaches to cushion the shock, protect the postal industry, and enhance its capacity to anticipate and manage similar crises in the future. Fortunately, amidst this unprecedented adversity, Africa's postal sector has

displayed its resilience. In the process, we have seen postal workers in several PAPU Member States brave the pandemic at the risk of their very own lives to deliver mail and provide much-needed basic services by building on a broad array of solutions, some more ingenious than others. We wish to seize this opportunity to commend and applaud these brilliant initiatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow postal workers, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how vital a service the Post is for numerous countries in times of crisis.

In this respect, the issue of crisis management must be seen as germane to corporate strategy, because the major crises facing companies today all share the common denominator of testing their capacity for resilience and sustaining the trust bestowed on them by all stakeholders. Managing a company successfully in times of intense difficulty like these involves preparedness for potential catastrophes through crisis management simulation drills. Ultimately, universal service obligations and the imperative of survival dictate that any postal organization worthy of the name must remain in regular business against all odds, or at least, resume operations as soon as possible.

I am therefore urging all postal workers to come up with new management models informed by an ongoing exploration of potential challenges, including appropriate communication plans, to address short-term and unforeseen challenges. This should incorporate the ability of companies to cater for unforeseen immediate and more or less long-lasting challenges to their business models through actions such as management reconfiguration (based on autonomy, responsibility, creativity, cooperation/collaboration, critical thinking, communications, intuition and agility), rethinking strategic, technological, marketing and human orientations with a view to actualizing new paths towards growth and sustainability.

I am confident that with forward-looking or predictive management strategies, we will be able to sail through these unforeseen and turbulent times, because history has shown us and continues to reveal that human beings have always known how to overcome troubles and afflictions of crises by leveraging on collective intelligence, adaptation and innovation. Indeed, every progress achieved by humankind thus far has been nothing but the fruit of contradictions surmounted successfully.

The onus is therefore on Africa's postal sector to muster its forces in order to accelerate the process of organizational transformation in the face of these crises. We must continue to look further afield and envision how the crisis will continue to affect the competitive and economic environment, as well as identify the needs of society in the coming years.

Ultimately, all stakeholders will need to help postal industry companies to become pro-active in the face of the crisis, becoming more agile and resilient, and not just responsive thereby depleting their energy and capabilities when faced with the currently recurrent vagaries and vicissitudes in our environment.

Drawing on the lessons of this pandemic to better anticipate future crises through the concept of feedback based on professional ethos, should be one of our key objectives in rethinking management amidst the unforeseen. In other words, the overarching aim is to develop a full-fledged and multidimensional "Strategic Watch" that incorporates the commercial, competitive, legal, fiscal, economic, financial, scientific, technological, social and societal facets.

On our part, PAPU will continue to play its pivotal role in building A SINGLE AFRICAN POSTAL TERRITORY at all times and in all circumstances, as its contribution towards achieving the common and constant aspiration of Africa's people for inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development, a pre-eminent objective of the newly-established African Continental Free Trade Area. With these few remarks, I would like to wish you, once again, a very happy, peaceful and prosperous year 2021, crowned with every success.

Long live Africa!!!  
Long live Africa's postal sector!!!  
Younouss Djibrine  
Secretary General

**TANZANIA POSTS CORPORATION  
MESSAGE BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL DURING  
PAN AFRICAN POST DAY, 18 JANUARY 2021**



**Mr. Hassan Mwang'ombe  
POSTMASTER GENERAL & CEO**

**Theme: Building resilience in time of Crisis**

Today, January 18th 2021, Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) joins other African Postal Communities in commemorating the annual 41st African Postal Day Anniversary. The commemoration with the theme "building resilience in time of crisis" is being celebrated as the whole World go through the tough period of the global COVID-19 crisis. As we celebrate this day, we acknowledge that all sectors worldwide have been enormously affected by Corona crisis including the postal sector. The role of the posts worldwide is to act as a catalyst and a bridge between societies in social-economic development and it has a direct relationship with the transportation sector. So when the transportation sector is affected has a direct effect to the postal sector. During this CORONA crisis, airlines, shipping and other logistics companies faced total closure and downturns of their businesses and in that way posts faced huge challenges in delivery of the items to societies domestically and internationally.

Despite these odds, the Posts in all times has done what other cannot do. For instance at TPC, during CORONA crisis TPC staff were directly involved to save the affected communities, congrats to them as they worked diligently and tirelessly day and night to provide back-up care and support. TPC staff were fully engaged on health activities by delivering protection materials and the laboratory samples to the intended laboratories designated by the government through Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children for

tests.

TPC realizes that we are in unprecedented situation and so the change of strategies for delivering our services to the community. It is this time that normal ways of serving or doing business is no longer applied. So, TPC decided to deliberately change the service provision as per the customer needs in relation to the ongoing situation. Our door to door service delivery popularly known as "Posta mlngoni" was enhanced hand in hand with the introduction of community-friendly services that focused on the technological change.

Financial and agency service provision as well as POSTA Bureau de Change businesses were shaken, it experienced low volume and customers who were partially locked at the beginning had impact to delivery centers due to few movements of people in and out not only in post offices but also in all area around.

The cancellation of flights and limitation of people's movements to various parts of the country had impact in our business. It was in this time TPC increased and modified money transfer and exchange services by extending time of service to create room for easy and free access of the customers to our services.

Despite the global crisis Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) has continued to delivering mail, parcels and other services to the community nonstop. The wider physical network across the Country enabled us to deliver without limits, to us the crisis taught a lesson that to every problem there is a solution lying somewhere. It is for the people to discover and deliver what is seen as a problem.

TPC formed a transformation team and tasked it to continue strategizing and navigating for the sake of utilizing the new technological services to develop new products and services and strengthening market share for the developed products for financial gain, as a result of this, soon TPC will officially launch the SMART POSTA a service which will take the post office in their mobile phones. At this juncture, I would like to thank you all our stakeholders for your valued support especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, where we saw your patronage, together we can move forward and accomplish the goals ahead. I believe that our solidarity shown during CORONA crisis and or any other crisis that may heat our operations and the community we will be able to prevail as it has always been the case.

Special thanks go to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania under the able leadership of His Excellence John Joseph Pombe Magufuli, the 5th phase President for standing strong and encouraging Tanzanians to stand still and see the hand of God prevailing during the CORONA crisis. And indeed we have witnessed a great salvation and Tanzania is free of COVID-19 today and TPC together with other Tanzanians are working to grow the economy without any fear.

With these few remarks, I would like to wish you all, a very happy PAPU Anniversary and peaceful and prosperous New year 2021.

Hassan A. Mwang'ombe  
Postmaster General & CEO



# Government calls for intensified internal surveillance over irregular migrants

By Guardian Reporter

HOME Affairs minister George Simbachawene has urged police to intensify internal surveillance on controlling, identifying, and even re-identifying irregular illegal migrants within their borders, saying immigration personnel who fail to identify illegal immigrants at border areas will be held accountable.

The minister said the practice of arresting illegal immigrants in the places away from the country's border areas was a result of middlemen and other people who assist immigrants into the country.

Speaking at the opening of a training seminar for Immigration Department officials and personnel at Boma Kichaka Miba Training Camp in Mkinga District, Tanga Region, Simbachawene said the ministry will deal with all immigration personnel for letting in of any illegal immigrant who enter the country for the first time.

"If illegal immigrants are apprehended in Morogoro and enter through Mkinga, we shall deal with all immigration officials in Mkinga and Tanga districts, we shall interrogate about how the immigrants went through the borders, he said.

He added: "We shall also question the police how come the illegal immigrants go through as you are in control of all the barriers, they did not come on foot, they came in vehicles, from where did they take the vehicles, and if so then I will be ready to fire all immigration and police officials involved."

Simbachawene also said

the country's borders must be guarded because all those manning them had received military training against illegal immigrants.

"If you see a convoy of illegal immigrants who moved from point A to B you must know that there are agents, and if they succeed to travel as far as Dar es Salaam and get arrested at Mbezi or Tegeta, it means we have already been beaten by the enemy, this is not acceptable, we must be careful," he added.

The minister also called on recruits at the Camp to abide by Immigration training including lessons on leadership and administration, communications, self-defence and drills.

Immigration Commissioner General Dr Anna Makalala said the training at the camp incorporated 287 immigration officers, including 81 women and 206 men.

She said the courses included assistant superintendent course for 32 personnel and 112 assistant inspectors course, 42 sergeants and 101 corporal courses.



**...we shall deal with all immigration officials in Mkinga and Tanga districts, we shall interrogate about how the immigrants went through the borders**



Deogratius Ndejemi (2nd-L, gesturing), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance), addresses residents of Mditu village in Dodoma Region at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# TRC's labourers refurbishing northern line down tools, claiming salary arrears

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

MORE than 400 labourers refurbishing the northern Tanga-Moshi-Arusha railway line have gone on strike demanding payment of arrears of their salaries.

They are claiming their monetary benefits totaling 480m/- from Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC).

A section of the labourers, at different times complained

over the situation saying their families were facing difficult lives due to lack of basic necessities.

One of them Philipo Mwacha said railways officials were requiring them to leave, after the completion of the project, when they have not been paid salaries for three months.

The refurbishing of the historical 354-km northern line was earmarked for completion in October last year.

Another worker, Ernest Ngimbwa said their living condition was bad after even failing to pay their groceries debts at the shops, with some also failing to buy school necessities for their children.

"We are asking President John Magufuli to intervene in the matter so as we get paid our money. We have been working in very difficult and dangerous conditions, we placed patriotism at foremost, but even the small

amount we are entitled to had not come our way," he added.

Another one, Farida Msemo said even though government officials wanted us to be engaged, TRC refused, instead they brought to us new work contracts.

Northern line project manager Eng Shedrack Masawe admitted that the labourers have not been paid as claimed, explaining that as for now the Corporation was still verifying their claims.

# TDB suspends firm's business over suspicious imports of milk

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) has suspended operations of Hawaii Products Supplies Ltd for importing four tonnes of milk powder dubbed 'Miksimiksi' without permits.

Hawaii Products Supplies Limited is a distributor of various foods, milk products including Promasidor and Cowbell.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TDB acting registrar Noely Byamungu said that the consignment of milk was seized at the warehouse of the Cowbell packaging factory in Chang'ombe, Temeke District.

According to him at the factory, the board found that the Hawaii products Supplies Limited imported the products in the country without permits and thus evaded paying tax.

He said that importing milk without permits had affected the country's collections because the company evaded tax but also threatens the health of consumers.

Byamungu said that in the inspection, the board also tampered with expiry dates of some of the milk packages by extending the expire dates from 24/10/2021 to 24/08/2022.

"We found 3,661kg of the milk being packed in bottles to have changed expiry dates for one year more. This is against the country's laws and threatens the health of the consumers," he said.

He said: "It is unacceptable and intolerable, so we are suspending the operations of this company and the law will take its course for all the perpetrators."

Hawaii Products Supplies Limited owner Ahmed Suleiman and the company's production manager Ahmed Amanzi have been detained at the Chang'ombe Police Station for further interrogations and legal measures.

*"It is unacceptable and intolerable, so we are suspending the operations of this company and the law will take its course for all the perpetrators."*



Tourists from Poland visit Zanzibar municipality's Stone Town segment yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

# Consistent safety measures paramount to travels - govt

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A total of 15 airstrips, most of them specialising in ferrying foreign visitors between the city and to the national parks and other tourist attractions, Arusha is working to ensure that all its terminals remain safe.

That came to light during the recent air-drill, in which a mock 'plane crash' was staged at the Lake Mantara airstrip, to test the efficiency of airport staff, the police and rescue teams.

Lake Manyara airstrip serves Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks as well as nearby towns such as Karatu and Mto wa Mbu, for planes ferrying passengers from Arusha, Loliondo and Serengeti.

Last weekend, residents of Mto-wa-Mbu and parts of Manyara junction witnessed a series of sirens and speeding police vehicles, accompanied by a couple of ambulances moving back and forth from the Lake Manyara airstrip.

It turned out that there were reports of plane accidents near the air strip, between Karatu and Mto-wa-Mbu townships. The small air terminal usually handles small and mid-sized tourists' aircraft as well medical planes.

Information from the manager in-charge at the Lake Manyara airstrip, Hamza Kiemo ihad it that an aircraft belonging to 'Try Aviation' company, which was travelling from South-Sudan, heading to Mozambique, developed technical problems and attempted force landing at Manyara airstrip. The plane however, crashed and burst into flames before it reached the airport which overlooks the flamingo-crowned Lake Manyara at about 11.17 am.

The Darsh 6 Airplane with serial number BO-HDL had 17 people on-board, among them 15 passengers and 2 pilots. There were a few dead and several injuries were rushed to hospital for treatment.

However, the 'plane crashes was simply a mock drill staged by the airport management in collaboration with the local police and medical personnel. "We conduct such mock 'plane crashes' every two years, to ensure that the air terminal remains a safe and to test our preparedness among its staff," stated Hamza Kiemo, the airstrip manager.

But by the time it came to light that, the 'plane crash' was simply a mock crash Manyara airstrip was filled with people curious to witness the 'crash.'

The airstrip is located between Monduli and Karatu districts of Arusha. District Commissioner for Monduli Edward Balele was invited to witness the drill.

Bohay Massay, a resident of Manyara township in Karatu said he saw with his naked eyes police collecting dead bodies.

Mama Rose Joseph, a food vendor in the area, also admitted that they were so convinced by the activities that they started making calls to report the incident to friends and relatives as far as Arusha. While the last weekend event was simply a mock crash, in 2001 along the road adjacent to Manyara airstrip, a real airplane which developed mechanical fault, crash-landed on the road and taxied alongside motor vehicles using Makuyuni-Ngorongoro road.





### ZANZIBAR REVENUE BOARD

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) NO: SMZ/F0111/NC/NCB/2020~21/32  
FOR**

**PROVIDING MEDICAL FUND MANAGEMENT SCHEME TO ZRB STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDANTS**

#### (RE-ADVERTISED)

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for Zanzibar Revenue Board that appeared in the Zanzibar Leo ISSN 1821 – 8556 Issue No. 5959 dated 13th August, 2020 and through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal: [zanrevenue.org/eproc/](http://zanrevenue.org/eproc/).
2. Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) intends to set aside funds from its Budget for the Financial Year 2020/2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payment under the contract for Provision of Medical Fund Management Scheme to ZRB Staff and their dependants.
3. Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) -Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Providing Medical Fund Management Scheme to ZRB Staff and their dependants.

The scope of services include:-

- Medical Fund Management Scheme that covers all treatment as Inpatient in hospital includes the general wards, ICU & ICCU Covered Theatre, Surgical Operations, and Maternity etc.
  - Medical Fund Management Scheme that covers all treatment as Outpatient treatment include Various General & Specialist Doctors, X-Ray Covered Laboratory Tests, optical & dental cover, Medicines – Acute & Chronic, Maternity etc.
  - Foreign Inpatient treatment on referral for treatments unavailable in Tanzania and any other related services
- The above named services constitutes one lot; and bidders must quote for all items and related activities specified in the lot.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets act No.11 of 2016 and are open to all Bidders as defined in the Regulations.
  5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Secretary of Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) Tender Board, P. O, BOX 2072, Mazizini- Zanzibar Tel: 255-24-2230639/2233041 Fax: 255-24-2233904 email: [zrb@zanrevenue.org](mailto:zrb@zanrevenue.org) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 8.00 AM – 17:00 PM Monday to Friday except for public holidays.
  6. A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shilling Two Hundred Thousands (TZS 200,000/-). Payment should be by Cash payable to Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) Zanzibar-Tanzania the following bank details; Bank name -People Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ), A/C Name; Commissioner -Zanzibar Revenue Board and A/C No.0404003000. Also interested eligible bidder may download tender document through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal: [zanrevenue.org/eproc/](http://zanrevenue.org/eproc/) after making respective payment.
  7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Tanzania Shillings Five Million (TZS 5,000,000/-) in the format provided in the Bidding documents.
  8. All bids in one original plus three (3) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00hrs Wednesday 17th February, 2021. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at at the Conference Room, 4th Floor of the Zanzibar Revenue Board Building- Mazizini- Zanzibar.
  9. Late Bids, Portion of Bids, Electronic Bids, Bids not received, Bids not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**Secretary  
Tender Board  
Zanzibar Revenue Board  
P. O, Box 2072, 2nd Floor, Room No: 209 Mazizini- Zanzibar**



### ZANZIBAR REVENUE BOARD

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) NO: SMZ/F0111/NC/NCB/2020/2021 ~37  
FOR**

**PROVISION OF CLEANING & GARDENING SERVICES AT ZRB HEAD OFFICE AND SUB OFFICES**

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for Zanzibar Revenue Board that appeared in the Zanzibar Leo ISSN 1821 – 8556 Issue No. 5959 dated 13th August, 2020 and through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal: [zanrevenue.org/eproc/](http://zanrevenue.org/eproc/).
2. Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) has set aside funds from its Budget for the year FY 2020/2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payment under the contract for Provision of Cleaning & Gardening Services at ZRB Head Office and sub offices -Zanzibar.
3. Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) -Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Providing Cleaning & Gardening Services at ZRB Head Office – and sub offices -Zanzibar.

The scope of services include cleaning of the whole building in tiled areas floor, walls and toilets and bathrooms, cleaning of parking and paved areas, untiled area, generator rooms and guard booth, cleaning and maintaining of garden, to provide all necessary cleaning equipments, chemicals and materials etc.

The above named services constitutes one lot; and bidders must quote for all items and related activities specified in the lot.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets act No.11 of 2016 and are open to all Bidders as defined in the Regulations.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Secretary of Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) Tender Board, P. O, BOX 2072, Mazizini- Zanzibar Tel: 255-24-2230639/2233041 Fax: 255-24-2233904 email: [zrb@zanrevenue.org](mailto:zrb@zanrevenue.org) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 8.00 AM – 17:00 PM Monday to Friday except for public holidays.,
6. A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shilling One Hundred Thousands (TZS 100,000/-). Payment should be by bank payable to Zanzibar Revenue Board through the following bank details; Bank name -People Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ), A/C Name; Commissioner -Zanzibar Revenue Board and A/C No.0404003000. Also interested eligible bidder may download tender document through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal:[zanrevenue.org/eproc/](http://zanrevenue.org/eproc/)
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**Secretary  
Tender Board  
Zanzibar Revenue Board  
P. O, Box 2072, 2nd Floor, Room No: 209  
Mazizini- Zanzibar**



## Rooting for gender balance internationally a noble idea

INTERNATIONAL Girls in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Day is celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday of April. ICT is an extensional term for information technology (IT) that stresses the role of unified communications and the integration of telecommunications telephone lines and wireless signals and computers, as well as necessary enterprise software, middleware storage.

International Girls in ICT Day is an initiative backed by all International Telecommunication Union (ITU) member states in ITU plenipotentiary resolution in 2014 aiming to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of ICTs, enabling both girls and technology companies to reap the benefits of greater female participation in the ICT sector.

One of the best reasons is that there are job opportunities in the ICT sector! The sector is marked by a pressing need for a wide range of ICT talents. This means that highly qualified women in technical fields have significant opportunities available to them. The European Commission, for example, has predicted a skills gap of over 500,000 ICT jobs in Europe by 2020; within a similar time frame the US Department of Labour forecasts the creation of around 1.4 million IT jobs and Canada is expected to create at least 218,000 computing related jobs, just to name a few examples. The ICT sector needs new

talent! This is because not enough students are preparing themselves for studies in math, engineering, computing, and sciences. Compounding this problem, the number of female technical students is disproportionately low.

ICT companies are looking to attract and promote women because achieving greater workforce diversity is good for business. The lack of young women attracted to ICT studies is reflected in ICT companies and government agencies around the world. The ICT sector is currently male dominated, especially at senior levels. Where women are present, it is often in low-level, low-skilled jobs. Fortunately, many companies are looking to increase the numbers of women in the sector.

A broad range of organisations and companies have concluded that increasing women at the top positively impacts financial performance, while those that ignore diversity issues risk ongoing labour shortages. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as the leading United Nations agency for telecommunications and ICTs, seeks to encourage gender balance in the ICT sector at all levels of the profession.

Supporting the education of women and girls in the ICT sector is also in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); in particular SDG 5, aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls through, among others, Information and Communication Technologies.

## Yes, Africa's women should play a much bigger role in leadership

THE Beijing Declaration was a resolution adopted by the UN at the end of the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995. The resolution adopted to promulgate a set of principles concerning the equality of men and women.

Gender inequality is the social process by which men and women are not treated as equals. The treatment may arise from distinctions regarding biology, psychology, or cultural norms. Some of these distinctions are empirically-grounded while others appear to be socially constructed.

Gender inequality also affects non-binary people. Studies show the different lived experiences of genders across many domains including education, life expectancy, personality, interests, family life, careers, and political affiliations. Gender inequality is experienced differently across different cultures.

In celebrating 25 years of the Beijing conference women have been challenged to organise and find out the best means of addressing challenges facing them in order to get their rights.

Women's rights are the rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls worldwide, and they formed the basis for the women's rights movement in the 19th century and the feminist movements during the 20th and 21st centuries. In some countries, these rights are institutionalised or supported by law, local custom, and behaviour, whereas in others, they are ignored and suppressed. They differ from broader notions of human rights through claims of an inherent historical and traditional bias against the

exercise of rights by women and girls, in favour of men and boys.

Issues commonly associated with notions of women's rights include the right to bodily integrity and autonomy, to be free from sexual violence, to vote, to hold public office, to enter into legal contracts, to have equal rights in family law, to work, to fair wages or equal pay, to have reproductive rights, to own property, and to education.

Ambassador Getrude Mongela during the event to celebrate 25 years of Beijing conference said that it is not enough for women to complain over the challenge facing them, what they need to do is to find out the best means to address the challenges.

"You need to stop complaining about challenges facing you, the best means to do is to find a proper mechanism to address the challenges," she advised.

"We want to see Africa with peace, and a country with no incidences of gender violence, we need to see women taking the lead in political positions in order to help the government in daily activities," she said.

Mongela added that the government is expecting to see the positive contributions of women in the country, especially addressing issues of gender based violence. The celebration which was organised by purple planet organisation brought on board more than 50 women from various organisations to share views and to chart the way forward after 25 years of Beijing. Indeed, Mongela who chaired the conference as the secretary-general of the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995, said that there are a lot of opportunities women can use to win the challenge.

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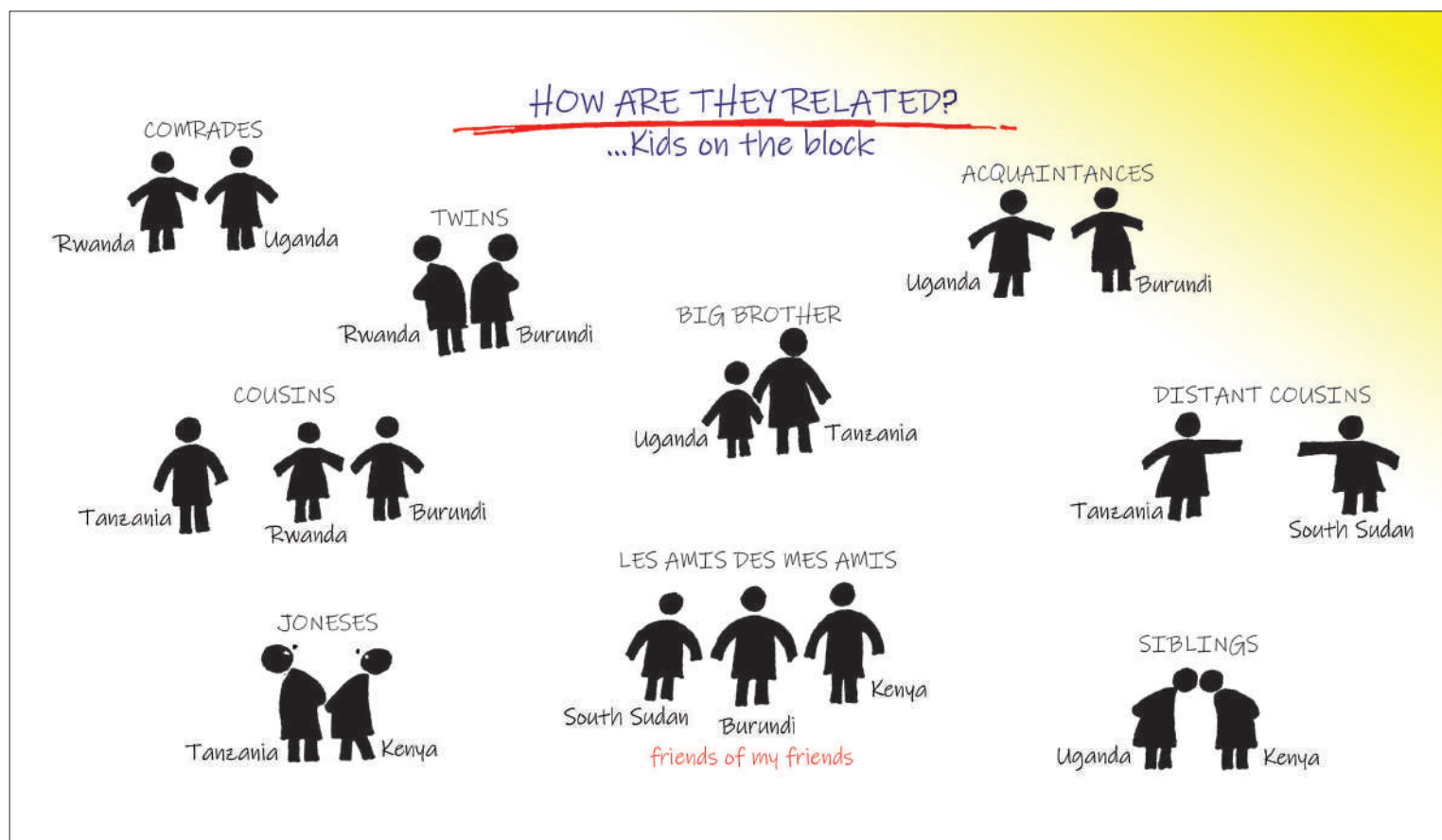
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By Carine Kaneza Nantulya

Julia Mwangaza is a 41-year-old health practitioner at a hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's largest city. When I spoke to her recently, she expressed fear that, given the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the region, the health workforce would soon be overwhelmed and unable to care for their patients. Mwangaza was also worried that there seemed to be no end in sight for COVID-19 and its impact on the community.

"I doubt we, the poor, will ever be vaccinated," she said. "Unless they are too scared that we will contaminate them, Western countries will never be that generous." As countries like the United States and the United Kingdom have pre-booked huge numbers of vaccine doses, many Africans wonder if there will be equity and fairness in their production and distribution. "If rich countries continue to increase their share of the deal, it will be a long way until the average African gets vaccinated," says Daniel Ncube, a doctor from Zimbabwe.

Ms. Mwangaza, Dr. Ncube and the other African health workers and experts I interviewed over the past few weeks have reasons to be concerned. In October, Human Rights Watch published a report addressing the troubling prospect that rich governments, with the resources to pre-book hundreds of millions of doses of the limited amounts of COVID-19 vaccines currently available, means low and middle-income countries will be forced to wait for whatever is left over.

Oxfam International reported in September 2020 that high-income countries had already reserved 51 per cent of the doses of several leading vaccine candidates, even though those countries represent only 13 per cent of the world's population. Global Justice Now reported in November 2020 that more than 80 per cent of Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine doses have already been bought by a handful of countries - all of them developed countries outside of Africa.

On 7 November 2020, the Chairperson of the African Union, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, convened a meeting with other African leaders to strategize on options for acquiring and financing COVID-19 vaccines in Africa, which he estimated would cost at least \$12 billion. Dr. John Nkengasong, the director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) estimates that it would take 1.5 billion doses to vaccinate 60 per cent of the Africa's 1.3 billion people, at two doses each.

While vaccination is already underway in the US and the UK, vaccines likely won't reach African countries until mid-2021. Dr. Nkengasong warned. WHO estimates that it might take until 2024 to vaccinate the whole world against COVID-19.

Yet, African governments and the AU could support three major initiatives that would help ensure that the continent is not left behind in the global fight to end the pandemic: The first initiative is the COVAX Facility, a global initiative that brings together governments and manufacturers to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines reach those in greatest need. This initiative has the potential to benefit African countries if it succeeds in getting sufficient vaccine supplies at affordable prices that minimize debt.

## AU should press for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines

But even with this help, the continent would not have nearly enough doses to vaccinate 60 per cent of the population. That's why two other global initiatives are essential to address vaccine scarcity and ensure universal and equitable access can be a reality. In May 2020, the Costa Rican government spearheaded a call to action for the WHO to create the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), a common shared pool of rights to technologies, data and know-how that everyone around the world could use to manufacture any medical products needed to tackle COVID-19, including vaccines.

As of December 2020, only six countries in Africa - Egypt, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe - had endorsed the C-TAP Solidarity Call to Action, the second initiative. The third initiative is a waiver, proposed in October 2020 by India and South Africa, to some provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), an international legal agreement between all members of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The proposed waiver would allow all countries globally to collaborate on the COVID-19 response, including vaccine development and distribution, without being unduly hampered by the complexity of laws and restrictions governing intellectual property. Countries like Kenya, Eswatini, and Mozambique have joined to co-sponsor the proposal. Dr. Solomon Ayele Dersso, the chairperson of the African Commission on Human

and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) recently called on the AU to lead this initiative for Africa. Other international organizations' experts have also welcomed the waiver proposal. These different calls reveal the urgency for African governments and the AU to ensure that their citizens have access to COVID-19 vaccines. The remaining 48 African countries should join Egypt, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe to endorse and implement the WHO's C-TAP requiring global, open and non-exclusive licensing of intellectual property to maximize the benefits of scientific research. Also, more AU member States should co-sponsor and support India and South Africa's proposal at the WTO and use TRIPS flexibilities at the country level. The AU could convene a pro-TRIPS waiver proposal meeting of AU heads of State and Government to send a strong and united message of solidarity.

AU member States should also call for concrete conditions on all funding for COVID-19 vaccine research, development, manufacturing, or distribution requiring technology transfer. These would ensure the sharing of all intellectual property, data and other know-how to enable mass manufacturing of successful vaccine candidates. The AU and its member States can take these few concrete steps to help ensure equity, transparency and fairness around the manufacturing and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The lives and health of Mwangaza, Dr. Ncube, and millions of other Africans may depend on it.

## Global labour rankings: Zim workers doomed to die poor

By Kudzai Kuwaza

THE rating of Zimbabwe as one of the 10 worst countries in terms of workers' welfare by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is a damning indictment of the parlous state of the economy.

It also brings into sharp focus the southern African nation's human rights record.

According to the ITUC documentation of violations of workers' rights, Zimbabwe joined a bleak list of controversial nations such as Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, Kazakhstan, the Philippines and Turkey.

"In the aftermath of the violent attacks against workers during

the general strikes organised by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) in October 2018 and January 2019, Zimbabwe continued its crackdown against trade unions," the report said. "Twenty-eight ZCTU members still faced criminal charges after their arrest over a year ago. If convicted, they could be sentenced to a mandatory 10-year jail term. ZCTU president Peter Mutasa and general secretary Japhet Moyo, both of whom had been arrested and charged with subversion, were released in February 2019, but they remained under strict release conditions, banned from travel and forced to check in regularly at the police station."

The report said Mutasa and Moyo received anonymous letters stuffed with live bullets and death threats. ITUC condemned the abduction of the then president of Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association, Peter Magombeyi in 2019 by three unidentified men. Violation of workers' rights has contributed to a long standoff between the government and Western countries who are concerned over Harare's trampling of human rights. The government has vehemently denied human rights abuses accusing the Western world of interference.

Consequently, this has derailed the government's re-engagement efforts with the West which was one of the President Emmerson Mnangagwa's main objectives on taking over the reins of power in 2017. The re-engagement is yet to

yield results as sanctions by the United States and Europe remain. Efforts to join the Commonwealth are still to pay dividends. The harsh working environment and poor salaries have worsened workers' plight.

A questionable decision by the government to scrap the multi-currency regime and subsequent re-adoption of the local currency in June 2019 has plunged workers into abject poverty. Through Statutory Instrument 142, the local currency was re-introduced, but it resulted in the erosion of incomes and pensions.

Faced with a biting hyperinflationary environment, the multi-currency regime was re-introduced through the backdoor under the guise of mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.



# Eritrea 2020: Year in review

By Fikrejesus Amahazion

**T**HE world, 2020 was turbulent, challenging, and a year truly unlike any other. This article, reviewing the period from September to December, is the third in a three-part series that looks back at some of the important events and developments that unfolded in Eritrea during 2020. Parts I and II were published in earlier editions of Eritrea Profile.

## September

Meskerem, the 9th month, began with Eritreans around the world observing the 59th anniversary of the beginning of Eritrea's armed struggle for independence. In Asmara, events at Cinema Roma included cultural programs, musical performances, drama programs, and poetry reading highlighting the unity and resilience of the Eritrean people.

Days later, on 7 September, the President of Sudan's Sovereign Council, Lt. Gen. Abdul Fattah al-Burhan, arrived in Asmara for a one-day working visit. During his stay, he held discussions with President Isaias about the progress of bilateral ties, and the two leaders agreed to intensify efforts to bolster regional peace. Osman Saleh, Eritrea's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Yemane Gebreab, the Presidential Adviser, also attended the discussions.

Other diplomatic activities included Eritrea's participation at the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). During the 75th session of the UNGA, FM Osman Saleh delivered a message on behalf of President Isaias covering a number of topics, including COVID-19, cooperation, and peace. As well, on 30 September, Tesfai Ghebrelesassie, Eritrea's Minister of Land, Water and Environment, delivered a statement at the biodiversity summit. His comments included a call for greater global cooperation.

Regarding development, as part of the effort to expand educational opportunities and eradicate illiteracy, it was announced that eight elementary schools in Sel'a sub-zone, Gash Barka region, were under construction. Additionally, the Governor of Anseba region, Ambassador Abdela Musa, conducted a tour of inspection at the 'Sutur' dairy cattle breeding project in Hamelmalo sub-zone. Other events included: residents of Habero sub-zone conducting soil and water conservation activities; renovation of roads in Mai-Mine sub-zone, Southern region; extensive soil and water conservation campaigns aimed at redressing the environment issues and increasing agricultural productivity in the Northern Red Sea Region; the installation of audio-visual equipment and digital libraries in middle and high schools; and the continued development of a new dam in the Mihdaf administrative area, Afabet sub-zone. As well, on 28 September, the Ministry of Agriculture organized a workshop in connection with World Rabies Day.

September also saw continued efforts to combat the threat of desert locusts. Surveillance demonstrated that locusts had spread to different parts of the country. The response included communities, local and regional officials, members of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the EDF. On 4 September, the Minister of Agriculture, Arefaine Berhe, commended the public and the EDF for their efforts.

Notably, His Holiness Abune Petros, Plenipotentiary at the Office of the Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church, gave benediction on the occasion of Kudus Yohanes. In a public message, Abune Petros extended warm wishes to all, especially health workers and those safeguarding the nation's sovereignty. Later, on 27 September, Meskel, which commemorates the Finding of the True Cross, was celebrated at St. Mary's Church. The event was conducted in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

Among the highlights of the month were graduation ceremonies held in different parts of the country. On 14 September, Barentu School of Assistant Nurses held its 10th graduation commencement ceremony, with 100 students graduating. Days later, on 17 September, the Gindae School of Assistant Nurses held its 8th commencement, with 93 students graduating. Finally, on 19 September, 117 students graduated from Mendefera School of Assistant Nurses.

## October

The month of October featured important diplomatic activities. On 4 October, the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mohammed Abdullahi Mohammed, arrived in Asmara for a two-day working visit. During the visit, President Mohammed and



Regional leaders including Mohammed Abdullahi Mohamed, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, also visited Asmara and held discussions with President Isaias.

President Isaias held talks at State House focusing on bolstering mutual ties and increasing efforts for regional integration on the basis of the Tri-Partite Agreement signed between Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

Less than two weeks later, from 13-15 October, President Isaias, accompanied by FM Osman Saleh, and Presidential Adviser Yemane Gebreab visited Ethiopia. There, the delegation, which was joined by the Eritrean Ambassador to Ethiopia, Semere Russom, visited the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), various development projects, and the headquarters of the Ethiopian Air Force in Bishoftu. During the visit, Ethiopian and Eritrean leaders engaged in discussions on bilateral ties and the consolidation of regional cooperation.

Also, on 13-14 October, an Eritrean delegation led by Biniam Berhe, Charge d'Affaires in the Mission to the African Union (AU) and Economic Commission of Africa (ECA), participated at the 37th Meeting of the AU Council of Ministers. At the meeting, conducted virtually, the Eritrean delegation delivered a message outlining the country's position on a number of issues. Notably, the nearly month-long cultural competition organized by the EDF concluded on 10 October. At the awards ceremony, attended by General Filipos Weldeyohannes, Chief of Staff of the EDF, and Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports, various prizes were handed out to individuals and cultural groups in different categories.

Food security is a fundamental concern in Eritrea. During the commemoration of World Food Day, on 16 October, a statement from the Ministry of Agriculture outlined how the Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package aims to meet food and nutrition security. Such initiatives have been vital during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Sticking with development-related matters, efforts continued to be taken to enhance the quality of service of Barentu Regional Referral Hospital, including through upgrading equipment, while community programs, such as soil and water conservation activities, road repair, and water diversion schemes, were ongoing in Anseba Region. Importantly, with locusts active in many parts of the country, Eritrea continued to take measures to ensure that damage was minimal.

As with the preceding month, October saw several graduation ceremonies. On 17 October, the College of Business and Social, located in Adi-Keih, held a virtual graduation ceremony. The 13th commencement saw 620 students graduate. Then, on 22 October, Eritrea's Institute of Technology, Mai Nefhi College of Sci-

ence held its commencement ceremony, with 352 students graduating. The following day, on 23 October, the College of Engineering and Technology, held its 13th graduation ceremony. On 24 October, Hamelmalo College of Agriculture had 422 students graduate, while on 25 October, 519 students graduated from the Asmara College of Education.

Finally, October concluded with the celebration of Mewlid al-Nebi on 29 October. Celebrations at Asmara's Grand Mosque Al-Khulafae Al-Rashidin, were conducted virtually and broadcast on Eri-TV, Dimtsi Hafash, Radio Numa, and Radio Zara. Mohammed-Seid Beshir, Chairman of the Awkaf in Asmara, discussed the historical background of the celebration, while Mufti Sheikh Salim Ibrahim wished a happy Mewlid to all and urged patience and resilience in the battle to control COVID-19.

## November

As with the rest of the year, November witnessed many development-related activities. These included: soil and water conservation campaigns in South Denkalia sub-zone and Asheti and Sosona administrative areas, Barentu sub-zone; planting of trees in Shelab administrative area, Akordot sub-zone, and Foro sub-zone; seminars on agricultural productivity, use of pesticides, and animal health for locals in the Northern Red Sea region; workshops in the Southern Red Sea region on seed standardization; and efforts to increase provision of social services in Dahlak sub-zone. Additionally, efforts continued to be taken to control the spread of locusts, while in Mendefera and Barentu, citizens conducted voluntary blood donation drives.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture conducted a nationwide livestock vaccination program aimed at ensuring animal health. In total, about 1.5 million animals were vaccinated against various diseases. In Assab, it was reported that efforts were ongoing to upgrade equipment at the Assab Hospital. Reports also revealed that during the past several years, the number of medical doctors and healthcare workers had significantly increased, helping improve health service in the region. Finally, in Asmara, the Office of the Auditor General, in conjunction with the Eritrean Center for Organizational Excellence, conducted a workshop for civil servants and internal auditors from 9-20 November. The workshop, attended by 55 participants, focused on developing skills, improving efficiency and effectiveness, and preparing a five-year national strategic plan.

Meanwhile, diplomatically, on 11 November, Eritrean FM Osman Saleh and Presidential Adviser Yemane Gebreab

met with President of the Sovereign Council, Lt. Gen. Abdul Fatah al-Burhan, and Prime Minister Abdullah Hamdok in Khartoum. The two sides discussed bilateral relations, as well as events in the region, particularly Ethiopia. The Eritrean delegation also delivered a message from President Isaias. Similarly, the following week, on 18 November, FM Osman Saleh and Presidential Adviser Yemane Gebreab met the Foreign Minister of Egypt, Sameh Shoukri, in Cairo. Discussions focused on bilateral and regional issues.

Also in November, the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts held its 24th meeting. The meeting, conducted on 24-25 November, was attended by fourteen East African states. Participants gathered under the theme, "Economic and Social Impacts of the Covid-19 Crisis on Eastern Africa: Strategies for Building-Back-Better". In his opening speech, Eritrean FM Osman Saleh thanked the ECA for organizing the meeting and commended countries for tackling various challenges. In addition, Ambassador Tesfamichael Gherahtu shared Eritrea's experiences during the pandemic.

Finally, PFDJ and NUEW branches abroad conducted meetings. The PFDJ branch in Germany had meetings via virtual format from 24 October to 14 November. Those participating in the meeting included Yohannes Weldu, Charge d'Affaires of the Eritrean Embassy in Germany, Head of the Public and Community Affairs, Kahsai Tewelde, and Head of Public Diplomacy and Media, Teklu Lebas, along with numerous members. Similarly, NUEW branches in Italy conducted an annual assessment meeting and laid out plans for 2021 in relation to the unfolding era. Heads of the NUEW branches in the Italian cities of Genoa, Milan, Brescia, Parma, Bologna, Pisa, Pistoia, Rome, Napoli, Teramo, Pescara, Catania, and Florence participated at the virtual meeting conducted on 15 November.

## December

The final month of 2020 began with the commemoration of World Aids Day on 1 December. In a public message, Ms. Nigisti Tesfamichael, Head of the HIV/AIDS and STDs Prevention Unit at the Ministry of Health, shared that Eritrea has made considerable progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Also on 1 December, the nation marked the 50th anniversary of the Ona and Besekdira Massacres. Commemoration events, which included laying wreaths, were attended by Ambassador Abdela Musa, Governor of Anseba Region, other government officials, village elders, and survivors.

Regarding development, the EDF was deployed to Tesennei sub-zone to sup-

port local communities in crop harvesting activities. As well, in Assab, initiatives were continued to expand water supply projects, while in Haikota sub-zone, tree planting activities were carried out to redress environmental damage. Additionally, in Gash Barka, the Ministry of Agriculture organized a seminar on the environmental impact of agricultural projects, while in Gelalo sub-zone, a seminar was held on health and traditional medicines. Finally, the National Agriculture Research Center in Sheib sub-zone completed a multi-year research project identifying select crop seeds. Among the most exciting moments of the month was the graduation ceremony held at Orotta College of Medicine and Health Sciences in Asmara on 19 December. In total, 471 students graduated in various fields, including general medicine, dentistry, ophthalmology, pharmacy, public health, and nursing, among others.

Although Eritrea's response to COVID-19 had been generally successful and effective throughout the year, there was an increase in positive cases late in the month. As a result, the High Level Task Force on COVID-19 issued further guidelines in order to curtail the spread of the virus and to guarantee the safety of citizens.

December featured a number of diplomatic and political activities. During the first week of December, an Eritrean delegation, led by Ambassador Araia Desta, then Eritrea's Permanent Representative to the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa, participated in the 21st AU Executive Ministerial Council meeting and two extraordinary sessions of the AU Assembly. Then, on 8 December, FM Osman Saleh and Presidential Adviser Yemane Gebreab met with Sudan's President of the Sovereign Council, Lt. Gen. Abdul Fattah Al-Burhan in Khartoum. They delivered a message from President Isaias. The message and ensuing discussions focused on developments in Ethiopia and their ramifications for regional peace and stability, as well as bilateral ties. Last, on 15 December, a Saudi Arabian delegation led by Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud visited Asmara. The delegation delivered messages from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to President Isaias. As well, the two sides held extensive talks on bilateral ties and regional issues of mutual importance.

Finally, the NUEW conducted several activities to conclude the year. On 5 December, the European branch of the Union held its annual meeting led by Tekea Tesfamichael, President of NUEW, and Negesti Tsegai, Chairwoman of the NUEW Europe branch. Representatives of the Union from Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, the UK, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland also participated. Then, on 12 December, Tekea Tesfamichael conducted a seminar with NUEW members across Europe, covering a range of topics. Similarly, in Italy, Eritrean communities gathered for meetings to review the year's activities, plan for 2021, and mobilize support for Eritrea's campaigns against COVID-19 and desert locusts.

## Treasury and Land Bank sowing infertile seeds through poor leadership - to the detriment of farmers

By Noko Masipa

**T**HE Auditor-General of South Africa's disclaimer audit opinion findings on the Land Bank are of great concern for everyone in the agricultural sector. They highlight many issues that include, among others, the leadership's inability to implement effective human resource management to ensure that there is stability and proper succession planning.

The situation the Land Bank finds itself in is a result of National Treasury neglecting its oversight role of this strategic institution. Many of the bank's continuous problems stem

from the lack of political will to support it in fulfilling its mandate. This was demonstrated when National Treasury allowed the bank's former CEO, TP Nchocho, to leave without having an immediate replacement or succession plan in place.

The bank has had three acting chief executives since the departure of Mr Nchocho. No institution can attain normalcy under three different acting CEOs in one year. Twelve months later, the bank still did not have a CEO. This resulted in a number of downgrades by Moody's credit rating agency, which caused investor panic, resulting in many investors withdrawing their funding

from the bank.

This leadership vacuum was created by the ANC's lack of political will to see the Land Bank fulfil its mandate of supporting qualifying farmers, rather than a handful of those with political connections. This is the final nail in the coffin for this institution and its proud legacy of empowering new farmers.

According to the South African Reserve Bank regulatory consistency assessment programme, the total capital adequacy ratio of the South African banking sector is well above the regulatory requirement of 10%, averaging below 15%. This means that all banks are compliant with Basel III's capital adequacy requirement and that same capital adequacy is applicable to the Land Bank. The lack of leadership and political will has ensured that the bank isn't able to source funding from the open market.

Emerging and smallholder farmers can be supported through programmes such as blended finance.

The DA has always been in support of blended finance because it mitigates the bank's risks. The ANC

government allowed President Cyril Ramaphosa to allocate a bold R3.9-billion medium-term budget for blended finance towards emerging farmers, while knowing that the Land Bank is about to collapse because they failed to provide the support that it needed. In turn, the government, as the sole shareholder, is expecting the bank to fulfil its mandate of supporting agricultural reforms, growing the agriculture economy and food security.

For the Land Bank to find investors and continue with its mandate, the bank needs to restore faith in the local and international market. There are two policy uncertainties that must be addressed with immediate effect:

- Expropriation of land without compensation must be scrapped. It is going to kill agricultural jobs and the economy of South Africa. The Constitution makes sufficient provision to address land reform in South Africa.

- The Land Bank's mandate must be clear as to whether it is supportive of commercial as well as emerging farmers. The uncertainties created by agrifinance programmes, designed to support the bank's land

reform agenda, that are never implemented is causing confusion in the market about the government's seriousness about agriculture reforms. The Land Bank must be clear about its support for commercial farmers.

Investors want clarity, bold statements and a robust implementation plan, but the ANC government has continued to make statements with no implementation intent. This has led to the failure of the bank.

National Treasury and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) must ensure that farm jobs are protected, farmers' contributions to the economy are prioritised and the country's food security is preserved.

While the concerns raised in the Auditor-General's disclaimer audit opinion report are alarming, the problem lies in leadership at a senior level of both National Treasury and the Land Bank. National Treasury failed to play its part in conducting proper oversight, which led to the departure of many senior staff. Both National Treasury and the Land Bank must address the matters raised urgently, with an immediate focus on the bank's ineffective human resources management.



# This is why Democrats are after Donald Trump in his final days in office

By Special Correspondent

**D**ONALD Trump has less than a week in his office as the US president. He practically cannot issue a major order given the post-Capitol siege sentiments. Still, the Democrats want to cut short his tenure even by a couple of days. Why?

Donald Trump has become the first US president to be impeached twice. He is now likely to face a motion in the Senate to remove him from office in the last week of his tenure. (Photo: AP/PTI)

US President Donald Trump is in the last week of his tenure. Donald Trump is functioning with reduced support staff as several have resigned following the Capitol siege last week. Trump still enjoys the power of the US president but cannot practically get any of his orders implemented and even if he gets it done, all orders could be withdrawn in a week's time.

So, why the Democrats in the US Congress want to evict Donald Trump just a few days short of the end of his tenure?

### Abuse of power

The Democrats have accused Donald Trump of abuse of power as the US president. They have a long list of abuses allegedly committed by Donald Trump during his four-year tenure. The "crime" includes apparent defence of Russia against the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) over interference in the US presidential election that he won in 2016, seeking help from Ukrainian president in targeting his presidential election rival in 2020 and inciting mob riot at the Capitol.

But it is also true that Donald Trump ends his presidential career possibly as the most rebuked US president. He is the only president to have been impeached twice, courtesy the majority of the Democrats in the lower house of the US Congress. A dominance of the Republicans in the Senate, the upper house, ensured that Donald Trump was not forcefully removed from his office.

Eviction of Donald Trump from the US president's office requires an approving vote in the Senate within this week. This seems unlikely given that despite many of the Republicans opposing him and expressing shock over Donald Trump's call to his supporters to march on the Capitol, they overwhelmingly voted against the impeachment motion. The Republicans are also against moving a motion for forced removal of Donald Trump in the Senate.

### Threat to democracy

Another argument against Donald Trump is that he is posing an imminent threat to democracy and the US constitution. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in her letter to Democratic members seeking their support for impeachment, wrote: "In protecting our Constitution and our democracy, we will act with urgency, because this President represents an imminent threat to both."

However, it remains unclear how grave a threat Donald Trump can



pose to democracy in the US that he could not during the past four years. Having apparently lost support of his presidential office staff and also confidence of his Vice President Mike Pence, Donald Trump has been defanged already. His any "illegal" act could easily be overturned in a week's time. Pelosy did not explain the "urgency" to disgrace the US president further.

### Public opinion

Public opinion has turned against Donald Trump sharply in the aftermath of the Capitol riots that led to the death of five people. In a survey, 57 per cent of the American favoured early removal of Donald Trump from the office.

However, the detailed analysis of it showed that most of those surveyed were pledged Democratic voters. A Reuters report said, "The majority of Americans who said they want Trump to leave office before his term ends includes about nine out of every ten Democrats polled but just two in ten Republicans."

Still an overwhelming majority of the Trump supporters disapproved of his Capitol siege call. "The national public opinion survey, conducted Thursday and Friday, also showed that seven out of 10 of those who voted for Trump in November opposed the action of the hardcore supporters who broke into the Capitol while lawmakers were meeting to certify the election victory of Democrat Joe Biden," the report said.

This means that the argument of public opinion becoming drastically against Donald Trump is not forceful. It is divided along political lines.

### Pardon and 2024 election

Donald Trump may pardon himself in the final week of his tenure. This may have a bearing on the US presidential election in 2024. A US president can serve two terms, which need not be consecutive. Donald Trump is the first president since Bill Clinton not to win his second consecutive term.

To contest another US presidential election, Donald Trump needs to come clear on the allegations of tax evasion. A pardon can do away with this legal obligation and make him eligible for 2024 presidential contest.

It is in this context that the Democratic move of forcing Donald Trump out of his office just days before his term ends becomes politically loaded. A US president can be removed from office if proven unfit for holding the office.

Some experts have referred to the 14th Amendment Act that provides for barring a US president from seeking second term in office. Political commentators in the US see this Democratic move as "an idea to bar him from holding office again".

### Political ego

There seems to be an ego fight between Donald Trump and the Democrats. The rise of Donald Trump from a maverick businessman to the US president happened, it is said, after then President Barack Obama's potshot at the White House correspondents dinner in 2011. Trump was the butt of the jokes Obama cracked that night. Newspapers the next day carried the headline, "Trump humiliated".

"That evening of public abasement, rather than sending Mr. Trump away, accelerated his ferocious efforts to gain stature in the political world," New York Times wrote in March 2016. However, some others said Trump was talking about running for president since the 1980s.

## The agents of COVID-19 spread

By Eddy Odivwri

**B**Y now, many Nigerians who have been living in denial about the existence and reality of COVID-19 should have been convinced to the contrary. If their loved ones have not contacted the disease or even died, they must have heard of someone they know who have also contacted the disease or even died.

Incidentally, the second wave of the pandemic is not only spreading faster, it is apparently fiercer and deadlier.

Yes, the blame has largely been on many Nigerians who have refused to adhere to the safety protocols, what has now been described as non-pharmaceutical guidelines. It is true. After the lifting of the lockdown, most Nigerians heaved a sigh of relief and swiftly returned to "normal life", dropping quickly what had been accepted as the "new normal".

We generally relaxed the observance of the safety protocols. Transit buses and taxis went back to carrying normal number of passengers. The use of face masks was ignored, or at best worn as chin pads. Some may prefer to tuck it into their pockets or bags, just in case they are harassed about it, then they pull it out. Hand washing and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitisers also became unfashionable. Even many corporate organisations stopped insisting that those coming into their facilities should observe these non-pharmaceutical guidelines.

In all of these, the men and officials of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), have been shouting themselves hoarse, warning people of the then impending second wave. But we largely paid deaf ears. Not even when other countries like UK, Spain, Italy etc., had declared a second or even third lockdowns, did we take caution.

Worse still, all the travel restrictions had been lifted, including to and from coun-

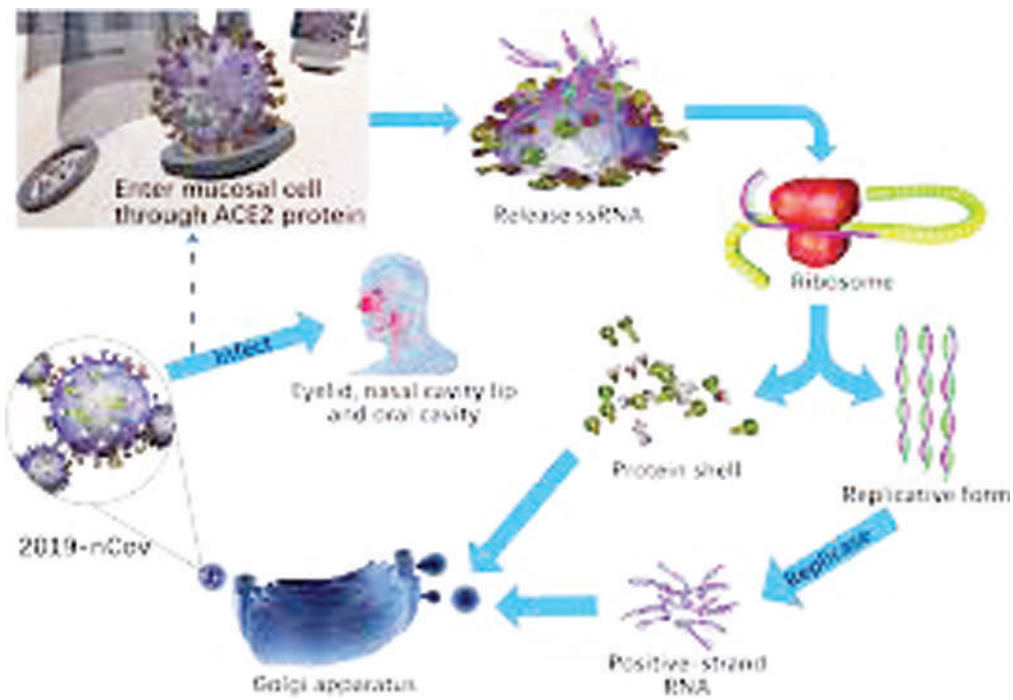
tries which had had evident second wave spike. The result is the swathe of cases we are contending with today.

But one set of Nigerians who, ironically have not helped the containment of the pandemic are members of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria. It is a body of medical laboratory practitioners, who are highly essential in the value-chain of fighting and defeating the disease.

In the face of the huge cry by the federal government that it is running out of facilities and equipment in carrying out the mandatory test of persons, as well as not having enough facilities to accommodate and treat COVID-19 patients, the members of the Medical Laboratory Council have not helped the matter as private sector persons who are desirous of either importing relevant kits or setting up laboratories have not been exactly encouraged by the Medical Laboratories Council of Nigeria. How?

On their website, they demand that anyone wanting to import relevant test kits must submit, wait for it, "300 worth of test kits for the validation exercise". Such persons are also required "to pay all applicable validation fees". They probably did not have the courage to state that the said validation fee for each kit is N1,000,000. Yes, One Million Naira! And this must be paid into their Remita platform on their website: www.miscn.gov.ng

So, the question is why does the Council require a whopping 300 pieces of one test kit to do their validation test? So assume that an interested individual imported ten different types of kits to assist in the fight against the pandemic, he has to give out 3000 kits altogether as Validation sacrifice, after which he has to pay N1 million per kit, bringing the total to ten million Naira. If the effort is for business purposes, and he has lost 3000 pieces of kits and another ten million naira, then what is left of his



business venture?

It is issues like this that fuel the narrative in the public domain that the COVID-19 matter is either politicized or being escalated for pecuniary benefits for certain people.

Government does not have enough testing kits. Not enough people are being tested everyday. People are getting infected and indeed dying in their dozens across board. Some people want to assist in bringing in such test kits and the said Medical Laboratories Council of Nigeria becomes a stumbling block that is bound to frustrate private sector initiative. Yet, the Council's lingo claims that "Labs help save lives".

The Medical Laboratory Council can therefore not afford to be one of the agents, inadvertently, fuelling the deadly grip and spike of the plague called Corona Virus.

It is worrisome that the Federal Ministry of Health including NAFDAC which should control and regulate the operations and policies of the Council are either indifferent or negligent; none of which is good enough!

outrightly blocking such efforts.

Donald Trump Has Five Lonely Days To Go He holds the unenviable record of being the first American President to be impeached twice by the House of Representatives. He got impeached, for the second time, last Wednesday. At that, his hope of seeking office again in 2024 has been constitutionally zipped.

Although Donald Trump has been impeached, he may remain in office for another five lonely days before his political Nunc Dimitis is sung.

The Lawmakers—lower and upper chambers, seem determined to throw him out "immediately" given the unprecedented assault on the temple of democracy with the recent invasion of the Capitol Hill by Trump's supporters. They were as riotous as Belzebeub's apostles.

To say the world was dazed and shocked at the despicable drama will be sheer understatement.

Never before has America, the avante guard of Democracy, ever experienced the extreme recklessness of an elected president. Trump is (if not was) just in an ignoble class of his own. Notorious for his uncouth character, hatred for blacks, rash in his decisions, unfiltered fury, come-and-fight posture, plus many

of his other vices, it is a wonder that he still had as many as 74 million Americans who wanted him continue in the White House, a historical edifice he has literally painted black and red all over.

It is even more perplexing to think that such a democracy infidel is hoping to return in 2024. Deus avertat!

That he is leaving White House with great ignominy is no longer in doubt. Those bent on removing him even before his five days window, fear that he yet could do more damage to the temple of democracy in America, given his penchant for off-beat conducts, if left alone.

Perhaps what should worry most of his supporters is what will become of him after January 20, when he would, once again, return to his ordinary man status. It would be far more a status of wretch, if the impeachment process pulls through. There will be no tears for Trump.

Those given to much prayer should beseech God to never again, allow anyone like Trump access to the White House. Igbo and the 2023 Challenge

Eddy Odivwri Hmmm, wonders will never end. I hear the Igbo now have a new King. Never! Where did you hear that? Igbo don't have kings. They only have Igwes

What is the difference? Go and read your history books again.

In any case, who is this new king you claim?

Did you not hear that Professor George Obiozor has been elected the President of the Ohaneze Nd'igbo?

You see yourself? Kings are crowned, not elected. So if Obiozor was elected, it clearly shows he is not a King. He is merely heading the socio-political body of the Igbo people, an umbrella body for the advancement and projection of the pains and aims of the Igbo people.

Hmmmmmm... the pains and aims... what do you mean by that?

Need you ask? Is it still news that the Igbo have been crying for over fifty years since the Nigerian Civil war ended? Have you not heard them say the war has long ended but that the Nigerian state is still in the trenches against the Igbo? Have you not been hearing either their groaning or their wailing? Isn't that why they have been clamouring for the handshake across the Niger? Isn't that why they have been clamouring for an inclusive government? Isn't that why they have been clamouring for equitable distribution of national rights and privileges?

Why is it that it is only the South east that has been deliberately denied the presidency of this country despite all the supportive indices like demography and economic prowess? Or don't you know the Igbo are the economic live-wire of the country?

You see why they have been crying about marginalization?

You claim that this administration has done even what Napoleon could not do. Tell me, from Number one citizen to the number six citizen in this country, where do you find an Igbo man? Are they not fellow Nigerians?

Do not ask opaque questions bleeding with ignorance. This is a democracy. If the Igbo take the right political decisions, they will reap the fruits thereof. If they, conversely, take the wrong political decisions, they will contend with the consequences thereof. It is as simple as that.

What do you mean by "right political decision"?

As said, it is a democracy. It follows the biblical principle of "if you sow sparingly, you reap sparingly". But if you decide to sow bountifully, you will reap bountifully. Check your history, so many Igbo sons have held the number three position of this country in the past, almost like it was a birthright. And that was a function of their political decision at the time. I am sure you can fill in the gap in this matter.

And that exactly is the issue: why is the Igbo man good only for number three position of the land? Are some people more Nigerian than others? Are they allergic to the Number one position? What do they lack as a requirement to be so?

Hmmmmmm, torrents of questions. But let me attempt to answer the one on what they lack... (pause).. My brother the Igbo lack unity. That is why they have never been able to form a cohesive front to advance their course. They have Big Man Complex. Everybody is a big man. They have the crabology spirit!



# SIDA supports 20 students in 5 countries to pursue master's degrees in forest sciences

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE Swedish government through its International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) has supported 20 students to pursue master's degree in forest sciences at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

The students are from Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

Speaking during the launch of the programme here, coordinator of the training programme at SUA Prof Romanus Shengoma said the funding is intended to support the students and enable them once they graduate, to actively participate in helping to reduce deforestation associated with climate change and to address the challenges facing forests in the East African Region.

can Region.

He said that the programme is aimed to rescue forests and promote forestation in the region.

The East African region is currently witnessing environmental burdens due to excessive tree cutting.

He said the students will conduct a forest-based research and come up with solutions to address challenges

facing forests in the East African region.

"Forests have a lot of opportunities, what we have to do is to conserve them and use products from the forests sustainably to improve income; villagers should be educated on the importance of protecting natural forests," he said.

According to him, human being activities such as deforestation has brought a number of adverse impacts to the area's environment, so this is why we stood up and decided to plant new trees to make the environment more natural

He said during their classroom lessons, the students will be taught by lectures from colleges in their home countries so as to create a single program.

SUA Vice Chancellor Prof Raphael Chibunda said the training project at the University has demonstrated the quality of SUA in Africa and the world.

Prof Chibunda said that SUA is the only college in the East and Southern African region that teaches forests and owns forests that are used in practical sessions.

He said the University owns

a large planted forest area in Olmotonyi area in Arusha Region and the one the Usambara Mountains in Tanga Region which is a natural forest with a size of 320 acres.

Prof Chubunda further said that in 2018 the government provided SUA 10,000 hectares in Ifinga village, Madaba District in Ruvuma Region so as to establish commercial training and research.

## TARI calls on grape farmers to abide by researchers' advice

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Makutupora Centre has called on grape farmers to abide by the advice given by researchers in order to add value to the crop.

The remarks were given by a researcher from the Centre's Community Economy department Devatha Mchau during the visit by reporters at the centre.

She said grapes are planted in two seasons, hence it was important for farmers to abide by advice given by researchers for knowledge in wine making to increase their incomes.

"You find many farmers engaged in grape farming but have no knowledge in adding value to the crop, I therefore stress for them to come at the centre to get the knowledge," she added.

Mchau said if they get the knowledge and abide by procedures in planting up to harvesting, they will reap huge crops and get profit at the market.

"Grapes crop needs care during planting and harvesting, hence farmers should abide by that," she added.

Another researcher at the Centre Stella Hangambi said the climate in Dodoma was conducive to grapes cultivation, hence farmers should grab the opportunity as it will boost them economically.

She thanked the government through COSTECH that has been providing funds for the research centres for conducting various agricultural researches.



Residents of Isango and Mngeta villages in Morogoro Region gathered along the banks of River Mngeta yesterday while awaiting the arrival of their legislator, Godwin Kunambi. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

## Govt allows individual mineral trading inside Mirerani site without licence

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

MINERALS minister Doto Biteko has given the green light for any person within the Mirerani Tanzanite mines wall in Simanjiro District to trade in the mineral without a licence.

In addition, he said traders who take their minerals to minerals offices inside the mines wall for authentication will be given special certificates after tax payment.

This procedure is a departure from the past when each tanzanite

stone had to bear a seal.

Biteko, who was late last week addressing mine owners including those from the 'Apolo' group said the aim of the government is to allow any individual engaging in the minerals trade to benefit whilst the government gets the appropriate tax. "The government understands that everyone inside the wall did not come to trade in peanuts, anyone who gets a tanzanite stone is permitted to trade it openly, but when you want to go outside the wall you have to surrender your-

selves at the minerals' offices for the stones to be authenticated and thereafter obtain permits to sell at the Arusha Market," he said.

He added: "I am saying this because you find a food vendor inside the wall and if a customer comes along and drops a stone and the food vendor picks it, it become her fortune, you cannot prevent her to sell it due to lack of licence while she is within the mines' wall."

The minister instructed defense and security organs to work together with the Manyara regional

minerals office (RMO) to not to impound the stones from all those trading in minerals inside the wall.

He also called on the tanzanite minerals traders to desist from making verbal propaganda on people engaged in the trade instead they should direct their complaints to appropriate government officials for solution.

He also gave the Manyara Regional Commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti two months to establish minerals market so as to reduce inconveniences by minerals traders to travel

up to Arusha to sell their stones. He also called on all the people to conduct the minerals trade faithfully in order for the government get it appropriate revenue for their own development, including road infrastructures inside the mines' wall, on which more than 321m/- has been set aside for TARURA to start the job.

He added that defense and security organs will continue to provide protection of the country's mineral resources.

## Declining rice prices denying farmers funds in new season

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PLUMMETING prices for rice has affected some of rice farmers in Mbarali District and Mbeya District, the situation that has denied them funds needed in preparing their farms for the current farming season.

Speaking at the weekend in Mbarali district, some farmers said in the past, at this season the rice was being sold from 1,800/- to 2,000/- per kilogramme but now the current price at the market is between 1,100/- and 1,500/- per kilogramme.

Wille Mwakasoke, a rice farmer from Igurusi in the district said rice production costs was big compared to the crop's market price, the situation that make their own wellbeing difficult, let alone preparing themselves for the current farming season.

He said the slumping rice price has also affected other economic businesses including small businesses that depend on monetary circulation from the rice sector.

"This month onwards farmers used to sell 29 kgs of rice between 36,000/- and 40,000/-, as opposed to this year when the price is very low, and the situation started last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic," said Mwakasoke.

Huruma Mwakanyamale, a cereals seller, including rice said even though the price of rice was low compared to previous years, even its demand was low.

Emmanuel Mtaki has said this season he cannot engage himself in rice farming due to lack of capital, instead they have opted to selling fried chips for a living.

Recently, Mbeya region trade officer Stanley Kibakaya said falling of rice and maize price has been caused by great supply in the market.

He advised farmers to store their crops in warehouses and wait for the prices to rise.



Dodoma Region's Fire and Rescue Force commander, Gilbert Mvungi (L, foreground), pictured in Dodoma city yesterday briefing Home Affairs deputy minister Khamis Hamza Chilo on the state of firefighting equipment in the region. Photo courtesy of Home Affairs ministry



# ANC: We have the talent, the experience and the potential to deal decisively with the corrupt

By Paul Hoffman

**I**F President Cyril Ramaphosa's words that 'it is only if we stand united against corruption that we can restore the integrity of our movement' are not taken seriously, then the ANC and the tripartite alliance's slide towards failure as a 'movement', an alliance and as a state will continue.

The January 8 statement by the leadership of the ANC is intended to inform, inspire and encourage those who remain faithful to the tripartite alliance (the movement, the party and the trade union federation) that has governed at national level since 1994. It is a message to members, both current and prospective, and an announcement to the world regarding the trajectory of the priorities identified for the year ahead.

Unsurprisingly and predictably, the need to urgently prevent the further spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, to repair SA's broken economy and to cement the country's place in a better continent and world have been singled out this year. All well and good. However, if the president's words on corruption are not taken seriously, then none of these goals will be achieved and the slide towards failure as a "movement", an alliance and as a state will continue.

The president said: "It is only if we stand united against corruption that we can restore the integrity of our movement."

Quite correctly so, he pointed out that the unity of the ANC "cannot be used to shield those involved in wrongdoing from being held accountable".

Mark Cutifani, CEO of Anglo American, has pointed out that corruption must be tackled as a priority to encourage investor sentiment towards SA. The spectre of crooked covidpreneurism hangs over the roll-out of

vaccines in much the same way as the urgent procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) was bedevilled by the circling vultures, the hungry hyenas and the jackals preying upon the public purse for illegal self-enrichment rather than efficient and effective use of resources to put PPE in place without delay. Avoidable deaths occurred as a result of covid-preneurism; the death of the entire economy is inevitable if grand corruption in general is not successfully countered.

The "how to" of countering the corrupt is the sticking point in SA. So far, the unity between those who are corrupt or facing corruption charges in the ANC and those who are not has been abused as a pretext for allowing the corrupt to continue in office as members in good standing, when in truth and in fact their unwillingness to submit themselves to precautionary suspensions or to stand down until their dark clouds have blown away has ruined the reputation and integrity of the ANC. It has also crippled all efforts to get to grips with corruption in society in general.

Corruption is a bilateral or multilateral secretive crime involving corruptors and corruptees. Those in the business sector who see corruption as an easy way of profiteering from the state's spending of public money are in cahoots with those in government and state-owned corporations who procure goods and services using the funds of taxpayers.

Procurement is meant to be fair, equitable, competitive, cost-effective and transparent. It is not meant to be a way to easy riches, a means of bolstering party-political funding and a vehicle for feathering the nests of the corrupt.

The ANC pays insufficient attention to the fact that our prosecution authorities first satisfy themselves that

there is a prima facie case against the corrupt before they summons or arrest them. They know that it is difficult to prove corrupt activities beyond a reasonable doubt in a criminal trial. They are astute to get their ducks in a row before the charges of corruption reach the stage of pending criminal proceedings.

Instead of taking the views of the state seriously, the ANC members who are alleged to be involved in corruption prefer to fall back on the right of accused persons to be regarded, in court, as innocent until proven guilty. This attitude misses the point that the ANC cannot be seen to be populated by a coterie of personnel facing serious criminal charges and simultaneously maintaining its integrity and reputation as an upstanding body of respecters of the rule of law and champions of constitutionalism.

After all, serving the people does not include stealing from them.

All public representatives swear or affirm that they will obey, observe, uphold and maintain the Constitution and the law when they take office. This solemn undertaking rings hollow in the mouths of those facing serious charges who cling to office. Yet the ANC leadership, which includes more than a few such persons, inexplicably allows those under a cloud of suspicion to continue in office despite the damage this laxity does to the integrity and reputation of the ANC itself.

South Africa once had effective corruption-busters. They were called the Scorpions and were an independent unit within the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). They investigated ANC bigwigs without fear, favour or prejudice - exactly as required by the Constitution. They were closed down by the ANC for doing so, despite every effort by the opposition and most of civil society to pre-



vent the closure of the Scorpions. They were ignominiously replaced by the Hawks, a mere police unit, lacking any of the qualities expected by law to make them effective and efficient corruption-busters. This was allowed to happen because the Scorpions did not enjoy the protected status of chapter 9 institutions, which cannot be closed down at the whim of a simple majority in Parliament.

The president was elected, both at Nasrec and in the 2019 general election, on an anti-corruption ticket. If he does not deliver, he cannot expect continuing support from the voters, who, to quote his chosen Cabinet member, Patricia de Lille, are 'not stupid'.

It is now plain from the evidence emerging at the State Capture commission that the axing of the Scorpions was effected to facilitate the State Capture project of the Jacob Zuma era and to protect Zuma himself against the prosecution he is now facing. That he should also be prosecuted for decapitating the NPA and for his contempt of the State Capture commission is as plain as a pikestaff. He has yet to account for his considerable role in State Capture, preferring to protest his innocence in the face of a mountain of evidence from more than 30 witnesses at the commission.

Surprisingly, he remains a member of the ANC in good standing and attends meetings of its national executive committee, of which he is an ex officio member. This remarkable state of affairs does the ANC incalculable harm.

Creating the political will, within the organisation responsible for disbanding the Scorpions, to get serious about countering corruption is not as difficult as it might seem to be. There is widespread acknowledgement that it was wrong to close down the Scorpions so summarily. It is known that their Achilles heel was their lack of security of tenure of office. It is not

beyond the wit of Parliament to fashion a constitutionally compliant anti-corruption body that has all of the attributes that the courts require of it, including secure tenure of office free from outside influence, interference and control.

Opposition parties have a role to play in this exercise. The state is bound by the rulings in the Glenister litigation that specify in detail the qualities of corruption-busters. A private members' bill aimed at creating super-Scorpions who have secure tenure of office ought to sufficiently embarrass the stragglers in the ANC to support a legislative programme that takes the investigation and prosecution of grand corruption away from the Hawks and NPA, and gives it to the new body. Draft legislation and a suggested constitutional amendment have been prepared by Accountability Now and have been presented to the constitutional review committee of the National Assembly, years ago.

The paralysed and compromised current status of the existing officials in the criminal justice administration can be more rapidly cured through bypassing them in this way than by throwing money at broken institutions infested with "saboteurs" who have been put in place to protect those involved in the capture of the state.

It will be necessary to define "grand corruption", a task that has not yet been tackled in international law. The anti-corruption work, insofar as grand corruption is concerned, will have to be carved out of the mandates of the Hawks and NPA, and given to the new body, which should be housed in chapter 9 of the Constitution so that it does not face the same fate as the Scorpions, which was a mere creature of an ordinary statute and therefore easily dismissed by a simple majority.

The launching of private members' bills will make the countering of corruption the election issue it ought to be.

The ANC can pre-empt opposition efforts by doing what its national executive committee asked the national Cabinet to do as long ago as 4 August 2020: urgently establish just such a body to "deal with" corruption.

Mystifyingly, nothing further has been heard in public of this resolution, possibly because

those in leadership positions within the ANC who are corrupt (whether or not they are facing charges) do not wish the national executive committee resolution to be implemented, whether urgently or at all. There was no mention of the national executive committee resolution in the January 8 statement. The mamparas who resist the national executive committee's resolution are signing the death warrant of the ANC as a majority party in SA by selfishly clinging to power and using their power to subvert the rule of law for as long as possible. The voters of SA should not and probably will not tolerate this attitude. The courts certainly won't.

The president was elected, both at Nasrec and in the 2019 general election, on an anti-corruption ticket. If he does not deliver, he cannot expect continuing support from the voters, who, to quote his chosen Cabinet member, Patricia de Lille, are "not stupid".

Corruption is theft from the poor when it takes place in official supply management chains. The poor will not tolerate being stolen from once they work out that the theft is huge, ongoing and unaddressed. The poor, who have the vote and very little else in SA, can generate the political will to effect the changes that are required to put an end to corruption with impunity in SA.

We have the talent, the experience and the potential to deal decisively with the corrupt among us. The political will to do so is in evidence in the January 8 statement. When its secretary-general is placed on precautionary suspension, the world will know that the ANC is moving in the right direction. If he is not, the voters will know what to do about it.

As for the ANC's place in Africa and the world - there is no better way to enhance it than to champion the idea of an International Anti-Corruption Court to deal with grand corruption, State Capture and kleptocracy on the basis of the doctrine of complementarity, in a manner similar to the workings of the International Criminal Court. When that occurs, the rehabilitation of the ANC as a force for good in the world will be restored.

# Attitude to work by Ghanaian workers calls for urgent critical appraisal

By Michael Akenoo

**"**WORK And Happiness" was a very popular and powerful musical composition by the erstwhile Ramblers Dance Band of Ghana led by Jerry Hansen.

This powerful musical piece which vibrated through the melodious voice of one of Ghana's most artistic and distinguished vocalists, Joe Atiso, greatly impacted on the conscience of Ghanaian workers; and consequently, gingered and galvanised them to work very hard to move the country forward in development.

That happened during the glorious days of the 1960's in Ghana's developmental strides towards the achievement of economic growth, development and prosperity for mother Ghana.

However, at the present time in Ghana's developmental process as a nation, one can observe with dismay and anguish, the general attitude to work by Ghanaian workers, particularly those in the public sector that leaves very much to be desired.

There is so much apathy and lukewarmness towards work that can easily prick the conscience of many a Ghanaian who believes in hard work and dedication as a means of making a country great and prosperous.

Why Ghanaian workers are exhibiting this kind of

militating and unpatriotic attitude to work at this present time of the ongoing Ghana beyond aid agenda utterly beats the understanding of many a concerned Ghanaian.

An instance of this unpleasant and baneful attitude to work among Ghanaian workers in the public sector of the economy is when one goes to any of the sector ministries like the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning etc in Accra seeking for a piece of information on any vital and relevant issue on the nation or an individual the general mood and atmosphere prevailing there is not all that pleasant, accommodating and conducive as far as commitment and dedication to work are concerned.

One goes to the reception office and very often, the receptionist is not at post, or he or she will be present but fast asleep. When one asks for the appropriate office to address the issue one has in hand, the response that often comes is that the officer in charge is not available or the officer has just left for the hospital or clinic or that the officer has not yet arrived for duty and that no one knows exactly the time the officer will report for duty etc.

This is the typical scenario or the general atmosphere that one observes and experiences daily at the premises



of the ministries in Accra, the capital city of Ghana.

One is tempted to imagine and speculate similar; or even worse situations that will prevail throughout the regional and district capitals of the country.

And yet surprisingly, these workers in the public sector of the economy will have the nerves and audacity to be shouting on top of their voices occasionally demanding increase in salaries and fringe benefits from the government; and going on demonstrations etc to back their demands.

At this time in Ghana's developmental process, with the ongoing "Ghana beyond aid agenda" one is compelled to question this unpatriotic and unnationalistic attitude of Ghanaian workers, who are living in self-delusion and thinking that manna will fall from heaven to meet all their demands for survival without their efforts and commitment to work.

If workers unbridled apathy, unpunctuality, irregularity, lack lustre attitude towards commitment and sacrifice to productivity is the fashion and order of the day, where in lies their moral right to agitate for better salaries, wages and conditions of service to motivate them to enhance their productivity level? Indeed this is tantamount to building

castles in the air and a wild goose chase! It is a mirage!

Ghanaian workers, particularly those in the public sector must be sincere to themselves and realise that, their commitment to work, sacrifice and integrity will surely contribute speedily to boost Ghana's economy; and make it possible for the government to meet all their pressing genuine demands.

On a critical analysis and evaluation of Ghana's present economic power, the government will do its best to respond positively and favourably to workers constant demands to improve their conditions of service, if only it will experience a buoyant economy that can easily meet workers genuine demands.

It is a fact that Ghanaian workers constitute the bedrock of the economy and so they have every moral right to demand adequate remuneration for their sweat and toil for the country; and for this plausible reason, the government cannot afford to deny and become insensitive and adamant to the demands of its mass of workers, whose daily sacrifice and dedication to work fuels the economy.

Although, it is being done by the Trades Union Congress of Ghana (T.U.C) at this present time, it must however, inten-

sify its education of workers of the country on their moral rights of demanding for better conditions of service, which should however be subjective and corresponding to workers output to improve and boost the economy.

Ghanaian workers must therefore endeavour to change their present uncomplimentary attitude to work; and work very hard with sacrifice and dedication comparable to their counterparts in the highly advanced and powerful economies of the world like the U.S.A, China, Britain, Japan, Germany, France etc and put Ghana on a high level of economic prosperity so that they will bear the fruits of working with happiness, reminiscent of the glorious days of the 1960's when the economy experienced significant buoyancy as a result of Ghana's leading position of production of Cocoa in the world, among other major products of the country like coffee, maize, gold, bauxite, diamond, manganese, rubber etc.

Definitely, Ghanaian workers working very hard with dedication at the present time of Ghana beyond aid agenda, will contribute immensely to boost the economy of Ghana significantly and make Ghana very great and prosperous for all her citizens comparable to what prevailed during the period of ancient Ghana's splendour, opulence and wealth between the sixth and eleventh of historic time.

This perception may be considered however as a hyperbole on the part of some cynics and sceptics.



## SURGE

# Europeans defy Covid-19 to flood Zanzibar in 2020

By Guardian Reporter

EUROPEANS continued to dominate the number of tourist arrivals in Zanzibar defying the presence of the coronavirus outbreak last year.

In an annual report by Zanzibar Commission for Tourism for last year, the Europeans accounted for 76.9 percent of 48,594 arrivals for the month of December 2020. "Zanzibar received 48,594 visitors in December 2020 compared with 60,685 visitors in a corresponding month 2019 and 29,128 visitors in November 2020," ZCT said in the report.

The commission said 43,803 visitors entered the Spice Islands through Abeid Karume International Airport of which 40,197m visitors came by international flights and 3,606 by domestic flights.

"4,791 visitors came through seaport by using sea ferries. Generally, Zanzibar has received 260,644 visitors from

January-December 2020 which is a decrease of 51.6 percent compared with the corresponding months (January -December) 2019," the report added.

About 236,016 visitors entered through airport while the remaining 24,628 visitors entered through seaport. Information on the purpose of visit shows that those who came in December 2020, most visitors (98.1 percent) came for holidays, (0.3 percent) came for visiting friends and relatives and (1.6 percent) visitors came for other purpose.

Further breakdown of the ZCT report indicated that among the visitors, there were 21,946 males (45.2 percent) and 26,648 females (54.8 percent) during the month.

"Males and females increased by 58.4 percent and 74.5 percent respectively compared with the preceding month," the report stated adding that age wise, the visitors fell into three



European tourists arrive at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Zanzibar.

categories, namely; those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years and those of 65 years and above.

The report stated that 4,382 (9.0 percent) of the visitors were aged less than 15 years; 43,096 (88.7 percent) were aged 15 to 64 years and 1,116 (2.3 percent) were aged 65 years and older. The commission further elaborated that the majority (18.9 percent) of all visitors in

December stayed in the country for six days with the overall average intended length of stay for visitors being ten (9.5) nights.

"The total of 537,075 bed-spaces was available in December 2020. Out of these bed-spaces, an estimated 463,179 hotel-beds were sold during that month representing a bed occupancy rate of 86.2 percent," the ZCT report stated.

## GENEROSITY

# Bank donates 400 roofing sheets to back efforts to construct classrooms

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to support government efforts to construct more classrooms and accommodate form one students by end February this year, NMB Bank Plc has donated 400 iron sheets worth 15m/- to Urambo district of Tabora region.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa ordered all regional commissioners in the country to make sure that by February 28 all the

over 70,000 form one students who have failed to start classes should do so by March.

Speaking during a handing over to Urambo District Commissioner, Angelina Nkwingwa, NMB's Western Zone Manager, Sospeter Magese said as a good corporate citizen, the bank allocates cash annually to invest in community projects.

Magese said after hearing the Prime Minister's directive, NMB leadership

decided to support some districts and regions completed classrooms construction on schedule. "With this donation of iron sheets, I am sure that your district will meet the deadline issued by the Prime Minister," he pointed out.

In remarks, Nkwingwa thanked NMB's leadership for supporting her district's efforts to erect new classrooms and ensure that all form one entrants get in class as directed by the PM. "This donation

will go down as milestone in our efforts to construct more classrooms for our students," she said.

The Urambo DC further urged students, teachers and parents to make better use of schools facilities such as desk, tables and chairs so that they last longer. "Let's keep the school property which the government and its partners like NMB spend a lot of money to buy," Nkwingwa stated.

Meanwhile, NMB also do-



NMB Western Zone manager Sospeter Magese speaks at a past event.

nated various emergency materials to residents of Mvomero district in Morogoro Region whose houses were destroyed by floods. The bank's Eastern Zone Manager, Dismas Prosper said the 5m/- emergency materials donation was aimed at assisting the 54 families affected by floods and heavy winds.

"The donation comprises of 54 mattresses, 110 bed-sheets, 540 kilograms of rice, 110 litres of cooking oil and 160 kilograms of sugar should be distributed to the affected families," Prosper added.

In a vote of thanks, Mvomero DC, Albanus Mgonya said following the destruction, some 318 people were evacuated from the area to safer ground. "I thank the bank for coming to our rescue because these families have literally lost everything," he said while calling upon other corporate entities to assist his district.



Mineral Resources and Energy Minister, Max Tonela

## FREE-TRADE

# Mozambique pushes for Total to restart \$20bn project

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE wants Total SE to quickly restart work on its \$20 billion liquefied natural gas project, despite concerns that insecurity could lead to a prolonged delay, the nation's energy minister said.

A three-year-old Islamist insurgency in the south eastern African nation's Cabo Delgado province has intensified in recent months, with attacks occurring near Total's concession area.

The French company paused construction and began evacuating its staff this month.

Mozambique is weighing offers from several countries, including France, Portugal and the U.S., for help fighting the Islamic State-linked insurgents, whose attacks have left nearly 2,500 people dead and caused 570,000 to flee their homes. The government wants to stop any disruptions to the gas investments that it expects will transform one of the world's poorest

countries. Gas production at the project Total is leading is planned to start in 2024. "We are working with Total to resume activities," Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Max Tonela said by phone Wednesday. "There is still no indication of a change to the schedule."

**Prolonged delay**

Without a publicly announced plan on how to end the insurgency, the resumption of work could be delayed by months, according to Eurasia Group.

"The company is unlikely to succeed in securing its own armed protection at the site as President Filipe Nyusi's cabinet is likely to continue to insist on full control of all armed operations," Eurasia said in a report Tuesday. "However, operations are likely to resume once the negotiations are concluded in February or March given the company's commitment to the project."

Last week, IHS Markit said the violence could delay production by at least a year. The likeli-

hood of an effective government response in the next 12 months is low, and the insurgency will probably expand this year, IHS Markit analysts Eva Renon and Langelihle Malimela said in a note.

Total hasn't commented publicly on a possible delay and it didn't respond to a request for comment on Wednesday. The Southern African Development Community indefinitely postponed a meeting scheduled next week on ending the insurgency, Portuguese news agency Lusa reported Wednesday. The summit won't happen partly because of a surge in coronavirus cases in Mozambique, where it was to be held.

The Total-led consortium plans to profit from rising LNG demand as countries including China and India switch from burning coal. Mozambique expects to reap as much as \$96 billion in revenue over 25 years from the project and separate investments by ExxonMobil Corp. and Eni SpA.

## OPTIMISM

# South African miners can scale up vaccination, Sibanye says

JOHANNESBURG

SIBANYE Stillwater, one of South Africa's largest precious-metals producers, offered to help the government's vaccination campaign by inoculating hundreds of thousands of mineworkers and people living in communities near its operations.

The company that employs about 84,000 workers has enough capacity at its 45 health and medical facilities to vaccinate 18,000 people a day, Chief

Executive Officer Neal Froneman said in an interview Thursday. The government should use Sibanye, as well as facilities at other mining companies, for its campaign because the industry has expertise in screening for and treating tuberculosis and HIV, he said.

"We see vaccination as a major issue in re-establishing economic stability," Froneman said. "As an industry we probably have more capacity than the national health service and I think it's really important that government

takes note of that."

South Africa's mining industry, which employs more than 450,000 people, immediately prepared a range of measures last year to curb the outbreak, from checking the temperature of workers to distributing flu shots and contact-tracing. Mines have their own health facilities because of the large concentration of workers in often remote locations. Even though the government has said it will manage the campaign, mining compa-

nies are in the best position to vaccinate communities living near mines, Froneman said.

The government has been criticised by South African scientists for the slow pace of its vaccine procurement. Details about discussions with vaccine manufacturers were only released this month, and a charity had to pay the deposit for South Africa to join the Covax program. Last week, President Cyril Ramaphosa said the country will get an initial 20 million doses, with the

first batch of 1.5 million shots of the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca Plc likely to arrive this month.

The Minerals Council of South Africa, the industry lobby group for large producers, urged the government on Friday to speed up negotiations with vaccine suppliers and said it wants to support the vaccination campaign together with the country's business associations.

"We need government to focus on securing the vaccines and we will

work collectively – together with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, BUSA and B4SA and mining unions – to urgently roll out the vaccination program," Chief Executive Officer Roger Baxter said in the statement. "This is a critical national effort." Africa's most-industrialised economy has detected a more infectious strain of the virus, known as 501.V2. It has recorded almost 1.3 million cases so far and added more than 18,500 infections on Thursday.



## PRICE CUT

# Emirates in major fare slashing for local travellers

By Guardian Reporter

LOCAL travellers flying aboard Emirates Airlines will much lower fares if they buy their tickets to any destination in the world by January 25 this year.

In a statement on Friday, the Dubai based airliner said return fares in economy class start at US\$400 to Dubai, \$860 to London, \$940 to New York, \$800 to Karachi and \$1,160 to Seoul. In addition, business class passengers will only pay US\$1,749 to Dubai, \$2,199 to London, \$3,199 to New York, \$2,499 to Karachi and \$3,799 to Seoul.

“With these attractive offers, jetsetters in Tanzania can look forward to various deals to key destinations in Emirates’ global network with the special business class and economy class fares.

These limited fares are available until January 25th, 2021 and are valid

for any travel booked between January 11th, 2020 and 15th June 2021,” the statement said.

The statement further noted that Emirates customers can travel with peace of mind with the airline’s flexible booking options and multi-risk travel insurance including the coronavirus outbreak cover with every flight. “Emirates Skywards, the loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, is also making sure members get the best out of their travels with special cash plus miles rates.

Bookings made from 3 to 20 January 2021 for travel between 3 January and 15 June 2021 can enjoy a special conversion offer where 2,000 skywards miles is equivalent to US\$20 for economy class flights; and 2,000 skywards miles is equivalent to US\$40 for first and business class flights,” the statement added.

Emirates delivers outstanding value



Cabin crew inside an Emirates plane.

through industry-leading service and products across every class of travel. Customers can explore over 4,500 channels of on-demand entertainment on the airline’s award-winning inflight system, ice; as well as regionally inspired multi-course meals and

complimentary beverages in every class, the statement noted.

“All Emirates customers can travel with confidence and peace of mind with the airline industry’s first, multi-risk travel insurance and COVID-19 cover. This cover is offered by Emir-

ates on all tickets purchased on or from 1 December 2020, at no cost to customers,” the Dubai based airlines stated.

“In addition to COVID-19 medical cover, this latest offer from Emirates also has provisions for personal accidents during

travel, winter sports cover, loss of personal belongings, and trip disruptions due to unexpected air space closure, travel recommendations or advisories, similar to other multi-risk travel insurance products,” the statement pointed out.

## CYBER-SECURITY

## Lesotho, Zimbabwe invest in data analytics to combat network fraud

MASERU

THE Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) and the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (Potraz) have begun the implementation of a new system to monitor national and international telecommunications traffic.

According to a statement released to the media, the system will help to increase revenue assurance, combat network fraud and enforce billing integrity across all communication networks available in the country and shall be provided by leading regulatory technology developer and big data analytics organisation Global Voice Group (GVG).

“With these partnerships, GVG enables solid telecom metrics for tax collection purposes, fraud detection and market compliance with regulations to protect consumers and operators in Lesotho and Zimbabwe,” said James Claude, GVG CEO.

“The RegTech solution provided by GVG enhances the



Global Voice Group CEO James Claude.

oversight capabilities of the LCA and POTRAZ to the benefit of all stakeholders, including the State, the industry and all citizens. By enabling the regulators to see, in real-time, what is really going on in the telecom sector, it dramatically improves the governance of a sector that plays a major role in the socio-economic development of the two countries,” he added.

Stakeholders say the implementation is the first step towards the effective promotion of a compliant and inclusive digital and mobile ecosystem for the Kingdom. The establishment and execution of the Telecommunications Traffic Monitoring System (TTMS) in Zimbabwe is part of Potraz’s strategic agenda to adopt new technologies in the regulatory framework of the country.

“On the African continent, there has been a slow but gradual adoption of technological solutions by regulatory agencies and authorities to assist them in their oversight role. The step taken by the regulatory agencies in Lesotho and Zimbabwe is a step forward in making their oversight roles more robust and efficient,” the statement continues. Revenue leakage in the telecommunications sector is an issue that many African countries are still battling and the adoption of technology is going to aid them in rectifying the problem.

In Ghana, an illegal interconnect bypass fraud operation was dismantled in October and November 2020. This operation was estimated to be resulting in losses of about US\$2-million per month. The adoption of technological solutions will allow the regulators to identify these operations more easily.

## REGULATION

## Ethiopia imposes restrictions on electronic money transfers

ADDIS ABABA

THE National Bank of Ethiopia has imposed restrictions on the number of electronic money transfers to not more than five times from a single bank account per week. The Bank said it supports the use of non-cash payment instrument, but that ensuring safety and efficiency of the payment systems is critical.

According to a secular signed by Solomon Desta, vice governor of National Bank of Ethiopia’s financial institutions supervisions to all banks, no one is allowed to make more than five electronic money transfers per week - except account transfers made for the purpose of effecting utility payments including mobile top ups, salary payments by employer organisations and transactions effected by financial institutions from their accounts.

Desta said, “In a bid to sufficiently ascertain the purpose of such account transfers, CEOs of banks or their formal delegates shall exceptionally approve one to multiple accounts transfer above the aforementioned weekly limit on a case by case basis.”

The Bank has offered no reasons for imposing such restrictions, although media reports suggest the decision is aimed at curbing money laundering and terrorism financing in view of the fighting going on between Ethiopian government forces and rebels in Tigray region.

The new measure is the latest in a series of restrictions being imposed by the Bank in a bid to clean up and streamline the country’s money market. In May 2020 a similar directive was issued to banks limiting cash withdrawal per person per week.



**In a bid to sufficiently ascertain the purpose of such account transfers, CEOs of banks or their formal delegates shall exceptionally approve one to multiple accounts transfer above the aforementioned weekly limit on a case by case basis**

## MARGINALISATION

## Gender inequality and access to smart mobility a problem across Africa

ABIDJAN

LOW-END phones and lack of payment interoperability exclude more women than men in terms of access to finance systems, despite widespread payment technology, according to a new report Payment system design and the financial inclusion gender gap.

An excerpt from the report, sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, stated: “Women are typically underserved and have more to gain from new providers and new services that target a wider range of client segments. In Kenya, where the market is more developed, we were able to assess various interoperable services such as M-Shwari and M-Shwari locked accounts in focus groups.”

The report added: “In Côte d’Ivoire, a less developed DFS market with only rudimentary interoperability, women reported primarily moving money between networks by withdrawing and depositing cash. This cost them significantly in time and money - costs they would not face if interoperability were more prevalent in that market.” According to the research, women are

20% more likely than men to own smartphones in low- and middle-income countries.

“We recommend updating the principles to support low-end devices with a principle that states: All primary functions should be accessible to users with inexpensive basic/feature phones - typically enabled through USSD interfaces on such devices,” the report recommended. Other issues such as identification and lack of total finance in the community relegate women to the rear of financial inclusion.

In an IMF report, Hanan Morsy, the director of the macroeconomic policy and research department at the African Development Bank Group added: “One way to foster women’s demand for financial services is thus to introduce financial products aimed at meeting the needs of borrowers who traditionally use informal systems of finance—for example, loans that accept smaller and more movable assets and traditional wealth storage mediums such as livestock and gold as collateral.” Morsy encouraged African governments to get involved in designing financial systems for women as well.



A small trader uses a mobile phone to transact in Lilongwe, Malawi

## MACROECONOMICS

## Nigeria’s inflation rises to more than three-year high in December

LAGOS

ANNUAL inflation in Nigeria rose in December for the 16th straight month to a more than three-year high, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Friday, as rising food costs lifted the price index.

Inflation climbed to 15.75% in December from 14.89% the previous month. A separate food price index showed inflation at 19.56% in December, compared with 18.30% in November.

ber.

An analyst at Lagos-based consultancy Financial Derivatives said the continued rise in the general price level is driven largely by forex rationing, output and productivity constraints, and higher logistics and distribution costs.

Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country, is facing its worst economic crisis in 40 years, triggered by a coronavirus-induced crash in oil prices that has hammered state revenues,

creating large financing needs and weakening the naira. That has made imports more expensive, adding to inflationary pressure.

Finance Minister Zainab Ahmed said on Tuesday she expects inflation to decline to 11.95% by end-2021, still above the government’s single-digit target. She added that the government would work on reducing food prices and the high cost of doing business. Inflation has been in double-digits largely due to food prices.



PESSIMISM

# UK economy on the brink of a double-dip recession

LONDON

THE UK economy shrank 2.6% in November as an increase in coronavirus infections and fresh restrictions exacted a heavy toll, official figures have shown, putting the country on track for a double-dip recession. November's drop meant the economy was 8.5% smaller than it was in February 2020, having been 6.1% smaller in October.

Since November the UK government has tightened lockdown measures, meaning more pain is yet to come for the economy. Ministers are focused on rolling out coronavirus vaccines, however, which they hope will allow growth to start bouncing back in the spring.

The 2.6% contraction in November, when England was

placed into a national lockdown, followed an expansion of just 0.6% in October. Britain's all-important services sector shrank 3.4% in November, the Office for National Statistics said, while the production sector contracted just 0.1%.

It puts the UK on track for a double-dip recession - with the economy set to fall into a sustained period of contraction after returning to growth in the third quarter of 2020. The UK economy shrank at a record pace of roughly 19.8% in the second quarter of the year, before growing by around 16% in the following three months.

But economists now predict gross domestic product shrank in the final quarter of 2020, and many say it is set to contract further in the first three months of

2021. Goldman Sachs last week said the new country-wide lockdown put in place earlier this month would cause the economy to shrink 1.5% in the first quarter.

"We estimate that the economy will be around 11% below its pre-Covid level by the end of Q1," Goldman Sachs said. "The fundamental reason is that UK activity is more reliant on covid-sensitive consumer spending than any of the other large advanced economies."

Despite the immediate gloom, there is "light at the end of the tunnel," said Deutsche Bank economist Sanjay Raja in a note this week. "The vaccines roll-out should put an end to the start-stop recovery we've seen over the last year. The UK's recovery won't be smooth, however."



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"The first quarter will start to lay bare the effects of Brexit as firms adjust to the UK's new relationship with the EU. Trade frictions will lower exports." Yet he said Deutsche Bank expects a "material bounce-back in growth from Q2 onwards."

The pound edged up, cutting some losses against the dollar to trade around \$1.3668, up from a session low of \$1.3658, but still down 0.1% on the day. FTSE 100 futures fell 0.4%, pointing to a lower start later in the day in London. UK benchmark 10-year gilt yields were steady around 0.283%, just shy of this week's one-month highs.

APPRECIATION



A Yidu Tech Inc. promotional poster

## Tencent-backed Yidu Tech surges by 148pc

HONG KONG

YIDU TECH Inc., which offers artificial intelligence and big data products to the health-care industry, saw its shares jump 148% in its Hong Kong debut after a HK\$4.12 billion (\$531 million) initial public offering that met with overwhelming demand from investors. Yidu Tech shares closed at HK\$65.2, after rising as high as HK\$69.8, a massive jump from the IPO price of HK\$26.30. The company sold about 156 million shares at the top of a market range.

The opening performance is the third-best for a Hong Kong IPO raising over \$500 million, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Only e-cigarette maker Smoore International Holdings Ltd. last year - when it first listed in 2007 - have seen their shares jump by more on their first day of trading.

Yidu Tech is the latest example of a company soaring on its debut amid a frenzy of trading around IPOs, particularly in the tech space. In the U.S. technology company Affirm Holdings Inc. almost doubled on its debut on Wednesday after raising \$1.2 billion.

Yidu Tech's IPO was hugely popular with retail investors, with demand for a whopping 1,634 times the shares initially reserved for them, the third-highest retail subscription rate for a Hong Kong IPO in the last 12 months, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The positive reception shows retail buyers' appetite for IPOs remains unabated after last year, when individual investors piled into an equity rally and contributed to first-day pops by stocks.

Tech and health care emerged as particularly hot sectors, buoyed by the pandemic and the resulting stay-at-home trend. Biotech IPOs became extremely sought after in Hong Kong, with the city's legions of small-time traders crowding out institutional funds from some stock offerings.

Beijing-based Yidu had to increase the number of shares allocated to individual buyers to 78.2 million from the initial 15.6 million. Yidu Tech's IPO attracted Tencent and seven other cornerstone investors who committed to buying about \$210 million of stock. Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and China International Capital Corp. were joint sponsors for its offering.



**Yidu Tech's IPO was hugely popular with retail investors, with demand for a whopping 1,634 times the shares initially reserved for them, the third-highest retail subscription rate for a Hong Kong IPO in the last 12 months, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The positive reception shows retail buyers' appetite for IPOs remains unabated after last year, when individual investors piled into an equity rally and contributed to first-day pops by stocks**



## ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	19:30	20:00	21:00	22:15	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:30	13:55	14:00	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:05	21:30	22:14	00:05	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:30	8:00	8:55	9:00	9:30	9:55	10:00	10:30	10:55	11:00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## WORLD

## Retired doctors and more syringes: Biden lays out plan to get America vaccinated

WILMINGTON

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden on Friday said he would order increased production of syringes and other supplies to ramp up vaccinations against COVID-19 and improve upon the Trump administration rollout that he called a "dismal failure."

Under Biden's plan, federal disaster-relief workers would set up thousands of vaccination centers, where retired doctors would administer shots to teachers, grocery store workers, people over 65 years old and other groups who do not currently qualify.

The Democrat would invoke the Defense Production Act to increase production of equipment needed to distribute the vaccines, such as glass vials, needles and syringes, according to a document released by his transition team. He would also use the law to support vaccine refrigeration and storage.

Biden said his team has identified companies that are ready to be activated under the law, which enables the president to order businesses to produce items necessary for national defense.

States that use their National Guard in the effort would be reimbursed by the

federal government, the transition team said.

The coronavirus has killed more than 390,000 people in the United States, and a top Biden adviser said on Friday the death tally could reach 500,000 by February.

Biden has promised to do better than President Donald Trump to curb the virus and get 100 million vaccine shots into the arms of Americans during his first 100 days in office.

"This is a time to set big goals and pursue them with courage and conviction because the health of the nation is literally at stake," said Biden, who takes office on Wednesday.

## EXPANDING VACCINATION SITES

Speaking near his home in Wilmington, Delaware, Biden called for increasing vaccine distribution in lower-income neighborhoods not currently well served by hospitals and pharmacies. Biden also plans a marketing campaign to encourage those skeptical of the vaccine to get inoculated.

His transition team said he will reorganize the vaccine distribution team currently called "Operation Warp Speed" and has asked former Food and



US President-elect Joe Biden

Drug Administration chief David Kessler to work with manufacturers to boost vaccine availability.

Biden said his administration will release the vast majority of doses when they become available, rather than holding back a large portion to ensure that recipients can get a second dose, which had been the Trump administration's approach for much of the rollout. States will get regular updates to know how many doses are coming to ensure they can distribute them efficiently.

He said he will order the Federal Emergency Management Agency to set up 100 vaccine centers within a month, which he said would ultimately serve millions of people. Neighborhood pharmacies would also be enlisted as vaccination sites, he said.

Even with these changes, Biden said it will take time for the United States to beat back the virus. "The honest truth is this: things will get worse before they get better," he said.

Biden unveiled a \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan on Thursday that includes \$20 billion for vaccine distribution as well as \$50 billion for coronavirus testing, which experts and officials said should help speed the process

up.

The stimulus proposal faces an uphill battle in Congress, however. When Biden takes office, Democrats will control both the Senate and the House of Representatives but by narrow margins. Some Republicans have balked at its cost, while liberals have pushed for more spending on direct payments to individuals.

The Trump administration had aimed to give vaccine doses to 20 million Americans by the end of 2020. But only 12.3 million coronavirus shots had been administered as of Friday morning out of more than 31 million doses distributed to states, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Federal officials have largely left states to manage distribution, resulting in big differences in vaccination rates. The Trump administration has said it expects 1 million shots to be delivered per day by the end of next week.

A Trump administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States is on track to have 300 million doses available by the end of Biden's first 100 days in office. **Agencies**

## Quake toll at 73 as Indonesia struggles with string of disasters

JAKARTA

At least 73 people have been killed after an earthquake struck Indonesia's West Sulawesi province on Friday, the disaster mitigation agency (BNPB) said yesterday, the latest in a string of disasters to hit the Southeast Asian country.

More than 820 people were injured and over 27,800 left their homes after the 6.2 magnitude quake, BNPB spokesman Raditya Jati said. Some sought refuge in the mountains, while others went to cramped evacuation centres, witnesses said.

Police and military officers have been deployed to crack down on looting in



In this picture taken on January 16, 2021, lava is seen during an eruption of Mount Semeru in Lumajang, East Java. (AFP)

several parts of the region, Jati added.

An emergency response status, intended to help rescue efforts, has also been put in place for two weeks, he said.

Dwikorita Karnawati, the head of Indonesia's meteorological, climatology and geophysical agency (BMKG), has said that another quake in the region could potentially trigger a tsunami.

Straddling the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, Indonesia is regularly hit by earthquakes. In 2018, a devastating 6.2-magnitude quake and subsequent tsunami struck the city of Palu, in Sulawesi, killing thousands.

Just two weeks into the new year, the world's

fourth-most populous country is again battling several disasters.

Floods in North Sulawesi and South Kalimantan province each have killed at least five this month, while landslides in West Java province have killed at least 29, authorities said.

On Jan 9, a Sriwijaya Air jet crashed into the Java Sea with 62 onboard.

East Java's Semeru mountain erupted late on Saturday, but there have been no reports of casualties or evacuations.

Dwikorita said extreme weather and other "multi-dangers" of hydrometeorology are forecast in the coming weeks. **Agencies**

## India launches 'world's largest' COVID-19 vaccination drive

NEW DELHI

SANITATION worker Manish Kumar became the first person in India to be vaccinated against COVID-19 on Saturday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched one of the "world's largest" immunization campaigns to bring the pandemic under control.

Modi, who addressed healthcare workers through video conferencing, will not immediately take the vaccine himself as India is initially prioritizing nurses, doctors and others on the frontline.

"These vaccines will help India win the battle against the virus," Modi said, adding that Indians should get the shots and not pay heed to any anti-vaccine propaganda.

Modi said a total of 30 million people would be given the vaccine in the first phase of vaccination, and nearly 300 million would be reached out by the end of the second phase.

TV footage showed people applauding as vaccinees were being taken inside the vaccination centers and administered to the recipients.

The start of the campaign came on a day the country reported 15,158 new cases, bringing the cumulative caseload to 10,542,841, according to the latest data from the federal health ministry.

According to the data, the death toll rose to 152,093 after 175 additional fatalities were logged. There were still 211,033 active cases in the country.

As many as 295 new cases and 10 deaths were registered in the national capital Delhi through on Friday.

On the first day of inoculations, around 100 people will be voluntarily vaccinated in each of the 3,006 centers in the country, the government said this week, calling it the start of the biggest such campaign in the world.

"This will be the world's largest vaccination programme covering the entire length and breadth of the country," Modi's office said in a statement this week.

First to get the vaccine will be health and other frontline workers, such as those in sanitation and security, followed by people older than 50 or deemed high-risk because of pre-existing medical conditions. **Agencies**



medical worker inoculates a colleague with a COVID-19 vaccine at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in New Delhi, India, on Saturday. (AFP)

## France wants suspension of 'poisonous' US-EU trade spat

PARIS

THE European Union and the incoming administration of US President-elect Joe Biden should suspend a trade dispute to give themselves time to find common ground, France's foreign minister said in remarks published yesterday.

"The issue that's poisoning everyone is that of the price escalation and taxes on steel, digital technology, Airbus and more particularly our wine sector," Jean-Yves Le Drian told Le Journal du Dimanche in an interview.

He said he hoped the sides could find a way to settle the dispute. "It may take time, but in the meantime, we can always order a moratorium," he added.

At the end of December the United States moved to boost tariffs on French and German aircraft parts, wines and other spirits in the Boeing-Airbus subsidy dispute, but the bloc decided to hold off on retaliation for now.

The EU is planning to present a World Trade Organization reform proposal in February and is willing to consider reforms to restrain the judicial authority of the WTO's dispute-settlement body.

The United States has for years complained that the WTO Appellate Body makes unjustified new trade rules in its decisions and has blocked the appointment of new judges to stop this, rendering the body inoperable.

The Trump administration, which leaves office on Wednesday, had threatened to impose tariffs on French cosmetics, handbags and other goods in retaliation for France's digital services tax, which it said discriminated against US tech firms. **Agencies**

## Libyan talks in Geneva reach agreement on selection mechanism for temporary executive authority

GENEVA

A senior UN official announced here Saturday that the Libyan delegations reached an agreement on a recommended selection mechanism for a new temporary executive authority.

Stephanie Turco Williams, Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), told a press conference that the selection mechanism will

be provided for voting next Monday.

The 18 members of the newly established Libyan Political Dialogue Forum's Advisory Committee met here at UN's Geneva headquarters from Jan. 13-16, in an effort to overcome the deadlock on the mechanism for the selection of the country's temporary executive authority.

"I believe this decision reached today is the best

possible compromise, as this proposal respects the regional dimension, and it indeed encourages people to work across the divide and across regions, in order to strengthen understanding and to build unity in the country," Williams said at Saturday's press conference.

She told reporters that on Jan. 18, UNSMIL will call upon the Libyan Political Dialogue members to vote on the proposed mechanism. The vote

will be conducted over a 24-hour period, and the result will be announced on Jan. 19.

The UN official also stressed that after the forming of the temporary executive authority, general elections will be held in the country on Dec. 24 this year, and the executive authority will be replaced by a permanent, democratically elected government.

Libya's eastern-based army and its UN-backed government fought for more than a year in

and around the capital Tripoli before the conflicts ended last June. On Oct. 23, 2020, Libyan delegations in Geneva signed a UN-sponsored permanent ceasefire agreement.

At a meeting held last November in Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, 75 representatives of the social and political spectrum of the Libyan society agreed to hold general elections in the country on Dec. 24, 2021. **Xinhua**

## Museums thrive in China, gaining an increasing number of visitors

CHINA was among the fastest growing countries when it comes to the museum industry over the past five years, during which a museum sprouted there every other day.

As of the last year, the number of museums registered in the country reached 5,535, up 18 percent from 2015, marking the completion of a public cultural service system that is equitable and beneficial for all. Around 89.1 percent of the museums open to public for free, up from 85.5 percent.

More museums are reaching the grassroots level. Seventy-six percent of China's county-level cities and districts have built museums, and

the museums' facilities were on constant improvement.

Fourth-grader Chen Wentao from Wuzhong district, Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu province, recently learnt quite a lot of history and stories of the eminent figures in an educational activity held in Wuzhong Museum.

The two-hour event was attended by nearly 300 primary students, who experienced the charm of the traditional culture of the Wu State (about 1100-473 B.C.) in eastern China through a series of interactive activities, such as treasure hunting, commemorative coins making, jigsaw puzzle and relevant classes. Aiming to build itself into a high-

standard and distinctive cultural complex, the Wuzhong Museum opened the last June. It has launched thematic educational activities, courses on traditional handicraft, and academic lectures, so as to offer splendid cultural experiences for citizens.

Wen Qing from north China's Hebei province loves to visit historical and cultural sites, as well as museums. He told the People's Daily that many high-standard museums sprang up in China in recent years.

"I have visited the Shanxi Bronze Museum in Shanxi province and Erlitou Relic Museum in Henan province in north China, and both of

them are pretty good. There are also museums in Dingzhou and Zhengding county in my hometown Hebei," he said.

The man has visited the Shanxi Bronze Museum four times since it opened in July 2019. Apart from the large size of fine collections and outstanding exhibition environment, the high-quality special exhibitions are also a highlight of the museum that Wen finds particular appealing.

In September 2020, Wen joined an exhibition of bronzeware unearthed from the tombs of the marquises in the ancient Zeng State in central China's Hubei province held in the Shanxi Bronze Museum. "The Zeng

State and Shanxi's Jin State (1033-376 B.C.) were both vassal states in the early Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 B.C.). When treasures of the two states were exhibited together, I must be there," Wen said.

Universities have also been playing an increasingly important role in China's museum construction over the recent years. Many of the newly established museums are on campus. Some of them rose to fame on the internet once they opened to public, and the big names include the Tsinghua University Art Museum in Beijing and the Zhejiang University Museum of Art and Archaeology. The Tsinghua University Art Mu-

seum has held 67 exhibitions, 24 of which were designed to promote international cultural exchanges, since its opening in September 2016. It is launching attractive and important exhibitions every year.

"As an art platform that is open to students and the faculty of Tsinghua University, as well as the whole society, the Tsinghua University Art Museum has carried out a lot of public educational activities that had academic and artistic value and were also enlightening, such as academic lectures, workshops, and interactive activities," said Du Pengfei, executive deputy curator of the museum. **People's Daily**



## Brazilian healthcare watchdog declines request for emergency use of Sputnik V vaccine

RIO DE JANEIRO

THE Brazil National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) declined the request to approve the Russian-made Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use in Brazil.

According to the watchdog, the request does not comply with the minimal criteria for this task.

"The request was returned to Uniao Quimica, because it does not comply with the minimal criteria - in particular, due to lack of permission for third phase of clinical trials, as well as in regards to issue dealing with the advanced production methods," the watchdog says on its website.

In late December, Uniao Quimica, a partner of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, contacted Anvisa, requesting permission to conduct the third stage of clinical trials for the Sputnik V vaccine in Brazil.

At the moment, the watchdog said that, considering previous experience of reviewing such applications, the decision could have been provided within 72 hours. However, later, the agency requested additional information on the vaccine.

On Friday, Uniao Quimica and the Russian Fund filed a request for emergency use of 10 million doses of the Sputnik V in Brazil.

"Uniao Quimica believes that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic escalation in Brazil and the rest of the world, the state and the business must take all efforts to fight it, including by taking measures of emergency and exceptional nature, justified by the urgent need and the importance of the current moment," the company said at the time.

In early January, Uniao Quimica received cellular material for production of the vaccine. **Agencies**

## China's Belt and Road to link Africa with global markets amid COVID-19, says expert

NAIROBI

THE China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is expected to help Africa connect with global markets during the COVID-19 pandemic, thus creating jobs and promoting growth, said a Kenyan expert.

Edward Kusewa, an economics lecturer at the Nairobi-based St. Paul University, told Xinhua in an interview on Wednesday that the BRI will spur economic growth by improving trade efficiencies between African nations.

"The digitization proposed by the BRI could have a transformative effect because partner nations will benefit from the world-class innovations developed by China," Kusewa said.

He noted that the BRI can help Africa achieve its goal of becoming seamlessly interconnected.

"Africa's fragmented markets require infrastructure to promote movement of goods and people across its borders," said Kusewa. "Through the digital economy, Africa will leverage e-commerce to ensure goods can reach international markets."

He said that the digital Silk Road will positively alter the digital ecosystem of the continent by providing a foundation for the growth of smart cities and the rapid adoption of modern technologies such as financial technologies.

Proposed by China in 2013 to promote common growth and gain shared benefits, the BRI involves infrastructure development, trade and investment facilitation and people-to-people exchanges aimed at improving connectivity on a trans-continental scale.

Kusewa said that support for global connectivity through developing hard and soft infrastructure has not only boosted economic growth in Africa, but also helped connect countries with the rest of the world.

The African continent began trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area on Jan. 1 with 54 nations signing the trade pact, creating the world's largest trade bloc with approximately 1.3 billion people.

Kusewa said the trading bloc is expected to boost intra-Africa trade, drive the continent's economic recovery, and help African nations diversify their markets.

"It will help Africa's post-COVID-19 recovery by enabling nations to take advantage of nearby markets," he noted. The scholar also noted that multilateralism will ensure that Africa has access to critical raw materials that can spur industrial development on the continent and lucrative international markets for its commodities. **Xinhua**

## Russia resumes flights to Vietnam, India, Finland, Qatar on January 27

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will resume flights to Vietnam, India, Finland and Qatar on January 27, 2021, with several flights per week, the Russian anti-coronavirus crisis center told reporters on Saturday.

"After discussing and taking into consideration the epidemiological situation in certain countries, the crisis center took a decision to resume reciprocal international air communication starting on January 27, 2021 with the following states, namely Vietnam (Moscow-Hanoi, twice a week), India (Moscow-New Delhi, twice a week), Finland (Moscow-Helsinki, twice a week, as well as St. Petersburg-Helsinki, twice a week) and Qatar (Moscow-Doha, twice a week)," the center said.

It was reported that the decision was made based on announced criteria, which are 40 new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 of the population within 14 days, not more than 1% of a single-day rise of new cases within 14 days and the R number of coronavirus at below 1 within seven days, and on the basis of reciprocity principles.

Apart from that, the anti-coronavirus crisis center decided to increase the number of Moscow-Cairo regular flights to five per week.

"It was decided to increase the number of regular flights to Egypt on the Moscow-Cairo route to five a week," the statement says.

# US interference, sanctions will in no way hold back restoration of Hong Kong stability, China's development - commissioner's office

HONG KONG

THE spokesperson of the Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Saturday condemned the latest so-called "sanctions" announced by the United States on six officials of the central and the HKSAR governments, expressing strong indignation and firm opposition.

The spokesperson for the office said that it is an international norm to enact and implement laws to punish crimes endangering national security.

The Chinese government enacted the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR in strict accordance with the Constitution, the Legislation Law, and the HKSAR Basic Law, providing a solid guarantee for the enduring success of "one country, two systems."

The legitimate rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong residents are fully protected under the national security law in Hong Kong.

Some in the United States, however, keep meddling with and vilifying China's just efforts to prohibit acts endangering national security on its own territory through legislation, although the United States itself has a rigorous legal system to uphold national security at home, which is yet another stark example of U.S. double standards.

The spokesperson emphasized that China is a country under the rule of law and Hong Kong is a law-based society, where nobody has the right and freedom above the law to jeopardize national security.

The people who plotted and organized the so-called "primary election" in a flagrant attempt to undermine a fair and just election for the HKSAR's Legislative Council and paralyze the HKSAR government are suspected of violating the national security law in Hong



Photo taken on July 14, 2020 shows the Golden Bauhinia Square in south China's Hong Kong. (Xinhua)

Kong.

It is an indisputable fact that officials of the central and HKSAR governments have been fulfilling their legal duties so as to staunchly uphold the rule of law and protect the overall interests and fundamental wellbeing of Hong Kong residents.

The spokesperson said that while Hong Kong residents are heartened to see Hong Kong regaining stability and

"one country, two systems" returning to the right track since the implementation of the national security law in Hong Kong, some American politicians have nevertheless resorted to the old playbook of demonizing the law, smearing the HKSAR authorities' law enforcement actions, and slapping sanctions on Chinese officials.

These American politicians have arbitrarily trampled upon Hong Kong's rule

of law and high degree of autonomy, challenged the efforts by the Chinese government and people to defend legitimate national interests, and breached international law and basic norms governing international relations, only to lay bare their ulterior motive to sow more trouble in Hong Kong and its motherland at large.

The spokesperson reiterated that Hong Kong is part of China and its affairs are China's internal affairs.

Any interference or sanction will only further unite the Chinese people, including Hong Kong compatriots, and be firmly hit back.

No such external attempt will ever weaken China's commitment to safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests and Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, still less hold back the restoration of stability in Hong Kong or the trend of China's development. **Xinhua**

## Iran warns Washington to stop 'illegal actions' against diplomats

TEHRAN

IRAN has warned the United States to stop "illegal actions" taken against its diplomats on US soil, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh declared on Saturday.

The warning came France's foreign minister was quoted as saying that Iran is in the process of building up its nuclear weapons capacity and it is urgent that Tehran and Washington return to a 2015 nuclear agreement.

"Iran has officially warned the US that it will sue it before the International Court of Justice if it does not stop its illegal actions against Iranian diplomats in international organizations," Khatibzadeh said, as quoted by news agency IRNA.

The spokesman noted an official warning has been delivered to US authorities through the Foreign Interests Section of the Swiss embassy in Tehran.

Washington should refrain from taking "illegal action" against Iranian For a long time, he carried on, the US government has been creating "illegal constraints" for Iranian diplomats and their families, disrupting their work and that of other countries.

Despite its commitment as host to several international organizations, Khatibzadeh went on to say, Washington has "never been a proper host," and has consistently harassed diplomats, their families, and children coming from countries it has problems with.

Khatibzadeh also commented on the rumors on the possibility of releasing a vessel of Republic of Korea



In this July 10, 2019 photo, the Iranian flag waves outside of the UN building that hosts the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, office inside in Vienna, Austria. (AP)

(ROK) recently seized by Iran in the Gulf, saying the statements by people not related to the issue lack any basis.

Khatibzadeh made the remarks in response to a question by some reporters about the rumors of possible release of the ROK ship, as reported by official news agency IRNA.

He stressed that decisions made by the Iran judiciary which is in charge of the issue, are announced only by its spokesman so the statements by people not related to the issue lack any basis, adding that the ROK ship was seized for polluting the Gulf waters upon an Iranian judiciary order.

Also on Saturday, the Iranian President's Chief of Staff Mahmoud Vaezi slammed the latest sanctions imposed by Washington against Iran as a mere "show" and a sign of the "evil nature" of the outgoing US President Donald Trump's administration.

"The recent US sanctions, while noth-

ing more than a show, are another sign of the evil [nature] of Trump's criminal administration - a bankrupt government that even in its final days cannot put aside its hostility towards Iranians," Vaezi wrote on social media, as quoted by Iran's Press TV.

Vaezi wrote on his note that it is "surprising" that, despite their "deep brazen enmity," US officials "still claim that they stand by the Iranian people."

Iran has been accelerating its breaches of the nuclear deal and earlier this month started pressing ahead with plans to enrich uranium to 20 percent fissile strength at its underground Fordow nuclear plant. That is the level Tehran achieved before striking the deal with world powers to contain its disputed nuclear ambitions.

The Islamic Republic's breaches of the nuclear agreement since Trump withdrew the United States from it in 2018 and subsequently imposed sanctions on Tehran may complicate efforts by Presi-

dent-elect Joe Biden, who takes office on Jan 20, to rejoin the pact.

"The Trump administration chose what it called the maximum pressure campaign on Iran. The result was that this strategy only increased the risk and the threat," French Foreign Minister Jean Yves Le Drian told the Journal du Dimanche newspaper on Saturday.

"This has to stop because Iran and - I say this clearly - is in the process of acquiring nuclear (weapons) capacity."

The agreement's main aim was to extend the time Iran would need to produce enough fissile material for a nuclear bomb, if it so chose, to at least a year from roughly two to three months. It also lifted international sanctions against Tehran.

Western diplomats have said Iran's repeated breaches have already reduced the "breakout time" to well below a year.

Iran denies any intent to weaponize its nuclear program.

With presidential elections in Iran due in June, Le Drian said it was urgent to "tell the Iranians that this is enough" and to bring Iran and the United States back into the accord.

Biden has said he will return the United States to the deal if Iran resumes strict compliance with it. Iran says sanctions must be lifted before it reverses its nuclear breaches.

However, Le Drian said that even if both sides were to return to the deal, it would not be enough.

"Tough discussions will be needed over ballistic proliferation and Iran's destabilization of its neighbors in the region," Le Drian said. **Xinhua**

## Village in NE China marches to prosperity by developing characteristic industries and tapping into local customs and culture

BY taking full advantage of local culture and customs and boosting the development of characteristic industries, Xinghuo village, Xinghuo township of the Korean ethnic group, northeast China's Heilongjiang province has shaken off poverty and embarked on the path to prosperity.

In recent years, Xinghuo township has implemented a series of favorable policies to boost the development of poverty-relief projects, including photovoltaic electricity projects, fruit and vegetable planting bases, and rice cultivation cooperatives, said Nan Nan, secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Xinghuo township committee.

Thanks to these "money trees", Xinghuo village bid farewell to poverty and witnessed significant progress in industrial development last year.

To consolidate its poverty alleviation results and further improve the living standards of local people, the village has not only strived to underpin existing industries, but explored new ones to increase the income of

residents.

Promoting the development of tourism industry by making the most of traditional crafts is Xinghuo village's new way to increase income after getting rid of poverty, Nan said.

"The elderly in the village are all experts at making pickles, sauce and rice wine. The folk customs and culture of the village of the Korean ethnic group are our tourism resources," the official explained.

In July 2019, the village officially launched a project to develop a distinctive tourist attraction featuring folk customs with an investment of 70 million yuan (about \$10.73 million).

The investor of the project is a cooperative which local villagers joined with about 4.8 square kilometers of paddy fields.

The tourist attraction project includes various facilities, including a museum of the village's history, a reception and service center, traditional Korean-style restaurant, homestay hotel, leisure square, picking garden, and theater. It has gathered almost all the

popular facilities and services visitors could wish for in rural tourism trips. In addition, visitors can also enjoy recreational and healthcare facilities and services in the tourist attraction.

In an ethnic culture-themed square decorated with folk paintings, villagers in the traditional costumes of the Korean ethnic group were seen performing a drum dance for tourists to music. Seeing this, many tourists also put on traditional Korean clothing and danced together with them joyfully.

"I could earn dozens of yuan to over 100 yuan for one dance," said Li Taiyu, one of the performers, who is excited her passion for dancing could become a source of income.

After the folk custom tourist attraction project is fully completed, it is expected to secure an annual sales income of 40 million yuan, create 180 jobs and increase the income of each poor household by over 10,000 yuan in cash dividends, according to Li Tiecheng, head of the poverty alleviation working team stationed in the village, adding that villagers will receive

the dividends of both the cooperative and the project.

In July this year, the tourist attraction opened to the public. Until now, it has received over 20,000 visitors.

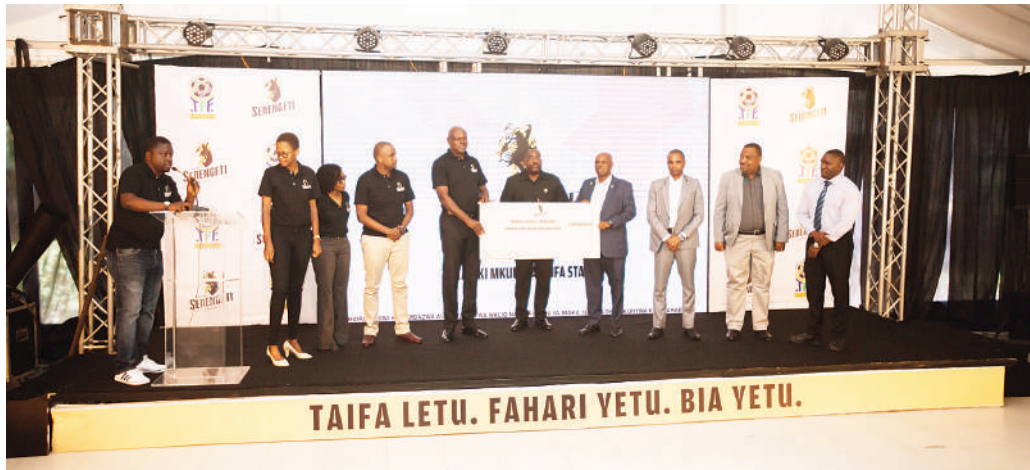
This year, the per capita income of residents in Xinghuo village reached 14,560 yuan. "My income rises by about 1,000 yuan every year," said Li Taiyu, who has already moved into a new house with a sound heating system, which belongs to the buildings jointly funded and built by the villagers.

"In summer next year, there will be a sea of flowers that covers an area of 80,000 square meters in the west of our village, and a water park in the north," Li added, introducing the tourism projects in the village to reporters warmly.

Xinghuo village's prosperity has mirrored the efforts of Huachuan county to bring the development of poverty relief industries to a higher level, noted Gao Zhongliang, director of the poverty alleviation office of the county. **People's Daily**



# SPORT



Serengeti Breweries Limited Managing Director, Mark Ocitti (L), Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Hassan Abbas (C), and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia display dummy cheque during the contract signing between the two parties in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Dar company's commitment in supporting sports sector in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

UNLIKE in the past, sports today are more than just physical activities.

This has come about because the sports sector has, with time, morphed into an industry, and with it a roaring market that involves equipment and clothing, infrastructure, event organization and endorsements, among others.

Sports are a huge boost to both the developed and developing nations.

The sector plays a pivotal role in contributing to economic growth, improving health, hence happiness and providing employment to thousands of youth and more people across the entire value chain.

Sports also act as a unifier because when people support the same team, they instantly become close and friendly even if they do not know one another.

Through sports, people are able to interact, enjoy and sometimes forge lasting relationships.

There are therefore, myriads of reasons as to why the sector should be supported due to its multi-dimensional space it creates for a country's social and economic development.

In Tanzania, the sports sector has grown and continues to grow exponentially, thanks to the government's and other stakeholder's efforts to prop it up.

Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) through its Serengeti Trademark stands out as one of the most visible private sector players that have immensely supported local sports, always chipping in to boost different types of sports whenever it is requested to do so.

Granted, whether it is in foot-ball, athletics, golf, Serengeti Trademark has been visibly present-a testimony to the fact that when called upon to give a helping hand, the country's second beer brewer responds without discrimination.

And as in the Greek mythology, most of SBL's sponsorships usually turn out to be Midas touch, as evidenced in football where the beer-maker has consistently provided support, with excellent results.

Taifa Stars, Tanzania's senior national football team, achieved an almost impossible feat in 2019 when it qualified,

after a 38-year lull, for the prestigious African Cup of Nations (AFCON)-an achievement that the national soccer governing body, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and other soccer pundits, attributed largely to SBL's sponsorship.

Prior to the qualification, Serengeti Premium Lager, SBL's flagship beer brand, had bankrolled the hitherto cash-strapped national soccer custodian with 2.1bn/-, becoming Taifa's Stars' main sponsor and effectively enabling TFF and indeed the national team to meet their financial obligations.

Suffice to say, due to the team's sterling performance, Serengeti Premium Lager once again renewed the national team's sponsorship, this time raising the kitty to a whopping 3bn/-.

"We believe that by supporting Taifa Stars, we are contributing to not only the growth of the sports sector but also in reinvigorating local football, a game that Tanzania and the world in general hold so dear," SBL's Managing Director, Mark Ocitti disclosed during the sponsorship renewal event.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, replied: "The renewal of this sponsorship is a clear testimony to the confidence that Serengeti Premium Lager has on TFF leadership; we promise that we will not let SBL down. Rather, we will endeavour to ensure that the money is spent prudently in order to catapult Taifa Stars' to even higher altitudes of soccer excellence".

In a similar sponsorship, one of SBL's most loved brands, Serengeti Premium Lite, accepted to jumpstart the otherwise hitherto 'sleepy' Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League (WPL).

The firm, once again, play a trail-blazers role by funding a league that had previously never tasted a sponsor in its history of existence.

To this end, Serengeti Premium Lite pumped 450m/- into the Serengeti Lite Mainland Women's Premier League in 2018, effectively revitalizing the drowsy league and for its efforts, the brand enjoyed the credit of being the first sponsor of the league, ever.

It is true that the gamble has paid off because since then, a new-found excitement among female soccer clubs is evident, giving rise to 'Malkias' (Queens) clubs across the country such as the league's former champions Mlandizi Queens and JKT Queens.

Other prominent participants are Alliance Queens, Simba Queens, Yanga Princesses and many others.

## The Dar derby as a psychological contest, balancing team strength gaps



Simba SC midfielder, Larry Bwalya (C), attempts to get the better of Yanga players, Farid Mussa (L) and Bakari Mwanmyeto, when the sides met in a Vodacom Premier League tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

FINISHING at goalless draw and then sorting out the 2021 Mapinduzi Cup tournament's contest by a series of spot kicks was a fitting result for 'keeping the peace' in the ranks of the city giants rather than a technically logical result on the basis of how the two sides stood at the start of an epic rematch.

Rapidly, it definitely was Yanga that should have won the tie because they had most of their first team players while Simba SC was depleted of its regular starting lineup, but it held its fort on account of a stronger reflex at the psychological level, the intent to win or hold their ground. Their opponents would be assured, relaxed.

The reason for that arithmetical probability is that when the teams last met, when they all had their first team lineup in place, the score was another draw, in which case the team that had much fewer of their players on the ground would have been weakened.

On the contrary, this situation merely touched off another swing of the psychological pendulum, where it was the Msimbazi Street outfit who had to play at their best to hold a well positioned Jangwani Street side's lineup, the latter having most of their regular players in place, and the former having to do with substitutes. Physical advantage is cancelled by a mental push.

Otherwise the match was a gift to Yanga for having collected one silver ware at least, despite that at a wider level it changes nothing for it is not a ticket for continental competition, meanwhile as regional competition is in

some sort of doldrums.

The fellow taking the place of former CECAFA Secretary General Nicholas Musonye does not appear to have the same organizing ability, and it is unclear if this is a learning period or simply a new era, or the close of an era.

It will be a learning period if ability to bring about tourneys is facilitated by the office itself, not if it requires personal charisma to get things going.

If the latter situation proves to be the case, CECAFA becomes another organization that goes into relative decline once it loses its top historical official, and the response to that is the former top official to form a company that puts up competitions commercially.

That would enable him to revive the Kagame Cup by using his good offices, and even help to improve Mapinduzi Cup to an alternative regional tournament of a significant level of prestige. That however does not suggest that he was closely involved with the tourney in the first place as that requires data, but significantly, regional club sides were absent this time round.

It is hence plausible to suggest that if Mapinduzi Cup was still a powerful regional tournament with top participating clubs as it was earlier, and built in the image of Kagame Cup but more relaxed in its rules of qualification, Yanga's silverware would make a substantial psychological difference.

It would not in that sense actually restore the tag of an international competing side until it is lined up for one of the CAF tourneys, but it would uplift spirits more. As it was, this was merely an airlifted Dar es Salaam derby that had little resonance with a wider

competition, arising from the absence of any other top club sides regionally.

One minor danger that lurks in the background in the aftermath of the derby and its result is that Yanga might pick up incorrect self-confidence that they are virtually in every respect the same as Simba, as it was first a second consecutive drawn match, apart from winning post-match spot kicks.

Jangwani Street team's fans and even the technical bench and the mobilization group are likely to put behind them the fact that the Msimbazi Street side was a depleted one, and technically played better than Yanga to hold the side to a goalless draw.

The spot kicks have a different sort of logic, of individual blessings to reach an outcome, for instance when a player like Meddie Kagere misses a penalty.

The reason is that he can carry the blame as the fans will notice that it is one of those things, whereas a lesser player would be insulted and pained.

On account of Yanga failing to read the right lessons from the draw with Simba, and believing that it was a match result like any other, it is likely that the match will not have a visible impetus on the necessity of harder work in team building, apart from the club's constant preoccupation with registering new players.

There is an air of satisfaction that permeates the fans and officialdom, though the head coach might to that extent realize that he did not play the full Simba side and still did not win, but it will be a digressing sort of wisdom that doesn't have much place in club folklore for the moment. As they say, let sleeping dogs lie.

## Players in lockdown after positive virus cases in Australia

By JOHN PYE

GRAND Slam champions are among the 47 players in hard lockdown after four positive tests for COVID-19 emerged from two of the charter flights bringing players, staff, officials and media to Australia for the first tennis major of the season.

Some players were angry at being classified as close contacts merely for being on board those flights with people who later tested positive and, therefore, forced into a harsher quarantine than the broader group of players who'll be allowed out of their rooms to practice for up to five hours per day.

But local health authorities have said all players were warned of the risks in advance. And any players considering bending the rules have been warned. Breach quarantine regulations and there's the prospect of heavy fines or being moved to a more secure quarantine complex with police stationed at their doors.

Three cases were announced Saturday and Victoria state's COVID-19 quarantine commissioner Emma Cassar told a news conference on Sunday that there'd been a fourth positive test involving a person flying in for the Australian Open. So far, none has involved a player.

Three cases emerged from the flight from Los Angeles to Melbourne, officials said, including a member of the air crew, a coach and the latest being a member of the TV broadcasting team. The other case was a coach who took the charter flight from Abu Dhabi to Melbourne.

All four had tested negative before boarding their flights to Australia. All four have now been transferred to a health hotel.

Sylvain Bruneau, who coaches 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu, posted on social media to say he was on the flight from Abu Dhabi and had test positive.

Two-time Open champion

Victoria Azarenka and the 2014 U.S. Open runner-up Kei Nishikori were reported to be on the flight from Los Angeles. All passengers from both of those flights are in hard lockdown.

Cassar, who is also in charge of the state's prisons, said there'd been cases of people "testing" the quarantine procedures, triggering a warning and a conversation with the state's police, but no attempts to escape quarantine.

"There'll be zero tolerance for that behavior," Cassar said. "This is designed to make people safe. We make no apologies for that."

Several players in quarantine, including Sorana Cirstea of Romania, Belinda Bencic of Switzerland and Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan complained in social media posts that the rules seemed to have changed between what they saw before traveling to Australia and what was being imposed in Melbourne.

Cirstea posted on Twitter: "If they would have told us this rule before I would not play Australia... I would have stayed home. They told us we would fly at 20% capacity, in sections and we would be a close contact ONLY if my team or cohort tests positive."

But government officials have rejected those claims.

"There's no other way you can consider this. If you're on a plane 16-24 hours, with air that circulates throughout the plane, you are a close contact," Cassar said. "This was made very clear and nothing has changed."

Tennis Australia confirmed there were 24 players on the flight from Los Angeles and 23 on the flight from Abu Dhabi. Those were among 17 charter flights from seven international destinations bringing up to 1,200 players, coaches, staff and officials into Australia for the tournament.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley told Australia's Nine

Network that organizers and players were forewarned there'd be a "significant risk" of restrictions being imposed on players if there were positive COVID-19 cases.

"We did make it very clear in the beginning," Tiley said. "Now we have to manage an environment over the next 14 days for those who won't be able to practice."

"It's a tough situation. We've got to do whatever we can to make it as fair as possible for those players that are in lockdown."

British player Heather Watson said on Twitter that she and others who arrived from Abu Dhabi "are NOT allowed out (of) our rooms." She posted the notification that she and others who were on the flight received informing them of the quarantine.

"We are aware of the major impact this has on your preparation for the Australian summer," the notification said, pledging "to do everything we

can to mitigate this impact."

Being unable to leave their room would mean the only workouts they'd be able to have would be on an exercise equipment left in the rooms of all of the players.

Other players will be allowed to train under strict conditions and with supervision for up to five hours a day, although those practice sessions in Melbourne had been delayed while health authorities waited to receive all the coronavirus tests.

Five-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray and American Madison Keys haven't traveled to Australia after testing positive in mandatory pre-flight checks.

Tiley said there were no plans to delay the Australian Open any further - it's already starting three weeks later than usual - although organizers were reviewing the schedule for the warmup tournaments starting Feb. 1 to find ways to make it easier for those players in strict quarantine to prepare.

Tickets are on sale for the

tournament, although the crowd capacity at Melbourne Park will be limited.

Australia's international borders are basically closed to travelers, although there are exemptions in special circumstances.

Each of Australia's states and territories has its own border and quarantine rules, and those can change on very short notice.

Victoria state, which has as its capital Melbourne, accounted for 810 of Australia's 909 deaths from COVID-19, most of those during a deadly second wave three months ago which resulted in curfews and lockdowns for the city.

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams are among a group of players involved in an exhibition event in Adelaide, South Australia state, on Jan. 29. Those players flew straight to Adelaide to begin their hotel quarantine period. So far, there's been no COVID-19 cases reported from the quarantine in Adelaide.



## Brilliant Banga gives hosts Cameroon victory in CHAN opener

YAOUNDE

SALOMON Banga temporarily abandoned his defensive duties to score a superb goal and give hosts Cameroon a 1-0 victory over Zimbabwe Saturday in the African Nations Championship (CHAN) opener.

The dominant home team were struggling to penetrate resolute opponents in Yaounde when they were awarded a free-kick close to the touchline about 30 metres from the Zimbabwe goal.

As the set-piece was floated into the six-yard box, goalkeeper Ariel Sibanda failed to grasp the ball and it broke loose to Banga who, with his back to the goal, scored via a spectacular bicycle kick.

Banga was an unlikely 72nd-minute match-winner as he lined up as a centre-back in a 4-2-3-1 formation in front of a socially distanced crowd that included FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

While Zimbabwe rarely threatened to score in a physical Group A clash, Cameroon showed neat touches when building attacks at the Stade Ahmadou Ahidjo only to be let down by wild shooting.

Once ahead, the hosts felt sufficiently confident in their ability to retain the lead that they took off captain and vastly experienced attacker Jacques Zoua.

After launching his professional career with Coton Sport in north-western Cameroon city Garoua, he played in Switzerland, Germany,

Turkey, France, Belgium and Romania before returning to central Africa.

In the other Group A match, a looping header on 70 minutes from Siaka Bagayoko after a corner gave Mali a 1-0 win over Burkina Faso.

The two matches marked the start of the first football tournament in Africa since the coronavirus pandemic wreaked havoc from early last year.

Original hosts Ethiopia fell behind with preparations so the championship restricted to footballers playing in their country of birth was switched to Cameroon, then postponed twice as Covid-19 spread.

Cameroon officials said attendances would be restricted to 25 per cent of the stadium capacity during the 12-day group phase, but may increase for the knockout phase.

Apart from Yaounde, matches will be staged at two venues in the commercial capital, Douala, and one in nearby Limbe.

On Sunday in Group B, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the only country to win the Nations Championship twice, were to tackle neighbours Congo Brazzaville, much the smaller of the two countries in size and population.

The Leopards of DR Congo and the Red Devils of Congo have met six times in CHAN qualifying, with two wins each and two draws, but never at the finals.

AFP

## Deschamps says he cannot forget dropped Benzema's accusations

PARIS

FRANCE coach Didier Deschamps said he will "never forget" Karim Benzema's accusation that the decision to omit the striker from the Euro 2016 squad was giving in to "a racist part of France".

Deschamps told a French radio station on Saturday that the episode had left a painful "stain".

Benzema, 33, made 81 international appearances but has not been selected for his country since 2015 when his alleged involvement in a blackmail attempt linked to a sex tape featuring his former France teammate Mathieu Valbuena came to light.

French prosecutors said earlier this month that Benzema is to face trial as an accomplice.

Benzema told Spanish media that "Deschamps gave in under pressure from a racist section of France" in June 2016, two days before the coach's Breton residence was vandalised with graffiti calling him "racist".

"It's a stain," Deschamps said on Saturday in an interview on RTL.

"Even if with time it calms down a bit, I can't forget. It's not just about Karim Benzema. There are statements by other people too that have led to this violent act,

which affects my family."

Hosts France reached the final of Euro 2016, losing to Portugal, but Deschamps led Les Bleus to victory in the 2018 World Cup.

He said on Saturday that he accepts all criticism of his "selections as coach" but "that's crossing the white line here. It affects my name, my family. For me, it's unacceptable," Deschamps said.

"Making certain statements inevitably leads to verbal or physical aggression. I suffer the consequences. You can't forget. I can't forget. I will never forget," he said.

On the eve of the Euros, Eric Cantona, who played for France alongside Deschamps, told British newspaper the Guardian that Benzema and Hatem Ben Arfa were not selected because of their "north African origins".

Deschamps sued for defamation in France. A Paris court in December threw out the suit because of the way the complaint was drafted.

The coach's lawyer said that Deschamps has appealed.

Benzema and four other men will stand trial in the blackmail case at a date yet to be decided.

The Real Madrid striker described the trial as a "farce" in an Instagram post.

AFP

## Ferguson gives Rooney management warning

LONDON

FORMER Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has said Wayne Rooney's knowledge of the game and presence will serve him well in his role as Derby County's new boss, but cautioned him that management is a results business.

Former England and United striker Rooney called time on his illustrious playing career and was named manager of Championship side Derby on Friday, having been interim boss following Dutchman Phillip Cocu's departure.

Speaking during an event for Sports United Against Dementia, Ferguson said it was important Rooney took the next step in his career.

"He's England's top goal scorer, he's Manchester United's top goal scorer and he's had a fantastic career as a player," Ferguson, who led United to 13 Premier League titles, said. "I'll give him a starting point.

"It's a results industry and you need



to get results. He'll know that better than anyone. He's had a good start... and he has knowledge of the game, a presence about him, and I hope he does well.

"It's a big step for him. He's quite a wealthy young man now with his career in football, so he probably doesn't need to go into management to look after his family. But he wants to do it and that's important.

"There's no point being a manager because someone asks you to be. He went there as a player-coach, he then became player-manager and now he has the manager's job and that's what he wanted. Hopefully he does well."

(Agencies)

# Mount rescues Lampard, but Chelsea show little sign of progress

LONDON

IT is fitting that the man Frank Lampard has trusted arguably more than any other came to the Chelsea head coach's rescue in his hour of need.

The Blues were labouring towards a stalemate at Craven Cottage despite holding a numerical advantage for the entire second half after Antonee Robinson was sent off for a wild tackle on Cesar Azpilicueta a minute before the interval. Despite a full compliment of expensively assembled forwards being available, Chelsea were struggling badly to break down a spirited Fulham side resolutely digging in for a draw when Ben Chilwell swung over an innocuous-looking cross with 12 minutes remaining. Fulham goalkeeper Alphonse Areola clawed the ball away unconvincingly and it fell to Mason Mount, who steadied himself before rifling a low shot into the net to hand the visitors a precious 1-0 win, their first in the Premier League since Dec. 21.

"We all knew we needed a win, we put that pressure on ourselves," Mount told Sky Sports after the match. "We look at the quality in the changing room, we knew we need to win games. It has been difficult last couple of weeks, but we put pressure on ourselves to win against a good team who have been playing well."

It was Mount's first League goal since Sept. 26 and reward for the player who showed the most endeavour, registered a total of seven key passes and accounted for eight crosses, more than any other player on the pitch.

Lampard had been shuffling the pack in search of a winning hand during the second half, throwing on Tammy Abraham, Timo Werner and Callum Hudson-Odoi in an increasingly desperate search for answers. Hakim Ziyech had been hailed in the build-up as a key creative influence but here he gave the ball away 22 times, the most of any player.

And in the end it was the homegrown boy, whose place in the team has often been



Frank Lampard

questioned, who came up with match-winning moment. Lampard took great delight in the identity of the goal scorer, having defended him stoutly this season from criticism on social media from some Chelsea supporters questioning whether he possesses the requisite quality to play so often in a team trying to win the title. In fact, it was only five days ago that Lampard said Mount "can, should and will" score more goals.

"I thought he was outstanding," the manager said of his midfielder postgame. "He has been for us this season and last. He is maturing all the time. He is still young, he just turned 22 last week. His general play was great and his finish he deserves. He cares about this club, he wants to be a top player for Chelsea and I'm really happy to have him."

Chelsea had exerted a degree of second-half pressure, but their 70% of possession resulted in few scoring opportunities.

Lampard highlighted in the build-up to this game that the Blues finally had two clear weeks to work on the training ground either side of a facile FA Cup third-round victory over Morecambe. Perhaps the most damning indictment of the 42-year-old came in the fact that it didn't really show.

Chelsea missed the delivery from out wide of Reece James and perhaps the aerial threat of Kurt Zouma from corners, rotated here in favour of Antonio Rudiger, and it was an even contest prior to Robinson's dismissal. Although Mount hit the crossbar midway through the half, Fulham had the best chance: Ivan Cavaleiro, who scored the equaliser in Wednesday's 1-1 draw at Tottenham Hotspur, fired wide when Kenny Tete found him unmarked in the box 12 yards out.

## Iwobi's versatility is proving to be his saving grace at Everton

By Colin Udoh, Special to ESPN



Alex Iwobi scored his first goal of the league season, against Wolves, in January. (Agencies)

efits of that movement and workaholic styl

For a fair few weeks in the English summer, it did not look like things would trend in this direction. Frankly, it didn't look like he was trending in any direction but the exit door.

Acquired in 2019 from Arsenal for GBP28 million, Iwobi was expected to be pivotal part of Everton's ambitions to make a play for at least the top 6.

But he failed to have any significant impact in a topsy turvy campaign under Marco Silva, despite regular playing time, and ended the season with just one goal from 25 appearances. With Silva relieved of his duties, Ancelotti arrived as his replacement and things took a turn for Iwobi, who featured in just nine of the Italian's first 20 games in charge. In fairness, a hamstring injury contributed to those absences, but on his return from injury, he barely featured.

FOR a player whose career looked, at least from the outside, to be going nowhere fast at the start of the season, Everton's Alex Iwobi's turnaround has been especially pleasing.

It can be marked down to his versatility, added to a timely switch in position by Toffees manager Carlo Ancelotti.

Watching Iwobi turn in that exquisite opening goal on Tuesday against Wolves must have come as a welcome boost, not just to the player but also to his fans.

It was his first league goal of the season, so one swallow does not a summer make, but it encapsulated everything about not just the Nigerian's game, and his growing confidence.

From his wide position as a wing-back, Iwobi received the ball, touched it to James Rodriguez, and then continued his run into the box in anticipation.

Rodriguez' long diagonal to Lucas Digne was also cut back first time into the path of the arriving Iwobi, who side footed, again with one touch, past the Wolves defence and goalkeeper.

It was an elegant team goal, but one that also showed off what Iwobi is capable of. His ghosting movement into the box after Rodriguez played the ball out wide to Digne caught the Wolves defence by surprise.

But they need not have been taken unawares if they had watched enough Nigeria games, especially on a day when Everton were playing without a recognised striker.

Those positions between the lines right at the top of the box are the areas where Iwobi tends to slip into when he plays central midfield for Nigeria.

It is why he has scored three goals for the Super Eagles in 2021 already. That includes the brace against Sierra Leone. Everton are now enjoying the ben-

Robinson's tackle on Azpilicueta came just three minutes later, and although he was only fractionally late and not particularly high, it was an overzealous tackle with excessive force that convinced referee Peter Bankes to make a decision VAR did not feel sufficiently concerned with to overturn. Fulham stuck at the task resolutely thereafter and it should be remembered that Leicester City, Liverpool and Spurs have struggled to beat a team reinvigorated by several new signings and a change in approach orchestrated by Scott Parker.

In the end, perhaps fatigue was a factor. Fulham had 48 hours' notice to organise a team to face Spurs as postponements due to COVID-19 wreaked havoc with the schedule. The knock-on effect was exacerbated by going down to 10 men.

"It is an important win for us," Lampard said. "It is just three points in the grand scheme of things but because we have had some results we don't like recently, it was important for us. It keeps us towards the top four but we must carry it on. I don't want to get too excited with one win but it is important for the confidence."

Lampard will feel relieved Chelsea found a winner, but there was still time for Werner to remind everyone of the horrible rut he is in, bursting clear in stoppage time but sidefooting hopelessly wide. His last league goal came on Nov. 7. Kai Havertz, Chelsea's most expensive summer signing accounting for £71 million of their £220m outlay, remained an unused substitute.

Chelsea will collectively have to improve at Leicester on Tuesday. Perhaps some of that training-ground work will pay off then.

ESPN

When Everton splashed out on Colombian Rodriguez, things looked bleak for Iwobi. And when said replacement exploded with goals and assists in his first few games for the Toffees as they romped to the top of the table, Iwobi's position looked desperate indeed.

But despite how bad it looked from the outside, sources close to the player assured ESPN as far back as September that the midfielder had the confidence of his manager and would get minutes once he was back to full fitness.

"There's been so much speculation in the press about Alex not being in Ancelotti's plans - the long and short of it is that Alex has been in recovery from a hamstring problem and is now back in training," the source told ESPN at the time.

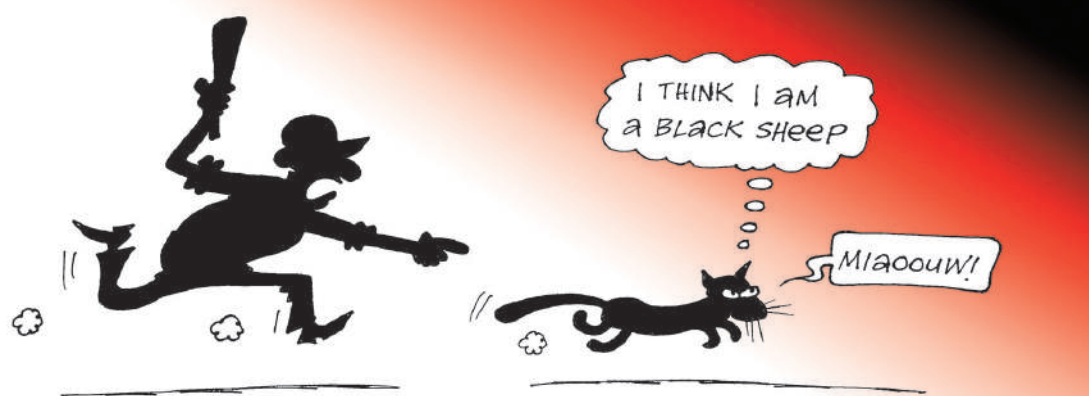
"He gets on very well with Ancelotti but there is real competition for starting places. Alex has been very professional, works hard in training and has the right attitude as he never complains. "Hopefully he will have a good season."

That hope proved prophetic. With the fierce competition for places, coupled with injuries to Seamus Coleman and Digne, Ancelotti moved Iwobi from wide midfielder to wing back, a position he had not played before, but one which, in hindsight, suited his skillset.

It gave him a view of the field, plenty of space in front of him to run into, and the opportunity to isolate the opposing full back. And he excelled in it, largely with the help of Ancelotti refining his defensive smarts.

"It is an unfamiliar position for him," an advisor told ESPN. "But he is professional enough to know that sometimes you have to do a job for the coach and team. Alex thrives in a free role as a No 10 or No 8 that's why he loves playing for Nigeria."

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Mount rescues Lampard, but Chelsea show little sign of progress**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga's head coach, Cedric Kaze.

## Yanga fans should support outfit in VPL, says coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's head coach, Cedric Kaze, has urged the outfit's fans to turn up in large numbers in the club's Vodacom Premier Leagues and Federation Cup fixtures to support the squad.

Kaze stated it is a good time for the club's fans to be proud of their team after winning this year's Mapinduzi Cup tournament in Zanzibar on January 13.

The coach issued the statement at Yanga's headquarters in Dar es Salaam last weekend, when he and his team arrived in the city.

"The humiliation to all Yanga fans is over, you have to be proud of your team and come out in large numbers in every game because the team is very strong in your presence," he noted.

For three seasons, Yanga had found themselves watching rivals, Simba, win the Mainland Premier League title, the Community Shield and the Federation Cup.

This season, the Jangwani Street club wants to regain its respect, as, so far the squad has not lost any game in the league and in all competitions.

They are leading the league with 44 points followed by Simba with 35 points, the latter have three games in hand.

Local football analyst Ally Mayay said Yanga's achievement in this year's Mapinduzi Cup will be a huge boost to the team's players, thus motivating them to excel in the Premier League.

"When a team win a trophy, the success becomes a great psychological support for the players," he stated.

"The situation will give them morale boost, they will understand that if they will work hard, they can regain their dignity," he noted.

Former Yanga defender, Bakari Malima 'Jembe Ulaya', said lifting the Mapinduzi Cup tournament's title with victory over Simba is a good thing for the former.

He pointed out the success will motivate the team's players to do well in the league so as they can experience the same feeling.

Yanga won the Mapinduzi Cup tournament in Zanzibar on January 13, beating their traditional hometown rivals, Simba, 4-3 on penalties in the final following a 0-0 draw within 90 minutes.

This is the second time Yanga have won the tournament, they won the showpiece for the first time in 2007 by beating Mtibwa Sugar 2-1 in the final. Yanga moreover secured their first win over Simba in the tournament. Yanga had twice found themselves losing to their city rivals in the previous editions.

Yanga had first suffered 2-0 loss to Simba in the tournament's final on January 12, 2011.

Simba thereafter won 4-2 against Yanga in penalty shootout of the competition's last four in 2017 after a draw within 90 minutes.

Yanga were welcomed by hundreds of their overjoyed fans upon arrival in Dar es Salaam.

“

The situation will give them morale boost, they will understand that if they will work hard, they can regain their dignity.”

## Fair Competition Commission investigates Simba SC merger

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FAIR Competition Commission (FCC) has launched an investigation to enquire an alleged offence of un-notified merger of Simba SC, involving five respondents.

The respondents are Simba Sports Club Holding Co. Limited, MO Simba Company Limited, Simba Sports Club Company Limited, Simba Sports Club and Mohammed Gulamabbas Hassanali Dewji.

The FCC issued a public notice alleging that Simba Sports Club jointly and severally with Simba Sports Club Holding Company Limited and MO Simba Company Limited as well as Mohammed Gulamabbas Hassanali Dewji acquired Simba Sports Club Trademark, Goodwill assets and business which resulted in change of control of the said assets and part of its business inside Mainland Tanzania without notifying the commission.

This is contrary to the provisions of section II (2), read together with section II (6) of the Fair Competition Act (FCA) and rule 33 (10) of the competition rule, 2018 and the Fair Competition (Threshold for Notification of a merger) (Amendment) order, 2017.

The rule revealed that the Competition Rules of 2018 provide Merger Notification Requirements by stating that any person who intends to acquire, control or to be acquired or controlled through a merger shall notify the Commission of that intended merger by filing a notification under section II(2) of the Fair Competition Act (the Act).

A merger (under the said section of the Fair Competition Act) is notifiable if it involves turnover or assets above threshold amounts specified by the Fair Competition Commission (the 'FCC') from time to time by Order in the Gazette. The current specified threshold is 3.5bn/-

The Fair Competition (Threshold for Notification of Merger) Amendment Order of 2017 provides that the calculation of the threshold shall be based on the combined market value of the assets or turnover of the merging firms.

The parties to a merger are prohibited from implementing that merger until it has been approved, with or without conditions, by the Commission under the Act.

January 6, this year, FCC issued provisional findings against the respondents to the said effect.

The respondent's failure to notify FCC on the alleged merger, denied the latter with a statutory opportunity to carry out an ex-ante assessment of compliance as stipulated by section 65(2) (b) of the FCC Act when read together with section II(1) of the FCA and part (v) of the competition rules, 2018.

The FCC noted: "On the basis of the just mentioned sections herein above and pursuant to section 62(4) of the FCA, the FCC has revoked its inherent powers to apply the provisions of part (v) of the competition rules, 2018 and conducted an ex-post assessment of the alleged un-notified merger occasioned by all the respondents."

In view of the public notice, the FCC Director General, John Mduma, said petitioners, who have reasons to believe that the alleged un-notified merger has either affected or is likely to affect the persons' material interest, in invited by FCC to file his or her written submission.

He noted: "In the case the petitioner wants to make oral representation before the Commission, the submission of the said petition should be accompanied by a duly filled in Form FCC, failure to fill in the form will deny such petitioner the right to make any oral submissions before the Commission and their status in the proceedings shall be deemed to be that of an observer."

## Simba SC sets sight on Premier League



Simba SC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL)'s defending champions, Simba, have said they are now focusing their efforts on the league to ensure they perform well in it.

Simba lost 4-3 to age-old rivals, Yanga, in the 2021 Mapinduzi Cup tournament's final, which took place at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar last week.

The Msimbazi Street-based club's players, who participated in the competition, returned to Dar es Salaam and were given a one-week break.

The domestic top flight is currently not played to give room for Tanzania's national team, Taifa Stars, to play in this year's African Nations Championship (CHAN) in Cameroon.

Simba's Assistant Coach, Selemeni Matola, said they are looking at other competitions ahead of them in terms, both domestic and international, seeking to get good results in the competitions.

"The Mapinduzi Cup tournament is over and we are looking forward to seeing how we can work on shortcomings that have been identified in our side, we will then return next week to start planning to perform well," he disclosed.

Simba used players, who are not regulars in the outfit's first team, in this year's Mapinduzi Cup competition, along with several foreign professionals earmarked by the team for recruitment.

Matola said there were some minor mistakes he had seen in his club and he would hand over his report to the club's management to work on them before meeting next week for training.

The VPL defending champions are positioned second in the tournament's table with 35 points, trailing league leaders Yanga.

Simba have a chance to move to the top spot in the domestic top flight, if they will notch victory in two outings.

Recently, Simba announced recruitment of Zimbabwean forward, Perfect Chikwende, who was turning out for FC Platinum.

The attacker was in FC Platinum squad that locked horns with Simba in this season's CAF Champions League first round.

He was on target in the two squads' first leg clash at at National Stadium in Zimbabwe, helping FC Platinum edge Simba 1-0.

He was also in action in FC Platinum's return leg against Simba, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, ending with Simba winning 4-0 and progressing to CAF Champions League group stage with 4-1 aggregate victory.

Chikwende becomes the second player to be officially introduced by Simba after they had roped in Ugandan midfielder Thadeo Lwanga, who has already started turning out for the side.

The forward has signed a two-year deal with the outfit. Simba stated through the club's social media page they have made it clear that Chikwende's arrival at the club seeks to see to it the team performs well in CAF Champions League.

Featuring in 180 minutes of the CAF Champions League first round encounter and notching one goal was enough for the striker to convince Simba's bosses to get the player's signature.

It was initially reported that Azam FC bosses needed his signature but they came up with an offer which did not convince FC Platinum to seal the deal with the team.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**5 EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)  
16:00 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE  
22:30 Bongo Hits

**TONIGHT @ 9:30**

**5Sports**

The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**