



## National Pg 3

Govt assures Covid vaccine safety



## National Pg 4

Law to glorify 1964 founders



## National Pg 5

Improving students learning outcomes



Passengers travelling to upcountry destinations for late December holidays with their families wait for buses at the Magufuli Terminal at Mbezi in Kinondoni district, Dar es Salaam yesterday. With this influx of people to the terminal, other transporters were being asked to fill the gap. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# Foreign firms will now start competing for REA projects

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ENERGY minister January Makamba has spelled out government plans to revamp the Rural Energy Agency (REA) to make its projects competitive, by allowing international and local contractors to undertake them. In a plan that the ministry intends to outline next month, the purpose is increasing efficiency, enabling electricity connectivity planned to be completed in 25 years to be done within four years, he stated at a meeting with REA staff.

He appealed to the agency to keep up the good work they have been doing, underlining that REA is helping the government improve the lives of various sections of the population, especially in rural areas. Under the envisaged arrangement, investing companies will be injecting capital needed for the whole project, unlike at present where REA projects are implemented in phases, using monthly budget allocations. "Through the plan, the government shall invite big companies locally and

TURN TO PAGE 2

# E-ticketing billed to start next April

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Works and Transport minister Mwita Waitara expects that electronic ticketing (e-ticketing) for upcountry passenger buses will start in April next year. Receiving a panel report working on the matter since July, tasked to identify challenges facing e-ticketing and recommend solutions, he said the decision comes after solutions were found on various challenges raised by stakeholders in the transport sector. He was addressing stakeholders on

issues that had been agreed upon, ready for kick-starting e-ticketing whilst other issues have to wait for amendments in related laws and regulations. The ministry shall confer with the Tanzania Bus Owners association (TABOA), the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) and the Treasury to process a portion of the recommendations submitted, while some recommendations shall require legislative amendments," he stated. The government expects that a friendly system to build a positive relationship

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Mtwara Port given six months for clearing environment gaps

By Guardian Reporter

Mtwara Port Management to rectify identified environmental issues, the government has declared. Dr Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State on the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) issued this directive yesterday at an inspection tour of the port to verify compliance with provisions of the Environmental Management Act of 2004. He instructed the port authorities to prepare a specified zone for storing coal for export, upon discovering that the current storage place does not meet required environmental standards.

**Mtwara Port has been involved in receiving and transporting coal, cement and cashew nuts in recent months in particular**

He said the port was doing well in the transport sector and was of great importance to the country's economy so it should be a good example of complying with all the required environmental conditions. "We issued a certificate for storing coal and this coal is heavy metal. The certificate does not come as a wedding card and that is why I wanted to see the conditions of storage," he declared. The port management was directed to set aside a special area for coal storage but they decided to do something else, he stated, noting that officials of the National

TURN TO PAGE 2

# CRDB grabs overall EAC banking award

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank has emerged the overall regional winner in the best presented financial report awards-FiRe 2021 - in the bank category, also winning a country-level award for best financial statements covering the calendar 2020 period. CRDB chief financial officer Fredrick Nshakanabo said in a statement that the bank beat Stanbic Bank and Equity Group, the first and second runners up, to clinch top position for this year's financial

reporting awards in East Africa in an event held early this week in Nairobi. This awards continue to show the lender's proven competence in the presentation of financial statements in line with international standards, he said, elaborating that the bank had put in significant investments in digital systems, improving data collection and processing systems. CRDB Bank has also been able to integrate its financial reporting system with the international financial reporting system (IFRS), thus contributing to the bank being better, he affirmed, noting that the twin awards beef up the CRDB country award in financial reporting issued by the National Board for Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) for 2019/2020 reporting. The lender became the first bank to scoop the NBAA overall winner for the best presented financial statement award for 2020, in a contest dominated by the

TURN TO PAGE 2



Kenya Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (PSASB) acting chairman Stephen Masha (L) presents an award to CRDB Bank finance manager Aldo Kamugisha after the bank emerged the overall regional winner in the 'best presented financial report' awards for 2021 for the East African financial sector at a Nairobi ceremony late last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent







Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango talks with Wabaptist Tanzania church leaders led by Bishop Anorid Manase Molel at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

## Foreign firms will now start competing for REA projects

FROM PAGE 1

internationally that have the financial ability and expertise in rural electrification," he said, referred to the required capacity as observant of international standard practices.

He said that 37,000 out of 64,000 sub-villages countrywide that are not yet connected with electricity could be connected within two years, under this arrangement, a projection that the government has already committed itself to implement, in parliamentary assurances.

The minister urged the REA management not to tolerate contractors doing sub-standard work and where relevant they ought to be reported to the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) for regulatory action.

Reported contractors would not be eligible for any other contract under REA projects and blacklisted in all government projects, he cautioned.

Earlier, REA director general Hassan Saïdy had observed that since its establishment, REA has achieved a lot, enabling access to electricity for 69.6 percent of villages in the Mainland by late last year, exceeding the 50 percent target that REA set out earlier at a cost of over 2.66trn since REA's establishment in 2007.

Through the agency the government was able to supply electricity to all districts headquarters, facilitated the installation of 725 biogas plants in numerous rural areas, installing electricity to 831 civil servants' houses in education and health establishments in Shinyanga, Kigoma, Kagera, Coast, Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma and Tabora regions, he said.

Having an access to electricity, rural communities advanced into agro-processing, build small and medium industries in many places, he elaborated.

REA plans to ensure electricity access to 75 percent of rural Tanzania by 2025 and achieve full coverage come 2030, he declared, noting that the agency would continue to cooperate with financial institution to finance more power projects in rural areas.

"These projects need big funding," he said, noting that their success depends on government support, input from development partners and others.

There are still challenges that limit some rural areas from accessing electricity, which include poor infrastructures, lack of awareness and some households being unable to buy connecting equipment owing to income constraints, he added.

## CRDB grabs overall EAC banking award

FROM PAGE 1

manufacturing sector since being introduced, as Tanzania adopted international accounting and auditing standards back in 2004, he stated.

The FiRe is a specialised award contest in East Africa for financial reporting promoted by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) Kenya, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), the Public Sector Accounting

Standards Board-Kenya (PSASB), and the country's Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA).

The CFO said winning the award arises from dedicated staff and a good leadership system tied to professionalism, transparency and factual accuracy in the preparation of financial statements. Accountability and high level of data integrity is among priorities in the preparation of financial statements, he remarked.

The FiRe awards are designed

to promote integrated financial reporting by enhancing accountability, transparency and integrity in compliance with appropriate financial reporting frameworks and other disclosures on governance, social and environmental reporting by private, public and other entities domiciled in East Africa.

The award is aimed at promoting integrated reporting through enhancing accountability, transparency and integrity in compliance with appropriate financial reporting frameworks and

other disclosures on governance, social and environmental reporting by private, public and other entities domiciled in East Africa.

CRDB Bank was the first regional bank to be recognized and graded by Moody's Investors Service and assigned B1—the highest grade for financial sector entities in Sub-Saharan Africa, he recalled.

The bank network comprises 246 branches and over 20,000 agents, 550 ATMs and 1800 points of sale (PoS), he added.

## Mtwara Port given six months for clearing environment gaps

FROM PAGE 1

Environmental Management Council (NEMC) slapped a fine for that omission. "We want our port to do well in accordance with government regulations," he emphasised.

"Personally I am relieved to see cashews being transported through this port. This shows how the road infrastructure is maintained and you provide employment for our youth here and also cement passes through here, so the economy is growing," the minister said.

Boniface Guni, the NEMC southern zone manager, said the port received an environmental impact assessment (EIA) certificate in 2019 and was given various conditions, including the installations of coal pollution checking infrastructure, capable of capturing dust and rainwater seeping into the sea after it has drained the zone with the coal cargo.

The manager said that the certificate's conditions were not taken up and instead the port resorted to using another location which was inappropriate in terms of being issued with the certificate.

Norbert Kalembo, the port manager, said the management was going to work on the minister's instructions, expressing appreciation for environmental inspections and promising to work on the findings.

Mtwara Port has been involved in receiving and transporting coal, cement and cashew nuts in recent months in particular, he added.



**This shows how the road infrastructure is maintained and you provide employment for our youth here and also cement passes through here, so the economy is growing**



Siha Chaga community chief Godfrend Kileo (seated) and Chaga community chief Frank Marialle (C) shortly after being installed at Isanja ground, Sanya Juu over the weekend. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## E-ticketing billed to start next April

FROM PAGE 1

between TABOA and LATRA will be in place, with an option to improve the system further in case of administrative challenges, he declared.

Aron Kisaka, the director of transport

services who also chaired the panel, said the panel had 11 members and has worked on 17 challenges.

The panel discovered that bus owners do not receive the proper amounts of

money when passengers buy tickets, meanwhile as e-ticketing needs to be in areas where tickets are not available. These and other challenges had been resolved, he stated

The panel will work on a few other areas that still pose challenges to bus owners when e-ticketing is applied, so that the system can start in April as scheduled, he added.





With or without the ban petty traders continue to conduct their businesses under the sign board at Kimara-Mwisho in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# Government assures Covid vaccine safety

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT secretary in the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children Prof Abel Makubi has reassured the public that Covid-19 vaccines are safe and the government's intention is to protect its people.

Prof Makubi made the statement yesterday in Arusha when he met with local government leaders, safety and security committees and religious leaders ahead of the launch of the second phase of the national Covid-19 vaccination campaign scheduled for today.

He said that the government has good intention of ensuring that people are vaccinated so as to remain protected and continue with their economic activities.

Prof Makubi said the second phase of the campaign will be more inclusive and aimed to reach more people so as to achieve the government's goal of vaccinating 60 percent of the Tanzania population.

He urged Tanzanians to voluntarily get immunised, something which will help them strengthen body immunity.

"The campaign will involve leaders in the grassroots who will be given special tasks to educate and encourage people to vaccinate voluntarily, we want to ensure that all people including those in remote places get the education and thus make right decisions for their health," he asserted.

Meanwhile, the PS urged people to continue taking precaution against the pandemic which include washing hands with running water, sanitising, wearing face masks and observing social distance.

He also reminded the public to also create a habit of conducting body exercises as well as taking nutritional meals so as to be strong and healthy.

Prof Riziki Shemdoe, Permanent Secretary, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) said: "As the country is heading towards the end of year festive season, it is high time for local government, religious and traditional leaders to combine efforts to ensure that citizens remain safe."

He urged the leaders to find best ways to reach the public with education on Covid-19 prevention as well as vaccination.

*...we want to ensure that all people including those in remote places get the education and thus make right decisions for their health*

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

## NARCO offers price reduction on sheep and goat meat during holiday

NATIONAL ranching Company (NARCO) has called on Tanzanians to adopt modern, commercial livestock keeping practices to satisfy the foreign market demand and the country meat processing factories.

It has also offered price reduction in the holidays season to mobilise the people eat goat and sheep meat and expand the domestic market.

The remarks were made here yesterday by NARCO marketing Manager, Mnzava Emmanuel on behalf of the company's managing director Prof Peter Msoffe as he was addressing reporters.

He said it was essential for Tanzanians to engage themselves in modern livestock

keeping practices to satisfy the demand of local meat factories that continue to be established countrywide.

In regard to the price reduction, Mnzava said they have decided to do so to strengthen the health of Tanzanians whereby 3,000 goats and 1,000 Blackhead Persian (BHP) sheep will be sold at 33 per cent reduction in price.

He said the price reduction will involve the company's Kongwa, Ruvu, Mkata, Kalambo, West Kilimanjaro and Missenyi

ranches.

"Statistics show that goat and sheep meat eating was still low compared with cow's meat which has been on increase year after year," he said.

However, he added that the demand for goat and sheep meat in the foreign market and in the local meat factories is on increase thereby providing great opportunities to livestock keepers.

"The Christmas and New year offer will begin to be provided on December 21

up to January 10 next year in the named ranches," he explained.

For his part Kongwa Ranch Manager, Elisa Binamungu said they were well set to provide the services to all the people who will come up for the offer.

"In addition to this offer, every day in our ranch we slaughter cows, we have excellent meat, and we are calling for all the people to come up to purchase our products in accordance to their needs," he added.

## Mwinyi makes appointments in Tourism, Heritage ministry

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has made appointments in the Ministry of Tourism and Heritage and removed from his position the Executive Secretary of the Commission for Tourism. Dr Mohamed Abdallah.

A statement issued yesterday by the Chief Secretary to the cabinet, Eng. Zena Ahmed said Dr Mwinyi appointed Hafsa Hassan Mbamba

as new executive secretary to the Commissioner for Tourism.

Her predecessor, Dr Mohamed Abdallah held the position for only four months.

He was appointed to the position by president Mwinyi on September 14, this year.

It should also be recalled that just recently, when addressing reporters at Zanzibar State House President Mwinyi said good work performance will be the only criterion that will

assure an official he had appointed to his/her position in government and public institutions.

Other officials appointed by president Mwinyi yesterday include Maryam Muhammed Hamid

who becomes the Director of the Department of Museums and Heritage and Dr Abdallah Mohamed Juma who becomes the director of the department of tourism in the ministry.

Others are Mohamed Mansour who has been appointed the director of Marketing in the Commission for Tourism and Omar Suleman Mohamed who becomes the director of the department of management and coordination in the commission for tourism.

Also appointed was Aviva Issa Makame who becomes the Commission's Director of Human resources, Planning and Administration.



**He was appointed to the position by president Mwinyi on September 14, this year**

COMPANY No: 98048

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY HELD AT REGISTERED OFFICE, SHIGUKULU INVESTMENTS COMPANY HEAD OFFICE ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2021. SHIGUKULU INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED**

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2021 by the board of members. It was **RESOLVED** to wind up the Company voluntarily in accordance with section 333(1) of the Companies Act No. 12 of 2002. It was **FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Company confirm that there is no reason to prevent the dissolution of the Company. It was **FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**; SAB Attorneys has been appointed as the liquidator for the purpose of winding up of the Company. The meeting was successfully called off and the minutes signed accordingly on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2021.



Maweni villagers at Qashili ward welcome Babati Rural MP Daniel Sillo (2nd R) at their meeting in Manyara region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

### CAVEAT EMPTOR "BUYER BEWARE"

**M & A**

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AND

Parcels of land Registered under: CT No. 55110 LO No. 206510, PLOTS 247-254, BLOCK 'A', RAS DEGE, MBUTU, KIGAMBONI MUNICIPALITY, DAR ES SALAAM and Parcels of land contained and registered under CT No. 55088, LO No.206509, PLOTS 232-239, BLOCK 'A' RAS DEGE, MBUTU, KIGAMBONI MUNICIPALITY, DAR ES SALAAM.

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TAKE NOTICE that our clients HANNAH OMARY SAGGAF TIDEMAND and HANNAH AND PER (T) LTD have not authorized anyone to sell charge, alienate occupy use and/or deal with the said parcels of land or the developments thereon in any manners, howsoever and whatsoever and that anyone purporting to sell, alienate, occupy use and or deal with the same is doing so illegally. On the other hand anyone undertaking to purchase occupy use or deal with the land or any piece of the land thereof shall do so at his/her own risk.

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**DATED AT DAR ES SALAAM THIS 21th DAY OF DECEMBER 2021**

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Maasai herders of Mlembule village in Kilindi district, Tanga region across Lwambalazi River for ritual rain prayers. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli.

## Zanzibar govt to table bill for law to glorify 1964 founders

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Government plans an amendment Bill for a law to glorify founders of the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution.

This was revealed here yesterday by the Zanzibar Minister of state in the Second Vice President's Office Dr Khalid Salum Mohammed to reporters on celebrations to mark 58 years of the Revelation in January next year.

He said the Bill is expected to be tabled in the ongoing session of the Zanzibar House of Representatives.

Mohammed said since 1964 Revolution founders and leaders have been glorified and there is a special week in exalting the Founder of the Revolution, Abeid Amani Karume, but as for now they will be legally glorified.

He added that the Phase VIII Zanzibar Government under President Hussein Ali Mwinyi is coming up with such a law.

He further said the apex for the celebrations to mark 58th Revolution Anniversary on January 12 next year will be held at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar where an

official parade will be held by units from defence and security forces and various entertainments from traditional ngoma groups. "In order to accord opportunity for Zanzibaris to participate in the celebrations 200 people from all Pemba districts will be ferried to Unguja to attend the event," he added.

He explained that before the anniversary apex there will be various activities including laying of foundation stones to various development projects.

He named the projects, numbering 30 of which 13 will have

their foundation stones laid and 23 will be inaugurated including the new Zanzibar High Court Building at Tunguu, garment and shoe making factories, the latter owned by the Volunteers Unit.

He said there will also a trade exhibition that will be opened on January 8 at Unguja's Maisara Grounds where various business people from both sides of the Union will participate.

He said there will also be award presentation to various Zanzibaris involved in the Isles development and in the Public service.

He said the celebrations will be closed by a football final match at Amaan Stadium on January 13, and added that the slogan for the 58th Revolution celebrations is "The Blue Economy for Sustainable Development."

## Increasing acts of GBV, child abuse retard economic development - RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

KIGOMA Regional Commissioner Thobias Andengenyne has said the increasing acts of gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse retard government efforts to attain upper economy status due to the society not fully understanding their effects.

He made the remarks here early this week when opening the forum of the National Task Plan Against Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse (Mpango Kazi wa Taifa Kutokomeza Ukutili Dhidi ya Wanawake na Watoto - MTAKUWWA), saying in order to attain upper industrial economy status there should be the respect on other human beings.

"Even if we continue to build railways, schools, hospitals in places where other humans are humiliated by others, all these things will be valueless," he added.

He added that the economy will be beneficial if it will reflect human respect among the beneficiaries and eradicate all acts of gender based violence and child abuse.

"GBV has many adverse effects even making women shun economic activities and we know that here in Kigoma, the biggest labour force is women which has to be protected at any cost," the RC added.

He said if the community wants their children to get education, to be in good health there must be a war to protect the women and children.

He said the campaign touches every citizen as the violence in committed in various areas starting from the home, schools, open spaces and work places and in some cases they are perpetrated by

trusted close relatives.

He said the debate being raised should instigate the increase of the fight against these acts of violence.

For her part, the Director of Community Development Division from the Ministry of Health, community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Mwajuma Magwiza said since 2018 when the government launched MTAKUWWA, the aim was to reduce acts of gender based violence and child abuse by 50 per cent, and through these debates the percentage could be even higher.

"The government continues to coordinate and form various committees on children's protection and so far 18,186 committees have been formed out of the 20,750 that are required to be established," she said.

For his part Kigoma regional Community Development Officer Nyamara Elisha, said the region has formed 630 protection committees on women, equivalent to 100 per cent required.

Martha Jerome, one of the forum's participant said members of the community are the ones committing these crimes hence everyone has the responsibility to rebuke these acts by reporting the same to the police and be ready to provide evidence.

The forum, part of the National Task Plan against Gender based Violence and Child Abuse (MTAKUWWA) drew participants from various community groups in Kigoma Region including religious leaders, academics, NGOs, entrepreneurs, teachers, traditional healers, prominent people and journalists.

By Special Correspondent

AS the Omicron variant dominates the COVID-19 news cycle, new research from the partnership for evidence-based response to COVID-19 (PERC) indicates that people in African Union (AU) member states are overwhelmingly willing to get vaccinated.

Across 19 countries, 78 per cent of people surveyed by PERC indicated that they had been or were willing to

get vaccinated.

Even so, official data shows that as of November 2021, less than 7 per cent of the African continent had been vaccinated.

The PERC report released in November considers why global vaccination efforts have been plagued by inequity, as well as the logistical challenges to vaccinating

the African continent.

The report further outlines the continued importance of preventive measures, particularly individual measures such as masking and social distancing, that minimize the social or economic harm that can occur when mobility, economic and social gathering restrictions are imposed.

"We must work urgently toward equitable access to safe and effective vaccines on the African continent," said Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

At 78 per cent, vaccine acceptance was higher than in the previous PERC survey fielded earlier this year (67 per cent), which may indicate

the success of risk communication campaigns.


In five surveyed countries -- Guinea, Morocco, Mozambique, Tunisia and Zimbabwe -- acceptance was 90 per cent or higher.

Vaccine acceptance was high among both those who trusted their government's pandemic response and those who felt COVID-19 posed


a personal risk to them or to their country.

Among the 20 per cent of respondents who expressed vaccine hesitancy, the top reasons were: low risk perception (24 per cent), not having enough information about vaccines (22 per cent) and lack of trust in government (17 per cent).

## 78 pc of people in AU countries willing to get vaccinated - report



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Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment Selemani Jafu (L) looks at a landfill during his official visit in Mtwara Mikindani recently. Photo: VPO



## Dar chart sustainable sanitation campaign

By Guardian Reporter

AUTHORITIES in Dar es Salaam have outlined seven strategies for working with ward executives and local chairpersons aimed at ensuring a sustainable sanitation campaign in the region.

Dar es Salaam regional commissioner, Amos Makalla said this yesterday during a meeting involving the local government officials from across the city.

The RC tasked local government leaders to control unregistered garages and car wash, particularly those located on the road side.

He also said that every leader from the local to the ward level should ensure they supervise well issues related to sanitation and hygiene.

The RC Makalla banned business activities in the city gardens, warning people behind stealing metal placed on the road side.

He urged the executives to ensure that the areas under their control were kept clean, that waste be removed on time, tasking local government leaders to prevent petty traders from doing business on roadside.

He also instructed the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) to provide him with plan showing how they are going to participate in the sanitation campaign.

In another development, RC Makalla unveiled the results of the 2019 informal sector survey, which in a report recommended the formalization of informal businesses to contribute to GDP after realizing that such activities were not making any profit to the government.

“The government is going to implement all the recommendations made by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) through the survey so that these activities can bring productivity to the nation, also the study has enabled the region to identify challenges and opportunities to work to increase collections considering our region contribute 18 percentages of GDP,” said Makalla.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Statistician General, Dr Albina Chuwa said the study revealed that the number of informal activities is more than 6bn/-, noting that most women have been found to be involved with them where Ilala and Temeke districts are the leading ones with such activities.



**The RC tasked local government leaders to control unregistered garages and car wash, particularly those located on the road side**



Judge in charge of integrated courts Temeke, Ilvin Mugeta speaks with stakeholders about the law of customary inheritance 1963 and women's rights in land ownership organised by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

## Improving learning outcomes through student assessment

THE Ministry of Education Science and Technology has called upon education inspectors, head teachers and others mandated with ensuring quality assurance to abide by principles and guidelines aimed at improving learning across the country.

Deputy Permanent Secretary for Education in the ministry Prof Caroline Nombo made the call when winding up a quality assurance training meeting in Songea, Ruvuma Region which involved quality assurance officers, head teachers from the region.

He said the quality assurance training which has been conducted countrywide is aimed at bringing changes to the education sector as well as improve learning in schools across the country.

Prof Nombo said those trained should be custodians of the training by overseeing that learning was provided with quality to ensure the country's

education sector was strong.

For his part, the coordinator for education in Ruvuma Zephania Japhet said a total of 11,580 educationists have participated in the training whereby 584 participants were from Ruvuma region.

The Director for quality assurance in the ministry of education science and technology Ephrasia Bachuma called

upon participants to keep a close eye to children especially girls who faced various challenges that made them to fail to continue with studies.

The chairman for the training Abdallah Mchelu hailed the government for organizing such trainings for teachers saying they will go a long way into improving learning in the country.



Uongozi Institute director Kadari Singo speaks at the valuation meeting of implementation of economic empowerment to Dodoma residents aimed at capacity building of various groups' leaders yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Ex-South African leader Zuma can appeal return to jail

JOHANNESBURG

FORMER South African President Jacob Zuma will be allowed to appeal a court ruling that ordered him back to jail to serve the remainder of his sentence, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Zuma, 80, had been released on medical parole earlier this year, but the Gauteng High Court in the capital, Pretoria, ruled last week that his parole had been illegal. On Tuesday, Judge Elias Matojane said the ex-president can now appeal that finding.

“Because of his illness and advanced age, he needs compassion, empathy and humanness,” Matojane said of Zuma in delivering the judgment.

Zuma was convicted and sentenced for defying a court order, ordering that he appear before a government-backed commission probing allegations of corruption during his tenure as president from 2009 to 2018.

Zuma's release on medical parole had been granted by former correctional services commissioner Arthur Fraser against the recommendation of the parole board.

He served nearly two months of his 15-month sentence, but this was mainly in the hospital wing of the Estcourt Correctional Center and a hospital in Pretoria, where he underwent surgery in August this year.

Zuma's lawyer, Dali Mpofo, had argued that returning him to jail “is equivalent to a death sentence.”

“You are saying he must return to that place where the medical doctors and prison authorities say they cannot cater for him,” Mpofo said. “Then what else is going to happen except that he must die there.”

Zuma's imprisonment in July sparked protests by supporters who demanded his immediate pardon and release from jail.

The protests quickly descended into chaotic violence in which trucks were burned, shops and warehouses looted and burned. More than 300 people died in the country's worst violence since the end of apartheid in 1994.



**You are saying he must return to that place where the medical doctors and prison authorities say they cannot cater for him**

## WHO chief says 2022 must be year ‘we end the pandemic’

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organization chief called for the world to pull together and make the difficult decisions needed to end the Covid-19 pandemic within the next year.

“2022 must be the year we end the pandemic,” WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva.

As the end-of-year festivities approach,

the UN health agency chief acknowledged that “all of us want to spend time with friends and family. All of us want to get back to normal.”

But, he said, to get back to normal, we need to protect ourselves now as cases, fuelled by the fast-spreading Omicron variant, surge.

Since it was first reported in South Africa in November, Omicron has been identified in dozens of countries, dashing hopes that the worst of the pandemic is

over. Despite indications, it is not more severe than the Delta variant -- still, the dominant strain -- Omicron has been shown in early data to have higher transmissibility and a worrying resistance to vaccines.

With cases rising rapidly, Tedros stressed it was better to cancel events “now and celebrate later than to celebrate now and grieve later.”

“We have to focus now on ending this

pandemic.” Tedros insisted it was possible to halt the pandemic but said it would require using all the tools at our disposal, ranging from vaccines to mask-wearing and physical distancing.

And perhaps most importantly, the world needed to end the glaring inequity in access to vaccines.

“If we are to end the pandemic in the coming year, we must end inequity,” he said.



## Tamwa chairperson Shebe scoops prestigious award

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Women Media Association (TAMWA) chairperson, Joyce Shebe has scooped the first prize in the 'International Women Peace Poem Writing Competition'.

The award ceremony conducted late last week was organised by the International Women's Peace Group (IWPG)-Gwangju Jeonnam Branch.

Shebe was awarded with a certificate and a cash prize of \$250.

Speaking on the award, Shebe said; "The role of women is so important in maintaining world peace, and world peace begins at the family level, so let's work together."

The second prize went to Achameylsh Asrat Demissie, founder and representative of the Saved to Save from Ethiopia.

Teddy John from Tanzania (Child psychologist officer of the Community's Expertise for Development Contribution) won the 3rd prize, and presented the prize money along with the certificate.

In addition, Dorothy Makaramba from Tanzania (University Student, University of Dar es Salaam) and Naomi Lawi Ngambiye (Dot, Tanzanian community leader) received special awards.

Others who received special award include Nardos Mulugeta from Ethiopia (COO International Partnership Director), Bethlehem Berhanu (University Student, University of Addis Ababa), Jerusalem Astatke (Mechanical Engineer), Faten Ezzahmad from Lebanon (PWHO member), Ogracia Macha from Egypt (IWPG member), Lamia Al-eryani from Yemen (President of the Yemen Peace School Organization), Athraa Abbas Abdulsamed from Iraq (For You Institute) and Analyn Albakit from Kuwait (Sandigan Kuwait Member).

The event was planned as an opportunity to realise the activities of the IWPG in detail, to spread a culture of peace and to challenge new peace activities.

At least 80 women from 18 countries participated in the online peace poem writing contest.

Lee Seo-yeon, Gwangju Jeonnam Branch Manager ran the awards ceremony on December 18, in Korea and about 100 women members around the world attended the event virtually.

The poem writing competition was conducted in the past two weeks to commemorate the International Day of Tolerance designated by the United Nations on November 16th to expand peace activities and lay a foundation for exchange and cooperation.

About 80 members participated in

this competition under the theme of 'peace and tolerance' and competed their skills.

Former Jordanian Minister of Women Nadia Hashem (IWPG Advisory Council) was appointed as a judge and announced the evaluation, saying: "I evaluated in consideration with its relevance to the topic, creativity, integrity, inspiration, and impact on people, and it was not easy to evaluate because there were too many excellent works."

The poems that received the award will be made into an e-book, and it is expected to become an opportunity to blossom a 'poem of peace' in the hearts of women around the world, including the Middle East, Africa, and Australia.

Seo-yeon Lee, the branch manager, said, "The peace that we cherished and longed for in our heart was expressed in beautiful poems, which gave emotion and nobility."

Arezo Safi, a lawyer and IWPG Peace lecturer from Australia, congratulated the event saying; "Each of us is a jewel with a beautiful color and light."

Tanzania Daria Makaramba (CEO of the Daria Design) said in the congratulatory speech, "I was very impressed with the work of IWPG to plant the spirit of peace in people's hearts. We need to create a peaceful world without war, even for our descendants, and peace is the only way and the answer."

IWPG is an international NGO with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC). With the vision to pass on the world of peace to future generations, we are actively carrying out women's peace education, support and urge for the establishment of the International Peace Law (DPCW), and plant peace projects.



**I evaluated in consideration with its relevance to the topic, creativity, integrity, inspiration, and impact on people, and it was not easy to evaluate because there were too many excellent works**

## Zanzibar city acquires essential cleaning tools

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Special Departments) Masoud Ali Mohamed has called on the Islanders to continue supporting the government's efforts to ensure that the stone town is clean.

Mohamed made the call here yesterday when launching special waste storage bags and modern garbage trucks, provided by an Investment company - 'V-Clean'.

He said doing so would help Zanzibar to have a good reputation that will keep good prosperity and attraction for local and foreign tourists.

He said the government has good intentions to ensure the city is clean so there is a need for citizens to work together to maintain cleanliness in their areas, adding that V-Clean company will work with the government to eliminate the existing waste disposal problem in the city which is detrimental to the city's outlook and well-being.

The minister noted that the issue of nation building is not only the responsibility of the government, but also the responsibility of all citizens so there is a need for cooperation to ensure that the

desired goal is achieved.

He however discouraged the ongoing tendency of placing advertisements arbitrarily without following the procedure, saying doing so is an offense.

Urban West Regional Commissioner, Idrissa Kitwana Mustafa said the city is dirty still unsatisfactory especially in the Western Urban Region which is the eye of Zanzibar so; there is a need to strengthen by-laws to address the vice. He also suggested the need to improve gardens to enhance the beauty of Zanzibar city.

Zanzibar Municipal Council Director, Ali Khamis said the Municipal Council's failure to meet waste collection targets was due to high operating costs, deterioration and limited capacity for waste collection equipment as well as limited human resources.

V-Clean company chairman, who is also an MP for Mpendae, Taufik Salum Turkey said the company has a strategy to dispose of waste with the aim of recycling and producing poultry feeds, manure and paper, which will help provide more employment opportunities for young people.

He said: "Sanitation is everyone responsibility, so let's work together to make Zanzibar clean."



Tanzania Local Government Workers Union chairman in Kigoma region Jumanne Tenganya airs workers complaints to the minister of State in the President's Office Public Service and Good Mohamed Mchengerwa (not in the picture) during his official visit in Kigoma region over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Construction project creates 100 job opportunities in Geita Gold

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 100 Tanzanians have been employed in a modern sports stadium construction project funded by Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML).

The stadium was built at Magogo Street, Geita Town Council, Geita Region.

In the first phase of construction of the project, the firm spent a total of 2.4bn/- through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Explaining the progress of the recent construction project, Eng. Lt. Colonel Samuel Hagu said the project is being executed in partnership between GGML and Geita Town Council.

He noted that preparation of the construction budget and the design of the project are done by Geita town council in collaboration with GGML.

"The first phase of our project started on July 16, 2021, and we expected the implementation to be completed after four months. So,

we are still working on some few details," he said.

He added that in accordance with the procedures aimed at benefiting the Geita city community, they consulted with GGML on various issues to bring about the productivity and fruits expected in the project.

"We agreed to bring in about 50 employees from the companies implementing this project but, we took the remaining half of the staff from our community."

According to him, the direct beneficiaries of the project when the stadium would become operational are the community and other

Tanzanians.

GGML Vice President for sustainability, Simon Shayo pointed out that the company will continue to actively engage with Geita Town Council and Geita Council in all projects implemented through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

He said GGML has an agreement entered with the two Councils that it will provide Tsh9.2 billion for social services annually.

"The Corporate Social Responsibility committee (CSR) consisting of members from these councils as well as the GGML, which propose the project together

and then GGML make sure that projects that are implemented collaboratively.

"So even in the construction of this stadium for example the council proposed a contractor and GGML has provided funding to execute the project," he said.

Geita City Council has allocated 10.4 hectares of land for the construction of a state-of-the-art stadium, which will have house all games and car park areas.

When completed, the stadium will be able to accommodate 12,000 spectators, all seated.

In the first phase of construction the important infrastructure being built includes the main stadium, a football stadium, players' rooms, referees' room, players' testing room, first aid room, stadium manager's office and conference room.

Also we are building wall fence and entrance doors and the drilling of deep-water and water storage tanks for the construction which will also be used in stadium facilities.



Korogwe acting district commissioner who is Lushoto DC in Tanga region Kalist Lazaro talks with Manga Mtindiro residents after elephants invaded Zakayo Nding'ai's home and killed his wife recently. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla



## Uganda tests drones to speed up delivery of HIV medicine

KALANGALA, Uganda

UGANDA is delivering HIV medicine by drone in an archipelago in Lake Victoria, a pilot programme aiming to improve the transport of medical supplies for the country's health system, which faces chronic shortages.

The trial is funded by pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson (JNJ.N), and run by the government-run Infectious Diseases Institute. It delivers HIV drugs from a hospital to patients in rural hamlets in Kalangala, an 84-island-archipelago.

Other African countries like Ghana and Rwanda are already using drones to improve healthcare delivery.

If the trial is successful it may be adopted on a larger scale to help to improve delivery of drugs and medical supplies for Uganda's public healthcare system, which faces under-staffing and shortages of basic medicines such as vaccines and other drugs as well as medical supplies.

Kalangala's soaring HIV rate, estimated at about 27% of the population on the islands, is partly because of nomadic fisherman who move from one island to another.

Deliveries of HIV medicines to the islands by boat are often disrupted by storms.

"We have been facing a challenge of wind storms ... the medical teams would not make it over here and some people would end up not getting their much-needed medical supplies," Innocent Tushemerirwe, a village health team leader, told Reuters.

Rosalind Parkes-Ratanshi, director of the Academy for Health Innovation at the institute and head of the research project, said: "The boats are very expensive and they are also very dangerous, there

are lots of drownings in Kalangala."

"We thought that this may be a cost effective and a safe way of delivering antiretroviral medicine to people living on the islands with HIV."

The drones can fly in winds of up to 15 meters per second and heavy rain, although the research team is restricting this to 5 meters per second and light and medium to rain to be safe.

The drones also speed up delivery times so it is easier to find windows of calm weather.

The DJI M300 drones were customised for the programme with detachable white cargo boxes, operation software and a piloting app by WeRobotics, a Swiss-headquartered organisation that uses robotics, data and artificial intelligence to solve problems in more than 30 developing countries.

The trial programme, which for now is delivering only antiretrovirals, will last until June, when it will be assessed. Parkes-Ratanshi said the team is also considering whether the drones could fly around samples for HIV, tuberculosis or COVID-19 testing.



**We have been facing a challenge of wind storms ... the medical teams would not make it over here and some people would end up not getting their much-needed medical supplies**



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima talks with Handeni leaders moments after he inspected two classrooms built under COVID-19 stimulus package at Kwamatuku secondary school yesterday. Left is Handeni district commissioner Siriel Nchembe. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

## Clerics push for universal health coverage adoption

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC) has urged the government to adopt universal health coverage (UHC) for all people in the country.

Speaking at a capacity-building training to journalists on recommendations by religious leaders on scaling up universal coverage for all, chairman for

ISCEJIC Bishop Nelson Kisare said this will strengthen the country's health systems.

He said discussions on the matter have taken time adding that it was high time the law was taken to parliament with more emphasis on awareness for the public to understand.

The committee further added that the government must put in public the specified amount of fee for one to access insurance services but also

the amount which the government will contribute.

Sheikh Khamis Mataka, the chairman of the Tanzania Muslim Council (BAKWATA), said Islam religion believes that health is one of the key pillars of the faith hence the need for scaling up universal health coverage.

He said since 2017, they have embarked on a campaign for health which was first preceded by a study dubbed "make it possible" meaning-

making health services access for all a reality.

"Health insurance is a very important thing because we have come across many things including people in need of 500,000/- to get MRI and by the end of the day ending up requesting for contributions from well-wishers.

The co-chair for the peace committee in Mwanza Bishop Sekelwa explained that health was an important matter which would facilitate building a happy society.

For his part, Mwanza Regional Sheikh Hassan Kabeke called upon the society to listen to religious leaders on their call scaling up of the universal health coverage.



LG Electronics East Africa managing director SaNyoung Kim (L) and Garnet Star Ltd managing director Rajesh Nomulwar (C) who is an agent of LG products listen to LG products expert Emmanuel Ngassa during the opening of a new shop at Morocco in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Former AU official says BRI fosters multilateralism, inclusive growth

By Special Correspondent

THE China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has created a platform for promoting multilateralism, inclusive growth, peace and cohesion, Erastus Mwencha, former deputy chairperson of the African Union Commission has said.

The ongoing construction of BRI projects-roads, railways, ports and digital infrastructure have been a game changer in Africa where they have spurred connectivity and seamless trade, Mwencha said on the sidelines of the 2021 meeting of the Advisory Council of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that he attended via video link.

He observed that speedy

implementation of transport infrastructure, energy and information and communications technology projects under the BRI has reduced the cost of doing business, in addition to empowering Africans and the bulk of the global south.

Mwencha singled out the 480-km Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway for revolutionizing passenger and freight transport in Kenya.

The railway, "has transported millions of metric tons of cargo ... Its contribution to the Kenyan economy is huge," said Mwencha, adding that the railway has also facilitated technology transfer, promoting vocational skills for young people.

He said Kenya is among other African countries including Egypt,

Senegal and Ethiopia where BRI projects have accelerated infrastructure modernization, market linkages, and skills and capacity building for youth.

China has also guaranteed on-time delivery of vital commodities including essential medical supplies like vaccines and protective gear against a backdrop of damaged global supply chains due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he added.

He suggested continuous construction of BRI projects in order to support livelihoods and buffer an economic fallout caused by the pandemic.

Despite its positive contribution to Africa's growth and stability, the BRI is likely to encounter headwinds linked to geopolitics, the pandemic and climate change, Mwencha

warned.

He pointed out smear campaigns waged by some Western powers that fear that the BRI could change the status quo. "There are deliberate attempts to scuttle the implementation of the BRI and disorganize societies that could benefit from it, even though it is a model that is inclusive, consultative and reaches both the low and mighty," said Mwencha.

Mwencha called on African countries to reject geopolitical maneuvers aimed at undermining the BRI since the continent stands to gain immensely in terms of improved manufacturing capacity, technology and skills transfer and green financing.

The former deputy chairperson said the BRI is in Africa's best interest. "We need capacity to manufacture vaccines," Mwencha said. "It will bring in technology and capital required to grow our digital economy. It will also promote human to human interactions."

## Africa's youth renew commitment to achieve SDGs - ECA Songwe

By Guardian Reporter

YOUNG people in Africa have pledged to work harder and ensure that the continent achieves its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has organised a virtual discussion on Monday under the theme "Africa's Youth in The Decade of Action: Actors or Bystanders".

ECA Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe said despite the negative effects, COVID-19 has presented huge opportunities in the areas of innovation and tourism, showing that Africa has the potential to grow and create jobs for its youth.

She urged young people to use such opportunities to "create their own jobs and become the employers and entrepreneurs for a prosperous Africa by 2030."

Songwe cited an ECA youth program called African Girls Can Code - which links girls across Africa, enabling them to learn the internet of things, artificial intelligence, and gaming - as an initiative that also creates jobs for young girls in Africa.

She said with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Africa can begin to manufacture on the continent and do value addition across the different sectors of our economy.

Songwe pointed out that young people are those most affected by the SDGs, stating "they stand to gain the most from high-quality education, decent work, gender equality, and a healthy planet - or to lose the most if the world fails to reach those goals. Their energy, ideas, and initiatives are crucial for achieving the Goals."

On the occasion, youth from across the continent agreed that they have a role to play in ensuring that Africa achieves the SDGs.

In her keynote address, climate and environmental activist, Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti, commended her peers across Africa who are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the SDGs are attained by 2030.

"As a climate activist, I have

not been sitting back and feeling helpless...I started growing trees at the tender age of seven."

Wathuti noted, however, that Africa's youth need to be taken more seriously and that their voices and interests should be an integral part of the decision-making process.

"Youth engagement doesn't mean inviting young people onto panels. Serious engagement means internalizing the fact that young people and future generations have the biggest stake in decisions made today," she said.

United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, said Africa is blessed to have the world's youngest population, with a median age of just 19.7 years.

She expressed confidence in the youths' ability to steer the continent's trajectory in the twenty-first century, cautioning that "their success or failure will also be that of the continent as a whole."

Founder of Africa I Know, Adji Bousso Dieng, noted that what is missing is an investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

"We don't have the skills and infrastructure in place that can transform raw material into final products for export. This denies the youth the employment opportunity on the continent."

The event served as a platform for young people to engage with leaders to renew their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to advocate for urgency, ambition, and action to realize SDGs; provide African youth a virtual hub to mobilize, reflect on their needs and aspirations, and establish coalitions for positive change through the achievement of the Goals.

It was also an opportunity for young leaders to share best practices, experiences, and challenges in their work towards the Goals, and brainstorm concrete ideas and actions that young women and men can take in their respective communities, countries, and regions to ensure that Africa achieves the Goals by 2030.







NEW YORK

# Vaccine famine & its impact on African economies

We are about to start a third year of living with COVID-19. The world's humanity and solidarity are now at its further test - and yet the implications of the absence of solidarity keep us all in the boat of mutations, lockdowns, quarantines and delayed SDGs - denied prosperity for all. 2021 has unearthed a new expression of global inequity: "vaccine nationalism" - which itself competes high with socioeconomic downturns, jobless growth, the climate crisis, and rising poverty.

As the pandemic ravages on, with Omicron on the scene, the futility of hoarding takes centre stage as even the heavy supply of boosters in advanced economies has not shielded them from the vicious cycle of pandemic-living.

While about 60 per cent of the population in the US and 76 per cent in Canada are fully vaccinated, in Africa - a continent that is home to 1.3 billion people - the number barely reaches 8 per cent.

Many have argued that vaccines' short shelf life, hesitancy and logistic challenges weigh in. Granted. But the main issue remains the absence of global solidarity - where the rich hoard, and the weaker economies deal with vaccine famine - awaiting their turn...

Vaccine Inequality is also manifest in vaccine affordability. For high income countries to vaccinate 70 per cent of their population it will take raising their health care spending by 0.8 per cent. Lower income countries must increase health care spending by over 50 per cent, on average - to do the same.

Vaccines delayed is development denied. Estimates show that vaccine delays cost Africa up to \$14 billion in lost productivity each month and making recovery more challenging - and dragging out the first-in-a-generation recession the continent is facing.

African governments have responded quickly to contain the spread of the virus - but success is overshadowed by the pandemic's socioeconomic consequences. In 2019, Africa was witnessing record growth numbers in various sectors - like tourism, where Africa had the second-fastest growing tourism sector in the world, contributing 8.5 per cent of the continent's GDP.

However, with the pandemic, tourism has come to a standstill, and the continent recorded a 2.1 per cent decline in economic growth in 2020. Other accompanying challenges have included general exchange rates depreciations, food



The Republic of Congo received just over 300,000 doses of the COVID vaccines through the COVAX Facility in August 2021. Credit: UNICEF/Aimable Twiringiyima

insecurity and increased job losses.

Vaccine delays will cost Sub-Saharan Africa 3 per cent of the region's forecast GDP in 2022-25. UNDP research reveals that recovery rates are strongly correlated to capacity to vaccinate - with a \$7.93 billion increase in global GDP for every million people vaccinated.

Low-income countries that are severely impacted by the pandemic do not have the fiscal and financial leeway available to wealthy countries. They risk enduring the pandemic longer if they do not gain early access to COVID-19 vaccines.

This places an inordinate burden on national budgets at a time when the pandemic has decimated fiscal revenues and when higher spending is needed from governments to protect their people and cushion the socioeconomic shock caused by the pandemic.

There is a risk of seeing African countries' budget deficit widen and it is urgent for us to support countries in developing alternative financing sources. Vaccine famine is putting millions at risk of infection, constraining economic productivity and jeopardizing socioeconomic progress.

The key question today is: Can the world afford such blatant inequality in the face of a pandemic that is sparing no region?

The path to recovery will remain long and uncertain unless we take urgent measures to overhaul the current system of vaccine production, distribution, and financing. Below are some ideas on how to get there fast - building on a consensus emerged from the

recently concluded African Economic Conference in Sal, Cabo Verde.

- Development financing in Africa requires an out-of-the-box architecture. Africa will need an additional \$425 billion in external funding between now and 2025 to fully recover from the pandemic. It is daunting, but not impossible. It is equivalent to the amount African countries lose to illicit financial flows over a five-year period. Economic governance and creativity can be applied: by, for instance, redirecting investments by pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and similar institutions.
- Leveraging the continent's natural resources is urgent. Africa's financial presence in the international system does not reflect its real wealth. Better management and use of extractive industries is critical. Resources like energy, oil, natural gas, coal, and uranium are worth between US\$13-14.5 trillion and US\$1.7 trillion of potential wealth. Further resources can be harnessed from production in six key sectors: agriculture, water, fisheries, forestry, tourism and human capital. Mobilization of these resources requires governments seriously addressing deficiencies in banking and governance systems to stem illicit financial flows out of the continent. Central banks have a key role to play in unlocking idle resources

and channeling them into productive investments. Over \$1 trillion of excess reserves could be used to finance Africa's development.

- International finance systems could be reviewed to become more equitable. Concessional financing should consider countries' multidimensional vulnerabilities beyond what is reflected in their income levels. The allocation of a record amount of \$650 billion SDR issued by the IMF to its country members in August 2021 is a step in the right direction. But more can be done to better support countries that need financing the most. Africa only received \$21 billion of SDRs from the total envelope. Such international mechanisms could be reviewed to redress current inequalities.
- Reforming Africa's financial system. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role that financial systems have to play in supporting Africa's development. Improvements in the quality, quantity and efficiency of financial systems are crucial for Africa's sustainable development. More effective financial systems across the continent can promote resource mobilization and better allocation of savings to productive investments by shifting incentives for the banking system toward

the core functions and advancing financial inclusion for individuals and microenterprises.

- Digital innovations are a game changer for Africa's development financing. Financial systems that harness digital technologies and free and fair competition will be fundamental in revitalizing African economies. The pandemic has proven that digital technologies present enormous opportunities for Africa. They stimulate innovation, economic growth, and job creation in critical economic sectors by allowing better interconnection of African markets with the rest of the world. They can also increase market access and financing for the marginalized population usually excluded by the formal financial systems. However, digitization also has the potential to exacerbate inequalities and we must ensure that the means are sufficiently inclusive for no one to be left behind.
  - Sustainable financing will be key. African financial institutions have a role to play in enabling Africa to transform its natural resources advantages, by leveraging blue-carbon markets, and green financing mechanisms. Climate risk-sensitive investment, de-risking, impact investment, environmentally sustainable projects, sustainable energy investment are among critical issues for sustainable financing development. Thus, the financial sector has a key role to play in re-orienting investments towards more sustainable technologies and businesses and fostering low-carbon, climate-resilient, and circular economies.
  - Boosting intra-African trade is a gateway to recovery. The transformative power of the AfCFTA must be brought to bear in servicing the needs of 1.3 billion people. If effectively implemented, the AfCFTA will accelerate the continent's path towards structural economic transformation through value-addition-based industrialization of both goods and services. Investment in trade facilitation reforms and using Regulations as a Stimulus will bring even greater dividends, saving governments money in efficiencies while placing billions directly in the hands of intra-African women and youth-led exporting enterprises.
- 2022 must be a year where collective global action prioritize vaccine equity and ensure a shot for all. Omicron has reminded us that there is just no other way to build forward better.
- **Ahurna Eziakonwa is UN Assistant Secretary General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa.**

## Ecuador and the Pandora Papers: Death Threats and Impunity



By Andrés Arauz

MEXICO CITY

In a ceremony in early October, the president of Ecuador and my opponent in the presidential elections, Guillermo Lasso, issued a warning to those "daring who seek to scrutinize" his assets. He was referring to the Pandora Papers published by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), which revealed how dozens of world leaders - including Lasso - hid billions of dollars to avoid paying taxes.

His threatening words were directed primarily at me, because of my knowledge of the offshore underworld and my determination to investigate him despite receiving death threats.

In 2017, Ecuador approved an anti-corruption law prohibiting public servants from holding assets in tax havens, directly or indirectly. This term was there to avoid the use of opaque and complex financial structures like trusts, foundations or partnerships. Last year I formally challenged Lasso's candidacy for that reason, but he then signed an affidavit in which he claimed not to have properties in tax havens and the electoral commission agreed with him.

That led me to drop this issue and when I lost the election in February, I even gave a concession speech and spoke by phone to congratulate him. He offered me to put an end to the political persecution against progressives that former president Lenin

Moreno had started.

However, the Pandora Papers revealed that Lasso had in fact transferred shares in limited liability companies representing 130 Florida properties from Panama to two trusts in the state of South Dakota. Lasso also recognised the existence of 14 entities that had been hidden from the Ecuadorian tax authorities.

Lasso denied having ties to these entities before assuming the presidency, including Banco Banisi in Panama. However, an investigation by the Latindadd organisation revealed that Lasso, a day before signing the affidavit, transferred his shares from Banco Banisi to the Banisi International Foundation, a new private interest foundation where his children are nominal beneficiaries but without any decision-making powers.

After the Pandora Papers were released, a large majority in parliament ordered an investigation. Official institutions cooperated little or nothing, claiming that it is confidential information while Lasso refused to attend the hearings. When the parliamentary commission approved the report linking Lasso to tax havens, his government immediately attacked the commission, and the Prosecutor's Office launched a criminal investigation against the parliamentarians.

Soon afterwards, I started receiving threats and intimidation, not for having been a presidential candidate, but for insisting in investigating Lasso and speaking in the media about this case

as an economic expert in offshore banking. Government supporters then launched coordinated troll attacks on social media, spreading false news about me, death threats, and insults.

A member of parliament linked to Lasso accused me of money laundering based on a false meme widely disseminated on social media. And criminal investigations were launched against me based on false news, also involving my retired parents and all former progressive candidates. Dozens of national and international civil society organisations, including the Financial Transparency Coalition, published a statement of support which I deeply appreciate.

**But unfortunately, nothing has changed.**

On December 8, the Comptroller General concluded that Lasso had no offshore interests since it did not consider South Dakota a tax haven, despite being widely recognised for this. But the blockade of the investigation against Lasso did not end there. That same day, a majority of the National Assembly of Ecuador decided not to impeach the president, referring their investigation to other state institutions, but asked him to go to parliament and give an explanation, which he refused to do.

Ironically, Lasso - along with the presidents of other countries such as Kenya and Chile, whose leaders were also revealed in the Pandora Papers

to have hidden assets in tax havens - was invited to the recent 'Summit for Democracy' organised by the United States. During the summit the creation of a beneficial ownership registry was announced, including for South Dakota trusts, as well as anti-fraud measures on real estate which could impact Lasso, but it's still uncertain whether these commitments by the US and other countries will become reality.

In total, \$7 trillion is hidden in secret jurisdictions and tax havens, equivalent to 10% of global revenues, according to the UN High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity. Meantime especially developing countries are fighting the resurgent Covid-19 pandemic and its economic impacts, struggling to provide basic social protection to its citizens and purchase vaccines.

So clearly the problem of tax evasion and financial opacity, and money being funneled by powerful individuals to tax havens, is an issue that not only affects my country, but affects everyone. Fighting for financial transparency is a fight for truth and social justice that we cannot afford to give up.

**Andrés Arauz is an Ecuadorian economist and candidate for President in the 2021 elections, currently based in Mexico City where he is a Doctoral Fellow at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, UNAM.**



# What would Europe, the US, do with one billion climate refugees?

MADRID

A bit of fiction. Or maybe not. If things keep going the way they are, the result will be that such a massive flux would create instability and tensions, impact the global markets, cause record prices of fossil fuels, food and everything else, and the bankruptcy of big private financial corporations...

Already seven years ago, a former director general of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), William Lacy Swing, estimated that the number of climate migrants and refugees could reach one billion humans by the year 2050.

Such a scenario could well happen given the rapid growth of the ongoing climate emergency.

What would Europe, the US and other rich countries do then? Shall their politicians - and the growing far-right - fuel once more the fear of the "invasion" of migrants and refugees, saying that they include criminals and terrorists, will occupy the homes of honoured citizens, take all their jobs away, rape their daughters and, consequently militarise their borders?

Shall they send them to third countries in exchange for some money, like what already happens with Turkey? Or shall they just force them back to their countries of origin, which they had to flee due to floods, storms, tsunamis and famine, provoked by a climate disaster they did not generate?

## Climate change and disaster displacement

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) says that climate change is the defining crisis of our time and disaster displacement is one of its most devastating consequences.

"Entire populations are already suffering the impacts, but vulnerable people living in some of the most fragile and conflict-affected countries are often disproportionately affected."

Refugees, internally displaced people and the stateless are on the frontlines of the climate emergency, it reports, adding that many are living in climate "hotspots", where they typically lack the resources to adapt to an increasingly hostile environment.

UNHCR urges all countries to combat the growing and disproportionate impacts of the climate emergency on the most vulnerable countries and communities - in particular those displaced and their hosts.

1 Person Is Forcibly Displaced Every 2 Seconds due to conflict, persecution

These displacements are the result of conflict or persecution. At mid-2021, their number already



reached 84 million. And there are 10 million stateless people, half of them under the age of 18.

Coincidentally, most of their countries of origin are also among the most hit by poverty and climate emergency.

Climate crisis is a human crisis. "The climate crisis is a human crisis. It is driving displacement and makes life harder for those already forced to flee."

The impacts of climate change are numerous and may both trigger displacement and worsen living conditions or hamper return for those who have already been displaced.

Limited natural resources, such as drinking water, are becoming even scarcer in many parts of the world that host refugees. Crops and livestock struggle to survive where conditions become too hot and dry, or too cold and wet, threatening livelihoods, UNHCR adds.

## Climate change, a threat multiplier

In such conditions, climate change can act as a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing tensions and adding to the potential for conflicts.

"Hazards resulting from the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, such as abnormally heavy rainfall, prolonged droughts, desertification, environmental degradation, or sea-level rise and cyclones are already causing an average of more than 20 million people to leave their homes and move to other areas in their countries each year."

On this, the Global Compact on Refugees, affirmed by an overwhelming majority in the UN General Assembly in December 2018, directly addresses this growing concern. It recognises that "climate, environmental degradation and disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements".

"We need to invest now in preparedness to mitigate future protection needs and prevent further climate caused displacement. Waiting for disaster to strike is not an option," says Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

## Every second 1 person is displaced by disaster

More than five years ago, in July 2016, IPS reported that, in fact, "every second, one person is displaced by disaster," the Oslo-based Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reported, adding that in 2015 only, more than 19.2 million people fled disasters in 113 countries.

"Disasters displace three to ten times more people than conflict and war worldwide." See: Climate Victims - Every Second, One Person Is Displaced by Disaster

"On average, 26 million people are displaced by disasters such as floods and storms every year. That's one person forced to flee every second."

Further on, IPS wrote: Imagine a world with as many as one billion people facing harsh climate change impacts resulting in devastating droughts and floods, extreme weather, destruction of

natural resources, in particular lands, soils and water, and the consequence of severe livelihoods conditions, famine and starvation.

Although not yet based on definite scientific projections, the proven speed with which the process of climate change has been taking place, might lead to such a scenario by 2050. If so, 1 in 9 human beings would be on the move by then, it added.

"Currently, forecasts vary from 25 million to 1 billion environmental migrants by 2050, moving either within their countries or across borders, on a permanent or temporary basis, with 200 million being the most widely cited estimate, according to a 2015 study carried out by the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University."

This figure equals the current estimate of international migrants worldwide." For its part, the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) forecasts 200 million environmental migrants by 2050, moving either within their countries or across borders, on a permanent or temporary basis. Many of them would be coastal populations.

In an interview to IPS, the former IOM Director General, William Lacy Swing, explained that political crises and natural disasters are the other major drivers of migration today.

"We have never had so many complex and protracted humanitarian emergencies now happening simultaneously from West Africa all

the way to Asia, with very few spots in between which do not have some issue." See: Q&A: Crisis and Climate Change Driving Unprecedented Migration Droughts, Desertification

Another warning comes from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which estimates that some 135 million people may be displaced by 2045 as a result of desertification.

Up to 12 million hectares of productive land become barren every year due to desertification and drought alone, which is a lost opportunity to produce 20 million tons of grain, adds the Bonn-based Convention secretariat.

Meanwhile, the increase in droughts and flash floods that are stronger, more frequent and widespread is destroying the land - the Earth's main freshwater store, according to UNCCD.

## The killing drought

"Droughts kill more people than any other single weather-related catastrophe and conflicts among communities over water scarcity are gathering pace. Over 1 billion people today have no access to water, and demand will increase by 30 percent by 2030."

Africa is particularly susceptible since more than 90 percent of its economy depends on a climate-sensitive natural resource base like rain-fed, subsistence agriculture.

"Unless we change the way we manage our land, in the next 30 years we may leave a billion or more vulnerable poor people with little choice but to fight or flee."

For its part, the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), reports that extreme weather events - from floods and storms, to heatwaves and drought - are already displacing an estimated 41 people each minute, and as temperatures continue to increase, climate extremes will worsen, sea levels will rise, and the world's most vulnerable will bear the brunt.

## Hunger and the climate

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reports that the world produces enough food to feed everyone, yet, about 800 million people suffer from hunger. That is one in nine people. 60 percent of them are women.

And that about 80 percent of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas. Most of them depend on agriculture.

"Hunger kills more people every year than malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS combined."

Most importantly: "No other sector is more sensitive to climate change than agriculture."

The above-cited causes of massive displacements just add to the fast-growing climate crisis, which will evidently greatly increase the number of migrants and refugees.

No matter if they will be one billion or 500 million or even 100 million. They are humans and victims of circumstances they have not created. What will rich countries do?

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



**CAPITAL RADIO**





LG Electronics East Africa managing director SaYoung Kim (C) and Garnet Star Ltd managing director Rajesho Nomulwar (R) listening to LG trainer Emmanuel Ngassa during the opening of the third LG brand shop in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

# Southern Africa hit hardest by pandemic, but hopes emerge

By Andrew Mizner

WHILE the region's lack of diversification and pre-existing economic difficulties mean that the South has been the African region worst affected economically by Covid-19, the African Development Bank believes it is on the path to recovery.

Southern Africa's economy should grow 3.2% in 2021 and 2.4% in 2022, offering a recovery of sorts to the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, according to the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The region suffered Africa's worst economic decline during 2020, shrinking 6.3%, compared to the next worst of just 2.6% in Central Africa, so the new figures, published in the bank's Southern Africa Economic Outlook in November, suggest a rebound. That is contingent on the pandemic continuing to improve, with much of the region economically dependent on tourism, led by Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia and Zimbabwe, and commodities.

There is also hope that inflation will drop from 14.2% in 2020 to 9.4% in 2021 and to 6.5% in 2022, which would aid the recovery. South Africa's longstanding economic struggles, exacerbated by the pandemic, have impacted the whole region, given its importance to its neighbours as an importer and exporter.

In a statement, AfDB director of country economics Emmanuel Pinto Moreira noted that while Africa's overall struggle during 2020 reflected the global climate, there was cause for optimism: "The good news is that there's a recovery and the outlook is positive," he said, continuing that the recovery of the commodities and tourism markets and progress on policies meant that "the three

largest economies - Nigeria, South Africa, and Egypt - are recovering."

As with elsewhere in Africa, economic diversification is key to improvement, and Southern Africa's lack of diversification puts it at continued risk from fluctuation, with Angola, Mozambique and Zambia particularly vulnerable due to their reliance on commodities.

Investment in small and medium-sized enterprises and making full use of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are two ways that many countries are trying to improve their diversification. A report published last week by the Pan-African Private Sector Trade and Investment Committee (PAFTRAC) largely positive about the prospects of growth through AfCFTA.

"The region's recovery hinges on how Covid-19 evolves and the policies that countries adopt. Though vaccination is considered the surest way to achieve herd immunity at minimal economic and human cost, Southern Africa's vaccination levels lag those of other developing regions, compromising its ability to reach herd immunity soon," according to the report.

Overall, AfDB was optimistic that despite a somewhat concerning debt position, as with much of the rest of Africa, with support for key industries and improved trade policies and social protections, the region should be able to recover.

"The magnitude of the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on countries in Southern Africa cannot be overemphasized - rising poverty, inequality and unemployment, among other economic malaises," said AfDB director general for Southern Africa Leila Mokaddem, speaking at the report's launch in November.

# LG Electronics expands its Tanzania's footprint with third brand shop in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

SOUTH Korean firm-LG Electronics yesterday opened a third brand shop in Dar es Salaam with their Strategic Partner- Garnet Star, in a move aimed at giving customers a unique opportunity to experience new technology and products.

Founded over 8 years ago, Garnet Star Ltd is an Authorized Sales and Services distributor for LG Products in Tanzania.

Speaking during the launch, LG Electronics East Africa managing director, SaYoung Kim stated that this is the third and the largest brand shop after the opening of 2 other brand shops in Dar es Salaam in June this

year, as it expands its footprint in Tanzania.

According to Kim, LG Electronics is enjoying a steady growth in Tanzania in all segments-B2C and B2B and the premium category such as like OLED TV, InstaView refrigerator, Neochef microwave, TWINWash & Vivace AI DD AI-powered washing machines, are witnessing increasing customer preference. He also added that they expect continued growth in premium products.

"Dar es salaam is an optimum location due to its large customer base. After receiving overwhelming response in existing 2 brand shops, we decided to add another shop. We promise to give our esteemed customers an

exquisite and enhanced shopping experience where they can also get after-sales service from our team of experts," he said, calling on Tanzanians to visit the new shop at Morocco Junction to get the feel of the innovative products.

"In the coming months, we shall open a few more stores and modernize 12 shops across LG East Africa to meet rising customer needs, as we are targeting high footfall and sales in the stores to enhance the customer experience for new technologies and new products which LG has to offer," said Kim.

The managing director said electronic sales have benefitted from the continued consumer focus on the

home, with customers buying up technology products for remote work and education as well as cooking, entertainment and remodeling.

"It has become evident during the pandemic that technology is even more important in people's lives, coupled with innovations that support efficiency and healthy living," added Kim.

LG is currently rolling out a number of premium products in East Africa with the latest core technology featuring intelligent applications that help households conserve energy, water and therefore are environmentally-friendly while being easily usable, thus promoting key Sustainable Development Goals.

# Local content: GGML leads in best investor pool - NEEC

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Council for Economic Empowerment (NEEC) has awarded Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) a special award for best investor that actively engages Tanzanians in strategic and investment projects (Local Content) for the year 2021

Presenting the award to GGML Vice President for Sustainable Development, Simon Shayo, in Dar es Salaam at the third local content forum organised by the Council Executive Secretary, Being'i Issa said the company has successfully implemented the Local Content and has been a catalyst for other stakeholders in facilitating Tanzanian participation in projects and strategic and investment in the country.

In addition, explaining the reasons for awarding the GGML award, the NEEC Secretary said the company employs more than 5000 employees, who are Tanzanians but also in the management where more than 90 per

cent of its leaders are the citizens.

"It has also been implementing a capacity building program for Geita residents around the mine so that they can participate in the operation of the mine.

In the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, GGML is also leading the way in doing well unlike other companies in the mining industry.

"GGML is also implementing another program to build the capacity of Geita traders so that they can get tenders within the Company and other companies. Those are some of the things that have made us feel good about recognizing GGML," she said.

She said apart from the award for best investor that GGML received, there is also the award for being the best Tanzanian company and overall project managers which are all organized by NEEC and released annually.

In addition, she said the aim of awarding the award to GGML along with other winners is to encourage other compa-



GGML vice president for sustainable development, Simon Shayo (R) receives award from the executive secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) Being'i Issa (C). The award was presented last week to GGML in recognition of the company's contribution to the implementation of the 'local content' guidelines. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

nies to emulate GGML.

"Because in addition to investing, what we are looking at is a profitable investment within the

community and the nation as a whole. The awards are also aimed at creating competition so that people realize that it is important

for these companies to support the government's efforts to bring development to its citizens."

"But also the government can

recognize you in that area because if you look at it for example, GGML provides funding to Geita Councils more than 10 b/- annu-

ally that help implement various social projects, so it is good to recognize them," she said.

In addition, Ms Issa said the forum provides an opportunity for Tanzanians to grow an inclusive economy as well as participate in various strategic projects and their implementation.

She said the implementation of local content in the country, is aimed at providing employment to Tanzanians, tenders in Tanzanian companies including the products they produce, training and the introduction of technology as well as raising the project framework.

However, she said the forum was boosting Tanzania's economic growth as well as expanding employment opportunities for Tanzanians as well as reducing income poverty.

"Local content aims to create more jobs especially for young people where 52,000 jobs have been created in the country due to the local content program where 70% are young people between the ages of 20 to 35," she said.



# COP26 agreed rules on trading carbon emissions - but they're fatally flawed

By Matthew Paterson,

One surprise from COP26 - the latest UN climate change conference in Glasgow - was an agreement between world leaders on a new set of rules for regulating carbon markets. This would allow countries to trade the right to emit greenhouse gases.

Carbon trading is part of how countries intend to meet their obligations for reducing emissions under the Paris Agreement. Unfortunately, the manner in which countries agreed these rules may hobble the Agreement in its goal of averting catastrophic warming.

Carbon markets were central to the design of the Paris Agreement's predecessor, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which created three different mechanisms for trading carbon. Developing countries had become accustomed to attracting investment via one called the "Clean Development Mechanism" (CDM) which allowed industrialised countries to invest in projects to reduce emissions in developing countries and count them against their own targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Many industrialised countries wanted to retain this sort of flexibility in how they met their own treaty obligations.

As a result, most governments were keen to keep carbon markets as part of the Paris Agreement. In Paris in 2015, the bare bones of mechanisms similar to those in the Kyoto Protocol were agreed, but without the details needed to put them into practice.

Why then did it take six years to agree the rules which would govern these markets? This was more than the four years it took countries to do the same in the Kyoto Protocol and, in effect, they were recreating the same mechanisms. The problems in reaching an agreement this time were three-fold, and they weren't satisfactorily resolved in Glasgow.

Going backwards from Kyoto Various states, and many environmental campaign groups, suspect that carbon markets weaken the overall effort to reduce emissions. As climate change has accelerated over the past decade these concerns have become more acute. Why trade emissions if everyone is trying to get them to zero? There is considerable evidence that carbon offset projects - such as wind farms, which emissions trading can fund - have failed to deliver a reduction in overall emissions. A 2017 study led by the EU Commission found that 85% of projects funded by the CDM hadn't reduced emissions.

There are also fundamental design issues in the Paris Agreement that make setting up carbon markets under it much more difficult. The Kyoto Protocol expressed the obligations of industrialised states to reduce their emissions as targets. These could be translated into a fixed number of emissions allowances that provided carbon markets with a clear set of accounting rules and indicators of market demand.

No such set of rules exists in the Paris Agreement. Instead, all states submit their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) - national plans for reducing emissions. They may or may not have an emissions target and they vary in how they account for emissions or which sources of emissions they include in their plans.

How can a market function if there is no clear way of measuring what is being traded? And how should a country trading with another adjust its own NDC to avoid double-counting, when the design of each country's NDC varies so much? And what should countries do with all the credits created in the Kyoto Protocol's system? Should they just be rolled over to be used in the new markets? Should they be simply abandoned? Or is there some way of allowing them in but controlling their use? A lot of CDM credits in particular remain, and they could flood the new markets and undermine the integrity of the NDCs.

Monitoring how these mechanisms work in practice and whether they have the desired effect will be important over the coming years. While heralded at the time as a breakthrough in implementing significant tracts of the Paris Agreement, the Glasgow pact on carbon markets might instead be remembered as its undoing.

COP26, it looked like these issues would continue to dog the negotiations. India supported unrestricted use of CDM credits in the new mechanism while the Solomon Islands (representing the Least Developed Countries group) opposed using them at all. In week two, these issues were either fudged or hastily agreed. The carbon traders were happy, as were the managers of the COP26 process - the UN secretariat and the UK government. We can now see the cost of failing to grapple with these thorny issues.

The Glasgow decisions on both Article 6.2 and 6.4 of the Paris Agreement are extraordinarily unclear compared with the equivalent ones for the Kyoto Protocol. Specialists in this field are still decoding precisely what they mean in practical terms. It's likely that states will be able to use this opacity to double-count and claim credit for the same emissions-reducing activities. Countries are supposed to set new NDCs regularly. At the same time, countries will be negotiating individual emission trades. The possibility for a country to game its NDC - making it appear more ambitious than it really is by counting already agreed trades within them - is impossible to avoid. It's hard to see how this doesn't fundamentally weaken the ambition of countries when updating their NDCs.

Matthew Paterson, Professor of International Politics, University of Manchester

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A cop out In the first week of



## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 186 00--

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

3 letters  
4 letters  
5 letters  
6 letters  
7 letters  
8 letters

BUA, KAA, BEN, TRY, ONE, AIL, DUE, ADD  
ROBE, NOUN, MAST, LEER DELE  
ROGUE, ABEAM, AGENT, THANA  
BEMBA, ENEMY, YOUNG, ASIDE  
STAIN,  
GRABBY, LUGGER, HOMAGE, BOTTLE  
TAMALE,  
GRABBLE, KATANGA, ONESELF,

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CLUES: Across  
1 First President of Kenya  
5 Tripoli is her Capital  
8 behave uncontrollably and disruptively  
9 a fertile spot in a desert  
11 set the value of a tax  
13 assert to be the case  
16 progress through life  
17 the sixth month of the year  
19 United Nations University  
21 indicating the point in space or time at which a journey starts  
22 someone who does surprise attack on people  
24 a derogatory term for a white man  
25 crush with a sharp blow from a flat object  
26 matt

CLUES: Down  
1 highest mountain in Africa  
2 mountain where Moses saw the promised land from afar  
3 gather  
4 tempt sexually  
5 a defeat in sport  
7 a friendly form of address in India  
10 the religion of the Muslims  
12 direct vehicles in a correct side  
14 listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from boredom  
15 a brass musical instrument  
18 give property to  
20 Union of European Football Associations  
23 mouse

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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

M A N D E L A M  
O Y E M O A  
S H A R I A A N  
C S U N B L A T  
O R A N G E T L  
W L A C A F E  
P A S T O R E K  
P E N H Y A N K  
L E D G E O C  
U O R A N G E S  
S T A R I F O  
H E D I C I T

# RADIO One

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 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ayoba Chief Executive Officer, Burak Akinci.

## ON-RECORD

## African messaging App Ayoba hits 10 million monthly active users

LAGOS

African messaging app, ayoba, has reached an exciting milestone of over 10 million monthly active users. 2021 has been a fast-paced year so far for ayoba, who celebrated its second year in operation in May 2021.

The ayoba platform aims to harness growth in the African digital economy by breaking down barriers such as limited access to the internet and digital services, low smartphone penetration, lack of locally relevant content, and affordability.

"We celebrate this milestone and are pleased that through ayoba we can provide access to affordable communications, so that millions of people across our markets can enjoy the benefits of a modern connected life," says MTN Group Digital and Fintech Officer, Serigne Dioum.

"MTN's Ambition 2025 strategy is to drive digital and financial inclusion across Africa, via ayoba we intend to reach 100 million monthly active users by 2025, ensuring more people reap the social, economic, and developmental dividends of being online," concludes Serigne.

In its two years of existence, ayoba has grown significantly and continues to be recognised by various bodies. In 2021, ayoba received the Best OTT Brand of the Year accolade at the Marketing World Awards and recently was awarded the Best Mobile App from Bonteh Digital Awards. Ayoba has also hosted two hackathons this year, with the aim of guiding young developers on micro-app development.

Commenting on the achievement, ayoba Chief Executive Officer, Burak Akinci said: "Our progress in 2021 has been considerable, growing in excess of 4 million users. This is a clear sign that the African market really enjoys ayoba, and we are here to stay. This growth is also due to the hard work of our team, and of course, the loyalty and enthusiasm of our users, who are always our first priority. We look forward to even bigger growth in 2022, as we see progress from the new features, content and general improve-

ment that will be launching throughout the year."

ayoba offers users access to digital and rich media services through channels, micro-apps, and payment solutions, embedded within a single African Super App. With over 180 content channels ranging from Sports, News, Music & Artists, Health & Wellness, Careers, Fashion & Beauty, Education and Travel - a huge increase from the 128 at the start of the year.

In addition, users now have access



**We celebrate this milestone and are pleased that through ayoba we can provide access to affordable communications, so that millions of people across our markets can enjoy the benefits of a modern connected life**

to a range of 35 micro-apps, including MTN Online School (SA) and MTN MoMo (Ghana), adding even more content to a deep and hyper localised offering.

Ayoba users can send and receive encrypted messages in 22 diverse languages, share photos, videos, files, voice notes and even their location, and can also subscribe to live channels. Localised content is available through these channels that aim to entertain, educate, and empower communities.

Ayoba is available to MTN and non-MTN customers. MTN customers are automatically allocated free data to use the ayoba features including messaging, browsing, gaming, and listening to music. Customers can download the free app data at [www.ayoba.me](http://www.ayoba.me). In addition, ayoba lite is now also available for web access at [web.ayoba.me](http://web.ayoba.me) which is proving to be popular with users who are short on space on their devices. Voice and video calls are excluded from the free data provisions.

## CHARITY

## Halotel donates educational materials to Bonyokwa Secondary School in Dar



Halotel Tanzania's head of marketing and communication, Sakina Makabu (3rd R) handing over some educational materials to Bonyokwa Secondary School's headmistress, Upendo Mgaza (3rd R) during a ceremony held at the school yesterday. In a yellow dress is Bonyokwa Ward Councillor, Tumike Malilo. Photo courtesy of Halotel.

By Correspondent Beatrice Philimon

**S**TUDENTS and teachers at Bonyokwa Secondary School in Dar es Salaam were given an assortment of educational materials by Halotel Tanzania Limited to help ease shortages facing the public school.

Halotel's Head of Marketing and Communication, Sakina Makabu who presented the donation said the company decided to do so after realising that the public school was facing acute shortage of educational materials.

Sakina said the move is also meant to back government efforts

to improve the learning environment in public schools hence also increasing the number of students who pass national examinations. The donation was also meant to complement state investment in improving quality of education in the country. "As Halotel we have decided to donate chairs and tables for teachers, books and files shelves, two desktop computers and a printer as our company's response to the government's appeal to stakeholders to support efforts being made to improve learning environment in public schools through provision of educational materials," Sakina said.

She said the donation was also meant to help students and teach-

ers get exposure to modern teaching methods both theoretically and practically. Halotel also offers free online studies to students in the country through Halostudy platform through electronic gadgets with internet access. "These donated computers will only need internet connection for Bonyokwa students to access online studies through Halostudy," she explained.

In remarks after receiving the donation, Bonyokwa Secondary School Head Master.....paid tribute to Halotel Tanzania's management saying the materials will help improve performance at the public school. "We are very happy to receive this donation of

education materials from Halotel Tanzania and we thank them for continuing to be closer to the community by support efforts to improve the education sector in the country," he/she said.

The Bonyokwa HM noted that the donation will help both students and teachers improve their learning and teaching abilities in general.

Halotel will continue working in partnership with other likeminded stakeholders to support state investments in the development of the education sector to ensure that public schools produce quality science students to contribute towards industrialization of the economy.

## CONTROVERSY

## Nairobi City in renewed push to raise parking fees to Sh400 in zonal system

NAIROBI

Parking fees in Nairobi are set to be increased up to Sh400 in a new zonal charging system if a raft of new levies proposed by City Hall is approved by the Assembly.

This as the Ann Kananu-led government targets to raise Sh1.5 billion more in parking revenue after collecting a similar amount in the financial year ended June 2021, against a target of Sh2.8 billion. According to the proposals contained in the Nairobi City County Finance Bill, 2021, which is being debated by the assembly today, motorists parking in Nairobi's city centre and Kijabe Street, under Zone I, will pay Sh400 daily park-

ing fee, double the current charge.

Currently, the county government charges a daily parking fee of Sh200 irrespective of where a motorist has parked. For Zone II covering Westlands, Upper Hill, Community, Ngara, Highridge, Industrial Area, Gigiri, Kilimani, Yaya Centre, Milimani, Hurlingham, Lavinton, Karen and Eastleigh; the charge will be Sh300.

Motorists in Zone IV which covers areas bordering other counties will be charged Sh100 while those in Zone III which includes all areas not in Zones I, II, and IV, will part with Sh200. The announcement of the return of the zonal parking charges by City Hall comes amid a court order halting parking fees

increase in the capital city.

However, Nairobi County Assembly Budget and Appropriations committee chairperson Robert Mbatia argued that the court order does not stop the county government from implementing the new charges.

"The Finance Act of 2015, which was revised in the financial year ended June 30, 2019, was never stopped by the court," said Mr Mbatia. He added the new levies, once approved, will take effect immediately Governor Kananu accents to the bill or after 14 days of the publication of the bill in the Kenya Gazette.

For seasonal tickets, private vehicles will pay Sh7,000 per month,

Sh18,000 every three months or Sh32,000 for six months which rises to Sh55,000 annually. Online application taxis will be required to deduct parking fees from sources for all vehicles on their platform every month.

For buses, which are not matatus, the charge will be Sh1,000 per day, same as for lorries weighing between three and 10 tonnes while trailers will be levied Sh3,000. For on-street parking in residential areas not included in the city centre and other areas, buses and lorries will pay Sh500 while trailers will still pay Sh3,000. Loss of tickets will attract a charge of Sh1,000 per ticket whether off-street or seasonal.



Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) parking control officer talks to a motorist along Banda Street on November 25, 2020.



## APPRECIATION

# Tanga Cement share price skyrockets by 192pc as acquisition deal looms large

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

**T**ANGA Cement share price soared by 192 percent to 1,200/- per share during the trading session on Friday last week as an acquisition deal looms large.

The cement producer's shares that had initially been trading at 400/- each for the two months, started a surge upwards since HeidelbergCement signed an agreement to acquire 68 percent of its shares.

The move is aimed at strengthening its local business and create significant synergies with its existing assets in the country, the company said in a statement. Through its subsidiary Tanzania Portland Cement Plc, HeidelbergCement already has a good market position in Dar es Salaam.

Upon closing of the transaction that is expected in the second quarter of 2022, HeidelbergCement will make a public tender offer to acquire the remaining outstanding shares in Tanga Cement, after approval from local authorities.

Tanga Cement's main rival in the market, Twiga Cement of Dar es Salaam has also been performing well for many years. The two cement makers which are both listed at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) remain miles apart in terms of performance with Twiga Cement reporting growth in profit after tax for four years in a row while Tanga Cement recorded net losses during the period.

Afrisam that currently holds 68.3 percent stake in Tanga Cement received an offer to buy its stake for an indicative price of 3,157/- per share from Scancern. In a statement released by the company, it said if the acquisition becomes unconditional and is implemented, Scancern will acquire control of the company. Scancern will, after the final acquisition price is determined, make a general offer to acquire



Tanga Cement products selling at a shop in Tanga city.

the remaining shares in Tanga.

According to Zan Securities CEO, Raphael Masumbuko, excitement about the deal in the market, pushed share price from 410/- since the initial announcement was made to 1,200/- at the time the market

closed on 17th December adding 47.7bn/- to its market capitalization, which rose to 76.4bn/- during the timeframe.

"This year has been quite a rollercoaster for Tanga Cement shareholders with three released cautionary notices impacting the

share price of the company. As expected the news resulted in an upsurge in demand for the company's shares with more than 118 million traded within the first month after the announcement," he said.

## FORECAST

## Mozambique economy expected to grow 4pc in 2022, IMF says

## MAPUTO

Mozambique's economy is forecast to grow by 4% in 2022, up from 2.2% this year, but remains vulnerable to the Covid-19 pandemic and terrorist attacks in the northern region of the country, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday.

Mozambique's gross domestic product is recovering after contracting in 2020, the first contraction in three decades, the IMF said in a statement. The forecast is based on the country's broader recovery of the non-liquefied-natural-gas economy, it said. Mozambique is expected to become one of the world's largest LNG exporters.

"Overall growth will rise sharply as LNG projects begin production, currently expected in 2023 and 2026," IMF said. Vulnerability to the effects of climate change and renewed deterioration of the security situation could further delay or stop LNG projects, the IMF cautioned.

Terrorist attacks have caused thousands of deaths and displaced more than 800,000 people in the natural-gas-rich north province of Cabo Delgado, with many in the northern region suffering from food insecurity, it said. Fiscal pressures are acute in the country, the IMF said.



Industrialisation and Trade Cabinet secretary, Betty Maina.

## CRISIS

## Kenya's trade deficit crosses Sh1trn mark as imports soar

## NAIROBI

Kenya's trade deficit hit Sh1.11 trillion in the 10 months to October on the back of higher industrial goods, fuel and government imports.

Data by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) shows the gap between merchandise imports and exports widened by 37.7 percent from Sh807.01 billion in a similar period last year when low fuel prices and reduced demand for consumer goods kept a lid on imports.

This year, government imports have gone up by 31 percent to Sh63.5 billion, with the

most significant jump seen in October when they hit a new monthly high of Sh12.3 billion. The State purchases products such as military weapons and vehicles, railway spare parts, drugs, vaccines and medical equipment. It also imports food when there is a shortage in the country.

The county's total import bill – both government and private sector – rose by 28.4 percent to Sh1.72 trillion in the period, eclipsing the growth in exports, which went up by 14 percent to Sh608.4 billion. A widening trade deficit diminishes the country's foreign

currency reserves, which are used to pay for the imports, and in the process weakening the shilling.

At the same time, a weaker shilling also worsens the deficit, given Kenya's position as a net importer. This year, the shilling has depreciated against the dollar by four percent, currently exchanging at 113 units to the greenback.

This year's higher imports have come on the back of a revival of the economy, which was badly battered last year by Covid-19 prevention restrictions that caused a fall in consumer spending.

The economy contracted by 0.3 percent last year but turned around in the first two quarters of 2021 to grow by 0.7 percent and 10.1 percent respectively.

Higher oil prices this year have also pushed up the import bill, as have imports of goods for industrial use as factories return to full-capacity production on the reopening of the economy. The cost of imports has generally soared globally on persistent disruptions in global supply chains which have increased shipping expenses.

## EXPANSION

## LAGOS

Pipit Global, an international cash payment platform has extended its partnership with Cellulant to now include eighteen countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The partnership will see the companies providing both B2B and B2C payments services to existing and emergent financial institutions, eCommerce merchants, billers and billing platforms, mobile money providers and eWallets, digital financial service providers, and their customers.

Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, remittances into sub-Saharan Africa and intraregional SSA remittances have remained resilient. According to figures from the World Bank, there was a modest decline of 1.4% inflows into SSA in 2020 - this figure excludes the exceptional case of Nigeria where economic factors beyond the pandemic affected remittances significantly. And

## Pipit Global registers presence in 12 new countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with Cellulant

in 2021 remittances have bounced back to near pre-pandemic levels with a year-on-year increase of 6.2% for the region.

This resilience demonstrates the fundamental importance of Diaspora remittances to sub-Saharan African countries, which exceed Foreign Direct Investment and portfolio flows, and are approaching the levels of Official Development Aid.

However, the cost of remittances into Africa and intraregional remittances remains a significant challenge, a burden on senders and receivers, and a barrier to development. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to have the

highest average international remittance costs at 8.2%. Intra-regional remittance costs are higher still, with, as an example, the cost of remittance of \$200 between Tanzania and Uganda costing an exorbitant 23%.

Pipit's and Cellulant's partnership will see the development of 'for-purpose' remittances. Rather than the traditional model of peer-to-peer cash remittances, migrants will be able to make bill payments and eCommerce transactions directly to suppliers.

This model ensures that bills are paid, and removes the potential for 'leakage' - where remitted money may not be used for its intended

purpose. It also reduces the receiver risk associated with cash collection. And, in line to reduce remittance costs, the direct-to-biller model applies fees significantly lower than traditional remittance prices resulting in meaningful savings for remittance senders and receivers.

Commenting on the partnership, Pipit Global CEO Ollie Walsh said: "Pipit Global was founded on the basis of promoting collaboration in the world of payments. Making cash a core element of the digital economy, whilst maintaining that cash economy and giving the ability to transition between the two, gives real parity and freedom, and ultimately creates the social

impact that drives global development and equality.

"Our partnership with Cellulant will turn these development and equality goals and aspirations into tangible realities." The expansion into the new markets comes just 5 months after the two companies announced a partnership to enable remittances into Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Mali, Senegal, and Ghana at lower rates.

"At Cellulant, we see digital payments as a significant opportunity to create transformational change for businesses, households, and economies at large," said David Waithaka, Cellulant's Chief Business Officer for Enterprise.



Pipit Global CEO, Ollie Walsh



## TECH SAVVY

# Boeing wants to build its next aeroplane in the metaverse

## NEW YORK

In Boeing's factory of the future, immersive 3D engineering designs will be twinned with robots that speak to each other, while mechanics around the world will be linked by US\$3 500 HoloLens headsets made by Microsoft.

It is a snapshot of an ambitious new Boeing strategy to unify sprawling design, production and airline services operations under a single digital ecosystem – in as little as two years. Critics say Boeing has repeatedly made similar bold pledges on a digital revolution, with mixed results. But insiders say the overarching goals of improving quality and safety have taken on greater urgency and significance as the company tackles multiple threats.

The plane maker is entering 2022 fighting to reassert its engineering dominance after the 737 Max crisis, while laying the foundation for a future aircraft programme over the next decade – a \$15-billion gamble. It also aims to prevent future manufacturing problems like the structural flaws

that have waylaid its 787 Dreamliner over the past year.

"It's about strengthening engineering," Boeing's chief engineer, Greg Hyslop, said in an interview. "We are talking about changing the way we work across the entire company." After years of wild market competition, the need to deliver on bulging order books has opened up a new front in Boeing's war with Europe's Airbus, this time on the factory floor.

Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury, a former automobile research boss, has pledged to "invent new production systems and leverage the power of data" to optimise its industrial system. Boeing's approach so far has been marked by incremental advances within specific jet programmes or tooling, rather than the systemic overhaul that characterises Hyslop's push today.

The simultaneous push by both plane giants is emblematic of a digital revolution happening globally, as car makers like Ford and social media companies like Facebook parent Meta Platforms shift work and play into an im-



Boeing's chief engineer, Greg Hyslop.

mersive virtual world sometimes called the metaverse.

So, how does the metaverse – a shared digital space often using virtual reality or augmented reality and accessible via the Internet – work in aviation? Like Airbus, Boeing's holy grail for its next new aircraft is to build and link virtual, three-dimensional "digital twin" replicas of the jet and the production system able to run simulations.

The digital mockups are backed by a "digital thread" that stitches together every piece of information about the aircraft from its infancy – from airline requirements, to millions of parts, to thousands of pages of certification docu-

ments – extending deep into the supply chain. Overhauling antiquated paper-based practices could bring powerful change.

More than 70% of quality issues at Boeing trace back to some kind of design issue, Hyslop said. Boeing believes such tools will be central to bringing a new aircraft from inception to market in as little as four or five years.

"You will get speed, you will get improved quality, better communication, and better responsiveness when issues occur," Hyslop said. "When the quality from the supply base is better, when the aeroplane build goes together more smoothly, when you minimise re-work, the financial performance will follow from that."

Yet the plan faces enormous challenges. Sceptics point to technical problems on Boeing's 777X mini-jumbo and T-7A RedHawk military training jet, which were developed using digital tools.

Boeing has also placed too great an emphasis on shareholder returns at the expense of engineering dominance, and continues to cut R&D spending, Teal Group analyst Richard Aboulafia said. "Is it worth

pursuing? By all means," Aboulafia said. "Will it solve all their problems? No."

Juggernauts like aircraft parts maker Spirit AeroSystems have already invested in digital technology. Major plane makers have partnerships with French software maker Dassault Systèmes. But hundreds of smaller suppliers spread globally lack the capital or human resources to make big leaps.

Many have been weakened by the Max and coronavirus crises, which followed a decade of price pressure from Boeing or Airbus. "They not only tell us what hardware we can buy, they are now going to specify all this fancy digital junk that goes on top of it?" one supply chain executive said.

Boeing itself has come to realise that digital technology alone is not a panacea. It must come with organisational and cultural changes across the company, industry sources say. Boeing recently tapped veteran engineer Linda Hapgood to oversee the "digital transformation," which one industry source said was underpinned by more than 100 engineers.

Hapgood is best known for turn-

ing black-and-white paper drawings of the 767 tanker's wiring bundles into 3D images, and then outfitting mechanics with tablets and HoloLens augmented-reality headsets. Quality improved by 90%, one insider said. In her new role, Hapgood hired engineers who worked on a digital twin for a now-scrapped mid-market aeroplane known as NMA.

She is also drawing on lessons learned from the MQ-25 aerial refuelling drone and the T-7A Red Hawk. Boeing "built" the first T-7A jets in simulation, following a model-based design. The T-7A was brought to market in just 36 months. Even so, the programme is grappling with parts shortages, design delays and additional testing requirements.

Boeing has a running start with its 777X wing factory in Washington state, where the layout and robot optimisation was first done digitally. But the broader programme is years behind schedule and mired in certification challenges. "This is a long game," Hyslop said. "Every one of these efforts was addressing part of the problem. But now what we want to do is do it from end to end."

## BAILOUT

## IMF extends debt relief of \$115m for 25 low-income countries

## WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund's executive board has approved the extension of \$115 million in debt relief to 25 eligible low-income countries from January 11 to April 13 next year in an effort to help them ride out pandemic-induced headwinds.

Approval of the fifth and final tranche of debt service relief from the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) brings the total two-year Covid-related debt relief since April 2020 to \$964m, the Washington-based lender said in a statement. The four previous tranches were approved on April 13, 2020, October 2, 2020, and April 1 and October 6 this year. "This helps free up scarce financial resources for vital health, social and economic support to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic," the fund said.

The damage from the Covid-19 pandemic has been greater than that from the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, most notably in Africa and South Asia, according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development. Renewed international support is needed for developing countries facing the threat of a "lost decade" amid an uneven global economic recovery, the fund said in September.

The recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic remains "hobbled" and the world economy could sustain as much as \$5.3 trillion in losses over the next five years if the vaccine divide is not reduced, the IMF said.

Global debt soared to \$226tn last year, the largest one-year debt surge since the Second World War. Global debt rose by 28 percentage points to 256 per cent of gross domestic product in 2020, according

to the lender's latest update of its Global Debt Database.

In March 2020, at the start of the pandemic, Kristalina Georgieva, the IMF's managing director, began an urgent fundraising effort to raise \$1.4 billion in grants to help the CCRT provide debt relief for up to a maximum of two years, while leaving the trust sufficiently funded for future needs.

So far, donors have pledged contributions totalling about \$852m. These donors included the EU, the UK, Japan, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Norway, Singapore, Greece, China, Mexico, the Philippines, Sweden, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Malta and Indonesia, the IMF said. This helps free up scarce financial resources for vital health, social and economic support to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The fund's executive directors said that CCRT grants for debt service relief "have helped its poorest and most vulnerable members to free up resources to tackle the pandemic and its repercussions." However, they said that total grant pledges received to date are short of the cost of the full two-year Covid-related debt service relief and well short of the \$1.4bn fundraising target.

The approval of the fifth tranche will severely reduce the CCRT's pre-Covid cash buffer and potentially limit its capacity to provide relief in future emergencies, the directors said. However, there is a compelling case for approval of the tranche in light of the continuing human and economic toll of the pandemic, the fund said. The directors also agreed on the urgent need for continued fundraising efforts to address the CCRT's underfunding, according to the statement.



Kristalina Georgieva, the IMF's managing director.



## ITV

## SATURDAY 18 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:00	Igizo: Rebeca
21:30	Art and lifestyle
22:00	ITV TOP 10
22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15	DWTW

## SUNDAY 19 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35	Bongo Movie rpt
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwangaza
16:30	ITV Top 10
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Rebeca
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie:
00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

## MONDAY 20 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	ITV Top Ten

11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjue Zaidi
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:10	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Albu yako rpt
18:15	DWTW: Kesho leo
18:45	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo
19:00	Afya ya Jamii
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Dakika 45
22:00	Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW
22:15	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTW

## TUESDAY 21 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
10:25	Jagina rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Afya ya jamii
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Ripoti Maalum rpt:
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:10	Yu wapi
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30	Uchumi na biashara
19:00	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:45	Chetu ni chetu
22:20	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTW

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Ijue sheria rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Shamsham za pwani
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30	Jagina

## WEDNESDAY 22 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Uchumi wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru rpt
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Soap: Rebeca rpt
18:45	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo
19:00	Ijue Sheria
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Albu Yako
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:35	Ripoti Maalum
22:10	Soap: Love to Death
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTW

## THURSDAY 23 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Ijue sheria rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Shamsham za pwani
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Soap: Love to Death
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30	Jagina

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari

## FRIDAY 24 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Uzalo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
10:25	Usafiri wako rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	The Base rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30	Chetu ni Chetu rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Chetu ni Chetu rpt
14:15	Igizo: Rebeca rpt
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
17:30	Kisilam
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean: Jumong
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTW

## SATURDAY 25 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari

## SUNDAY 26 Dec

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: Uzalo



## WORLD

## US legacy: Chaos, poverty and hunger in Afghanistan

KABUL

THE outgoing year has been a difficult one for Afghans. Almost as hastily as they had arrived, US-led forces ran for home after 20 years. The military precision with which the evacuation was executed stands in stark contrast to the chaos left behind.

Economic activity has ground to a halt. Poverty is on the rise.

In the summer, the US-led mission fled the Afghanistan front of their so-called "war on terror," leaving nothing but trash, extreme poverty and universal unemployment. As the Americans and associates hightailed it back where they came from, the government they had kept in power collapsed.

The Taliban took power on Aug 15 and formed a caretaker government on Sept 7.

Unwelcome foreign forces had been completely ejected from the country by late August, ending a military presence that began impulsively in the wake of the catastrophic events of 9/11. The most obvious result of a campaign meant to bring stability to Central Asia is a country with a battered economy. This sorry state of affairs has reportedly been attained at a cost to Washington of around 2

trillion US dollars.

The war is not even over. While 300 Islamic State fighters have given up their arms in the eastern Nangarhar Province over the past couple of months, the hardline group has claimed responsibility for a series of bomb blasts across the country. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has downplayed the claims, saying the Emirate has little to fear from the group.

The caretaker administration found itself unable to pay civil service salaries. Largely dependent on foreign aid for the past 20 years, the state apparatus has been largely destroyed.

## Nothing on the table

The majority of Afghans are facing acute food insecurity and are unable to feed themselves. The World Food Program and other UN agencies estimate that more than 22 million of Afghanistan's 36 million people will go hungry to some degree this winter. Many will be unable to cope with genuine emergencies of hunger.

"Afghanistan is facing an avalanche of hunger and destitution the likes of which I have never seen in my twenty plus years



An Afghan girl sits beside relief supplies in Khost province, east Afghanistan, Nov 9, 2021. XINHUA

with the World Food Program," said WFP country director Mary-ellen McGroarty recently. The prices of basic goods including flour, cooking oil and sugar have almost doubled.

"Unfortunately, we no longer have enough money to buy anything. Everyone is suffocating in a stifling economic crisis caused by the change of regime," said Salim Khan, a Kabul resident.

## Nothing in the bank

Following the US military pull-out in Afghanistan and the Taliban's takeover of the country in mid-August, Washington reportedly has frozen more than 9 billion US dollars of Afghanistan's central bank, leaving the new rulers in the doldrums.

In mid-August, a bank run led to a ceiling on withdrawals of 200 US dollars per week. Basic services are collapsing. Food and other life-saving aid is about to

run out. Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has demanded Washington unblock his country's assets.

"America has paralyzed the banking system. That is why the banks can't give money to their customers. Restrictions on banking have led food-price rises over the past couple of months," said Sayed Mohammed, who failed to withdraw cash from his account that week.

"The high price of US dollars has affected our business. People have no cash to buy things, the price of flour, rice and cooking oil is much higher now than a month ago.

A couple of days one piece of bread cost 10 afghani. Today I had to sell for 20. As the price of flour goes up following an increase in the exchange rate, we have no choice but to increase the price of our bread."

Agencies

## Wang: China stands on right side of history, human progress

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday delivered a speech at a symposium on the international situation and China's foreign relations in 2021.

During the past year, the world has witnessed a persistent and unchecked pandemic, accelerating changes unseen in a century and a period of turbulence and transformation globally, Wang said while addressing the symposium, co-hosted by the China Institute of International Studies and the China Fund of International Studies in Beijing.

Confronted by unprecedented challenges, countries around the world are looking for answers and humanity are required to make the right choice, Wang said, adding that China has all along stood on the right side of history, and on the side of

human progress, international equity and justice, and the vast developing countries.

For China's diplomacy over the past year, the strongest guide of action is head-of-state diplomacy, the most distinct banner is building a community with a shared future for mankind, the most prominent topic is to tell the world stories of the Chinese people and the Communist Party of China, and the most remarkable feature is to adapt to changes properly and keep breaking new ground, Wang said.

As the pandemic drags on and rebounds, China has conducted effective anti-COVID-19 diplomacy and fulfilled the responsibility of a major country, Wang said.

"Facing multiple risks to global development, we have injected new impetus into economic recovery and created new opportunities for common devel-



Wang Yi, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister, speaking at a symposium.

Wang said China has held high the torch of true multilateralism, and firmly upheld the authority of the UN and a stable international order in the contest between true and false multilateralism.

"Facing the profound evolution of the international landscape, we have promoted overall steady growth of China's relations with other major countries and endeavored to build a new type of international relations."

He said China has worked vig-

orously to further develop the potential of South-South cooperation, and actively promoted reforms of the global governance system.

He also noted that China has resolutely defended its national sovereignty, security, and dignity while facing external interference and provocations.

"In the face of a grave and complex external environment, we have worked all-out to serve domestic development and acted on our commitment of serving the people through diplomacy," he added.

The year 2022 is critical for Chinese people to march toward the second centenary goal, Wang said, adding that the Party will hold its 20th National Congress, which will be a most important event in the political life of the Party and the country. He added that the diplomatic front will strive to create a more stable

and favorable external environment for the great cause of the Party and country.

"First, we will make utmost efforts to ensure success of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games. Second, we will take proactive steps to tackle the many challenges in the post-COVID era. Third, we will push for the implementation of the Global Development Initiative. Fourth, we need to expand and deepen global partnerships. Fifth, we will stay committed to promoting the steady growth of China-US relations. Sixth, we will firmly safeguard China's core interests," Wang said.

China's diplomatic front will continue to strive for the goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind, in order to make greater contributions to the country and to the world, he added.

Xinhua

## Security guarantees emerged in wake of West's unacceptable actions – Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW'S recently initiated proposals on security guarantees come in the wake of a surge in regard to alarming and unacceptable actions on behalf of the United States and NATO in collaboration with Ukraine, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told TASS.

Asked why Russia came up with the proposals on security

guarantees at exactly this time of the year, the Russian diplomat replied "It is because this year saw a sharp hike in alarming and unacceptable activities on behalf of the United States, NATO member countries in close collaboration with Ukraine and other, the so-called, NATO's partners."

On December 17, the Russian Foreign Ministry released two draft documents on ensuring legal security guarantees from



the United States and NATO.

Earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin called on NATO to start substantive negotiations in order to provide Russia with reliable and long-term security guarantees.

The head of state clarified that Russia needs legal guarantees, since the promises previously made by its Western colleagues had not been fulfilled.

As Kremlin Spokesman

Dmitry Peskov told reporters last week on Thursday, Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov told White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan that Moscow was ready to immediately start negotiations on the draft documents concerning the security guarantees.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov would represent Russia during the negotiations on this topic.

Agencies

## Cuba soars to near top of COVID-19 vaccination charts

HAVANA

CUBA has vaccinated more of its citizens against COVID-19 than most of the world's largest and richest nations, a milestone that will make the country a test case as the highly contagious Omicron variant begins to circle the globe.

The Caribbean island has vaccinated over 90 percent of its population with at least one dose, and 83 percent of the population is now fully inoculated, placing it second globally behind only the United Arab Emirates among countries of at least 1 million people, according to official statistics compiled by 'Our World in Data.'

While many of its neighbors in Latin America, as well as emerging economies globally, have competed for vaccines produced by wealthier nations, health officials say Cuba vaulted ahead by developing its own.

Infections and deaths from COVID-19 have plunged on the island in recent weeks, falling to less than 1 percent of their peak on Aug 22, when fewer than half its citizens were vaccinated.

Nearly all of Cuba's children aged 2 to 18 have now been vaccinated with home-grown vaccines.

Schools have reopened and foreign tourists are once again welcome. Hospitals and morgues, overflowing in August, appear to be operating at pre-pandemic levels, according to Reuters witnesses.

"It is a truly remarkable accomplishment, given the size of Cuba, and also the US embargo, that restricts their ability to import," said William Moss, director of the Johns Hopkins International Vaccine Access Center, a US-based university group that works to ensure equitable access for low-income countries.

Cuba has said its homegrown, protein-based Abdala, Soberana 02 and Soberana Plus shots give upwards of 90 percent protection against symptomatic COVID-19 when offered in three-dose schemes.

## WEF defers annual meeting due to Omicron outbreak

GENEVA

THE World Economic Forum (WEF) will defer its 2022 annual meeting from January to early summer, it said on Monday.

The meeting, scheduled for Jan 17-21 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, was postponed due to the "continued uncertainty over the Omicron outbreak."

The WEF earlier canceled its annual meeting for 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Current pandemic conditions make it extremely difficult to deliver a global in-person meeting," the WEF explained in a news release published on its website.

Preparations of the WEF annual meeting have been guided by expert advice and have benefited from the close collaboration of the Swiss government at all levels, the WEF said. The transmissibility of Omicron and its impact on travel and mobility have made deferral necessary, it added.

The health and safety of everyone involved in physical meetings have always been the Forum's priority, it stressed.

"The deferral of the annual meeting will not prevent progress through continued digital convening of leaders from business, government and civil society," said Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF.

According to the Forum, participants of the annual meeting will instead join a headline series of "State of the World" sessions bringing together global leaders online to focus on shaping solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

"Public-private cooperation has moved forward throughout the pandemic and that will continue apace. We look forward to bringing global leaders together in person soon," Schwab added.



A woman passes by the World Economic Forum logo in Davos, Switzerland, Jan 20, 2019. File photo

## Hong Kong SAR elects new legislature under improved electoral system

HONG KONG

CHINA'S Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Monday unveiled its new lawmaker lineup after successfully holding its first legislative election under an improved electoral system.

Ninety elected lawmakers, standing out from a total of 153 candidates from different backgrounds and across the political spectrum, will sit on the seventh-term Legislative Council (LegCo) of the HKSAR. About 1.35 million eligible voters cast their ballots at more than 600 polling stations across the SAR on Sunday.

To facilitate participation for registered Hong Kong voters in the Chinese mainland amid COVID-19 concerns, voting stations were also set up at the checkpoints at Heung Yuen Wai, Lo Wu, and Lok Ma Chau Spur Line. The voters briefly crossed into the Hong Kong side to cast their ballots.

"Overall, the polling and counting processes went very smoothly. The election was conduct-

ed in an open, fair and honest manner," Chairman of the HKSAR Electoral Affairs Commission Barnabas Fung said after the conclusion of the election. The election was also characterized by intense competition. For example, five candidates from the education functional constituency had to vie for a single seat.

## A SOUND GOVERNANCE BACK ON TRACK

After a series of improvements made to the electoral system to better implement the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong," the LegCo now has 90 seats, up from 70, with 40 returned by the Election Committee constituency, 30 by functional constituencies, and 20 by geographical constituencies.

Newly-elected lawmakers and authorities in Hong Kong have highlighted the significance of the election in getting rid of past political quagmire and fast-tracking solutions to Hong Kong's deep-seated problems.

Hong Kong has been plagued by entrenched problems ranging from housing shortage to a

wide wealth gap, and young people long for more opportunities.

Political distractions over the past years have left such issues unsolved for too long, because in the past, elections in Hong Kong often descended into chaos and were used by external anti-China forces to endanger national security and undermine Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

Wong Yuen-shan, elected by the Election Committee constituency, said as seen in the past month or so of campaigning, candidates from different backgrounds competed rationally and pragmatically on their ideas, platforms and abilities, as rational discussions regained footing in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong residents are delighted to find that issues of public concern have been featured on the election platforms of the candidates, ranging from ensuring land and housing supply to developing a new northern metropolis.

Chan Han-pan won a seat through the highly competitive geographical constituency of New

Territories South West. He has 16 years of experience as a District Council member and nine years as a LegCo member.

Looking forward, he said he will live up to the expectations of the voters by implementing his political platform and bringing the opinions received during the election period to the legislature to reflect voters' voices.

Robert Lee, elected by the financial services functional constituency, said he will make a difference in conveying the voices of the industry, increasing employment opportunities, promoting economic development and solving the problems encountered by young people.

Yiu Pak-leung, elected by the tourism functional constituency, said the outlook for Hong Kong is bright given support from the central authorities.

He noted the country's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) supports Hong Kong in enhancing its status as an international financial, shipping and trade center, and its effort to develop itself into a center for cultural and art exchanges be-

tween China and other countries. "The new LegCo will put sound governance back on the right track, work for the well-being of the people, and move Hong Kong forward," Yiu said. "In the future, I will work with the tourism industry to solve the difficulties and retain the talents, and work hard for the tourism industry to take off again."

## A SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY

HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam said Monday that she hopes to cooperate with members of the new LegCo to promote Hong Kong's economic development, its integration into the overall development of the country, and to improve people's livelihood, so as to build a better Hong Kong.

The Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR on Monday hailed the successful election in an online statement released after election results were unveiled.

Xinhua



## Tigray forces to withdraw from neighbouring Ethiopian regions

NAIROBI

TIGRAYAN forces fighting the central government have withdrawn from neighbouring regions in Ethiopia's north, a Tigrayan spokesman said on Monday, a step towards a possible ceasefire after major territorial gains by the Ethiopian military.

The 13-month-old war in Africa's second-most-populous nation has destabilized an already fragile region, sent 60,000 refugees into Sudan, pulled Ethiopian soldiers away from war-ravaged Somalia and drawn in armed forces from neighbouring Eritrea.

"We have just completed the withdrawal of our forces from both Amhara and Afar regions," said Getachew Reda, a spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the political party controlling most of the northerly region of Tigray.

Writing on Twitter, Getachew added that the TPLF hoped the pullout would induce the international community to put pressure on the governments of Ethiopia and neighbouring Eritrea, allies in the conflict, to cease military operations in Tigray.

TPLF head Debretsiion Gebremichael called for a no-fly zone for hostile aircraft

over Tigray, arms embargoes on Ethiopia and Eritrea, and a UN mechanism to verify that external armed forces have left Tigray - all requests that the Ethiopian government is likely to oppose.

"We trust that our bold act of withdrawal will be a decisive opening for peace," Debretsiion wrote in a letter to the United Nations outlining the TPLF's demands.

Ethiopian government spokesperson Legesse Tulu and the prime minister's spokesperson, Billene Seyoum, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

UN spokesman Farhan Haq said Debretsiion's letter was being studied and he had no immediate comment beyond that.

"We would look positively at any efforts that can bring the fighting downwards and ultimately to bring it to a full halt. ... We'll study this (letter) and see ... what can be done with that," he told reporters at a briefing.

The US State Department is aware of the reports of Tigrayan withdrawal, spokesman Ned Price told reporters.

"If we do see a movement of Tigrayan forces back into Tigray, that is something we would welcome. It's something we've called for and we hope it opens the door to broader diplomacy," Price said.



In this file photo taken on July 02, 2021 captive Ethiopian soldiers walk towards the Mekele Rehabilitation Center in Mekele, the capital of Tigray region, Ethiopia. AFP

### 'Rare opportunity'

TPLF head Debretsiion Gebremichael said he hoped the Tigrayan withdrawal would force the international community to ensure that food aid could enter Tigray. The United Nations previously accused the government of operating a de facto blockade - a charge Addis Ababa has denied.

Thousands of civilians have been killed as a result of the conflict, around 400,000 are facing famine in Tigray and 9.4 million people need food aid across northern Ethiopia.

Debretsiion said he hoped the Tigrayan withdrawal would force the international community to ensure that food aid could enter Tigray. The United Nations previously accused the government of operating a de

facto blockade - a charge Addis Ababa has denied.

The TPLF accuses Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of wanting to centralise power at the expense of Ethiopia's regions. Abiy denies the accusation.

Abiy, whose appointment in 2018 brought nearly three decades of TPLF dominance over Ethiopia to an end, says the TPLF wanted to hang onto central power - something the Tigrayan leadership denies.

Will Davison, senior analyst for Ethiopia at the International Crisis Group think tank, said the TPLF letter represented a "significant opportunity for peace talks".

"There are reasons to think this rare opportunity might lead to a peace process and cessation of hostilities," he said.

A significant shift in the Tigrayan position, he said, was the abandonment of their demand that hostile forces withdraw from western Tigray, a disputed area, as a precondition for peace talks, as well as a concession that this could come about as part of an internationally backed peace process.

Agencies

## Russia has tough position on proposals of security guarantees, says senior diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has a tough position on issues of security guarantees and hopes for a substantive dialogue with the United States, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said in an interview with the Rossiiskaya Gazeta on Monday.

"We have a tough position but our message is clear to the West. We hope for a substantive dialogue with the United States. We have formed a team and we are ready to begin a conversation immediately, as soon as the Americans are ready for it," he said when asked whether Russia could compromise on any of its demands laid down in its proposals to the United States.

Commenting on the question of whether there is any shortage in contacts between the Russian and US military, Grushko said, "Naturally." In his words, the lack of contact between the military poses big risks. "The removal of drills from the lines of contact, joint work on the improvement of mechanisms to avoid military incidents, setting a minimum distance of approaching with warships and warplanes - all these matters require the use of military channels. Such things should be discussed by specialists, but, due to some unknown reason, NATO thinks it is a political problem," he added.

"If we really want de-escalation by using measures that will make it possible to remove the risks of military incidents, we need to resume channels for communication between the military. Agencies

## UN humanitarian chief says situation in Syria remains grim

UNITED NATIONS

THE situation for people in Syria remains grim as humanitarian needs have grown while funding has shrunk, said UN Under-secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths on Monday.

"We continue to fail the Syrian people in what they

need, what they deserve, and what they are entitled to in terms of humanitarian assistance and protection," he told the Security Council in a briefing.

Violence continues to kill and injure civilians. As winter sets in, millions of people are in the cold. Internally displaced people living in temporary tents are espe-

cially vulnerable, he said.

The humanitarian operation simply does not have sufficient funds to provide the basic shelter, heating, and warm clothes to all of those in need, he noted.

Over 5 million people do not have sufficient and safe water in northern Syria. Food security, access to electricity, and livelihoods

are also impacted. COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc across Syria, with vaccination rates below 5 percent, and women bearing the disproportionate part of that impact, said Griffiths.

The economy continues its downward trajectory. Food costs more now than at any time since the World Food Program started moni-

toring such costs in 2013. Many families spend on average 50 percent more on basic items than they earn each month and they are forced to rely on credit and loans and help. It should be obvious that this is simply not sustainable, he said.

Immediate life-saving activities remain a priority. But there is also a need to help

people in Syria chart their own course toward a better future. Early recovery is another critical aspect of the humanitarian response, he said.

"Beyond food, people in Syria are the same as people anywhere. They want jobs - to earn a living - they want their basic needs met, and they want a future."

Agencies

## TCM deeply involved in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of COVID-19 in China

IN treating COVID-19 patients, China has always adhered to the principle of combining traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and Western medicine, and adopted TCM throughout the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of COVID-19 to provide the best possible services for patients, according to an official with China's health authority.

Guo Yanhong, an official with the medical administration and supervision department under China's National Health Commission (NHC), made the remarks at a recent press conference held by the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19 in response to the latest waves of outbreaks at home.

In the pandemic responses of Chinese cities including Dalian, Heihe and Lanzhou, TCM has shown its unique advantages and played a key part in ensuring early identification, reporting, isolation and treatment.

After Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu province, reported new COVID-19 cases, Zhang Zhongde, vice president of Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine in south China's Guangdong province, hurried to Lanzhou on Oct. 20 to help contain the spread of the virus. It was the ninth time he had been to the front line of the fight against the pandemic.



A pharmacist of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) dispenses a prescription for epidemic prevention medicine at a TCM hospital in Huai'an city, east China's Jiangsu province, August 19, 2021. File photo

On the night upon his arrival in the city, Zhang studied and analyzed local cases with other experts.

"Unlike previous cases, few of the newly confirmed ones in Gansu had a fever. But most of them showed symptoms like xerostomia, dry throat and dry cough, and some had symptoms similar to those of a cold, such as headache and runny nose," Zhang said.

TCM that is helpful for nourishing people's energy can effectively alleviate patients' symptoms like dry mouth, dry throat and dry cough, he added.

Taking into consideration the virological characteristics, syndrome, geographical and climatic features of the outbreaks, Chinese experts have adjusted and improved TCM diagnosis and treatment

formulas in time and emphasized the importance of tailoring prescriptions for patients according to their respective symptoms.

TCM has once again demonstrated its unique merits and curative effects in China's efforts to cure COVID-19 patients.

TCM has been prioritized in the treatment of mild cases, according to Guo, who said that TCM has been proven effective in easing patients' clinical symptoms including fever, cough, poor appetite, and fatigue.

Close combination of TCM and Western medicine has prevented the condition of mild COVID-19 cases from deteriorating, Guo noted.

As regards critically ill patients, some TCM has been proven effective in reducing high fever and other aspects,

Guo added.

TCM emphasizes preventive prevention of disease. Last year, Wuchang district, Wuhan city, central China's Hubei province, created a common TCM formula against COVID-19 based on its experience in fighting the pandemic and took the lead in giving out TCM in residential communities, witnessing good results in strengthening people's immunity and reducing COVID-19 infection rate.

TCM decoction, as important preventive means of TCM for thousands of years, is useful for protecting the susceptible population, said Tian Xingjun, head of the Sichuan Provincial Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

To give full play to TCM's role in COVID-19 prevention, Sichuan province has widely spread knowledge about TCM and anti-pandemic measures and provided the public with guidance on maintaining and improving health, Tian pointed out.

It should be noted that TCM has also helped with patients' rehabilitation. After patients finish their course of treatment, they receive a TCM prescription for further recovery, which is aimed at enhancing their immunity, said Qi Wensheng, director of the emergency department of Guang'anmen Hospital, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences.

People's Daily

## Germany eyes contact restrictions to soften COVID-19 wave

BERLIN / HAVANA

of 108,352.

TOUGHER contact restrictions and an accelerated booster campaign are among measures being considered by German leaders ahead of a meeting on Tuesday aimed at softening the blow of a fifth wave of coronavirus infections.

The government's scientific advisory panel said in a statement on Sunday it was necessary to further limit contact, with data so far showing that boosters alone would not be enough to contain the spread of the virus.

The state premier of North Rhine-Westphalia state, Hendrik Wuest, did not rule out contact restrictions on people who have been fully vaccinated or had a booster shot.

"We should be careful about ruling anything out," he told broadcaster ARD on Monday.

However, Health Minister Karl Lauterbach has ruled out a lockdown before Christmas and said he did not expect a "hard lockdown" after the holidays either, read more

At the same time, Lauterbach called for parliament to decide on mandatory vaccinations as soon as possible to stem the coming waves.

Some 70.3 percent of Germany's total population are considered fully vaccinated, while 31.5 percent have received an additional booster shot, according to official figures.

The German Hospital Federation (DKG) has warned the fifth wave could bring a deadly twofold blow of seriously ill patients and massive staff shortages due to coronavirus infections.

The Robert Koch Institute infectious disease body reported 16,086 new coronavirus cases within 24 hours on Monday, the smallest rise since early November. The death toll increased by 119 on Monday, to reach a total

Cuba

The number of active COVID-19 cases in Cuba continued to decline to the lowest level in nearly a year, reaching 358 as of Sunday, the Cuban Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP) said.

Among the active cases, 16 are in intensive care units across the country, MINSAP said.

The Caribbean nation reported 62 new COVID-19 infections in the last 24 hours, taking the national tally to 964,097, it said, adding that no coronavirus-related deaths were registered in the past day, leaving the national death toll at 8,324.

Cuba has so far reported five cases of the highly transmissible Omicron variant. Health officials continued to urge people to follow COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Sports facilities, leisure centers, theme parks and beaches in Cuba are open with mask mandates, whereas restaurants and cafeterias are operating under social distancing guidelines. European Union

The member states of the European Union will receive an additional 20 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in the first three months of next year to hasten the pace against the fast-spreading Omicron variant, the European Commission said on Sunday.

"The Commission has today agreed with BioNTech-Pfizer to accelerate the delivery of its mRNA vaccine to Member States, starting in a few weeks," it said in an announcement. Five million doses will be delivered in January, another five million in February and an extra ten million doses in March.

These doses come on top of the already scheduled 195 million doses from BioNTech-Pfizer, bringing the total number of deliveries in Q1 to 215 million.

Agencies

## Australia rules out lockdowns despite Omicron surge

JERUSALEM / RAMALLAH / SEOUL / SINGAPORE / SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA must move past "the heavy hand of government" and authorities must stop shutting down people's lives with COVID-19 lockdowns, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Tuesday, as daily infections in the country shot up to a new pandemic high.

COVID-19 cases have been breaking records over the last several days, the surge fuelled by the more transmissible Omicron variant, but Morrison insisted that limiting the spread of the virus comes down to personal responsibility. "We have got to get past the

heavy hand of government and we have got to treat Australians like adults," Morrison told reporters, urging authorities to shift from "a culture of mandates" when it comes to masks and social distancing rules.

Despite the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said "only a fraction" of those cases were ending up in hospitals. The number of people in hospitals has been creeping up, but remains far lower than during the Delta wave.

Around 4,600 cases were reported in Australia on Tuesday, exceeding the previous high of

some 4,100 over the weekend. New South Wales, home to Sydney, became the first Australian state to top 3,000 COVID-19 daily infections, while neighboring Victoria logged 1,245 cases. Other states have fewer cases.

### Israel

Israeli researchers have found that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, harms the human immune system, Ben-Gurion University in southern Israel said on Monday.

In a genetic study published in the journal iScience, BGU researchers tried to find out what

causes the "stormy" nature of COVID-19, which is also manifested in an extreme reaction of the immune system.

For this purpose, they analyzed for a year, using computational biology, gene expression in patients from around the world.

The team examined whether mitochondria, cell organs that produce energy, are damaged during COVID-19 illness, resulting in dysfunction of the body. Surprisingly, the researchers identified damage to the mitochondria of immune system cells, rather than to lung cells' mitochondria. The mitochondrial damage

in immune cells explains the "cytokine storm" phenomenon, which is a reaction of the immune system, appearing with symptoms such as fever, swelling and extreme fatigue, the researchers said.

"Based on the results, it is possible to use existing treatments to target mitochondria and thus improve patients' condition," they concluded.

### Japan

The Japanese government on Monday launched a smartphone app that allows people to display proof of the COVID-19 vaccination that can be used for multiple purposes,

including immigration procedures, local media reported.

According to the Digital Agency, the app is called the COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate Application and is available for both iPhone and Android smartphones, showing information including the number of doses a user has received, the dates of inoculation, and the vaccine manufacturer.

The app allows people to obtain vaccination certification through the "My Number" national identification system. All citizens and residents of Japan are issued 12-digit ID numbers, however, My Number cards

need to be applied for separately.

By scanning their My Number cards with a smartphone, people can have their inoculation status displayed on the app. The vaccination information is saved in a cloud system created by the government, called the Vaccination Record System.

### Kuwait

Kuwait will require anyone who has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 for nine months to get a booster shot, the government communication center tweeted on Monday.





Jeremiah Kisubi

## Simba SC goalkeeper Kisubi seeks exit door

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's third-choice goalkeeper, Jeremiah Kisubi, has requested to leave the outfit just a few months after arriving at the side from Tanzania Prisons on a two-year deal.

Kisubi is yet to play any match for Simba SC this season, a situation that has prompted the goalkeeper to ask for a move to another outfit to play.

Simba SC signed Kisubi due to last season's scenery, which had the club having no reliable shot-stopper at some point.

The Msimbazi Street club's first-choice keeper, Aishi Manula, was nursing an injury he sustained during a CAF Champions League match and second-choice shot-stopper, Beno Kalolanya, was out for several days as a result of a family problem.

The incidents left Simba SC with a young goalkeeper, Ally Salim, on the bench, a situation that made the outfit opt to take precautions by roping Kisubi in.

With all twists and turns, Kisubi has asked his team's leadership to allow him to return to Prisons.

Kisubi disclosed: "I don't have a chance to play and I want to develop my talent. I have done that and I hope I will be treated well so I can go to a team that will give me chance to play to develop my talent."

Prisons' other goalkeeper, Aaron Kalambo, has opened up on the reports that he has asked his club's leadership to allow him to leave the squad during this season's mini registration period.

The experienced goalkeeper joined Rukwa-based Prisons from Dodoma Jiji FC.

Kalambo, who had previously played for Prisons, admitted he was out of the team but his absence came about because of a family problem.

The shot-stopper pointed out he reported the matter to the team, contrary to what is rumoured by a section of local soccer fanatics.

Kalambo said: "I'm still at Prisons and I trained with the team on Thursday to play against Yanga in a game that we lost 2-1 at the Nelson Mandela Stadium."

He stated that he is planning to head to another club if his request is accepted by his club's leadership.

He said he has many offers, insisting he will disclose them once his outfit approves his request.

Yanga's shot-stopper, Djigui Diarra, and Simba's Manula are currently keepers with lots of clean sheets in the NBC Premier League.

Ruvu Shooting's goalkeeper, Mohamed Makaka, has the most saves per game after nine rounds of the domestic top-flight.

## Yanga leadership opens up on stadium construction plan

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA leadership has said the outfit's plans for the construction of a stadium are at an advanced stage.

The information has been issued by the Jangwani Street club in the wake of Simba SC's recent decision to start raising funds for the construction of the outfit's new stadium.

Simba SC had already made the process of contributing to the construction of the stadium public through various platforms.

The move sparked a debate among soccer enthusiasts in the country, with a section of them insisting the side needs more investors for the project.

The Msimbazi Street outfit's fanatics have already started contributing to the project.

Yanga's Chief Executive Officer, Senzo Mbatha, disclosed that the club's stadium construction project, dubbed 'Kigamboni Complex, Home of Champions', has already secured contractors who will soon start work.

"We have already secured contractors to start work soon, the 'Kigamboni Complex, Home of Champions' project will start, it is a great development for our club."

"We have a lot of sustainable



Yanga's Chief Executive Officer, Senzo Mbatha.

and good plans for the club so there are a lot of initiatives that need to be completed so that people can see the development," Mbatha stated.

Simba SC recently expressed satisfaction over the speed of donations made by the outfit's members and fans for the construction of the stadium.

The facility will be used for Simba SC's home matches in both local and continental tournaments.

Simba SC's Chairman, Murtaza Mangungu, said that due

to the outfit's members and fans responding to the call to contribute to the facility's construction, he is confident that the goal would be achieved.

"We are receiving donations, I hope we will achieve our goals, and we promise our club's members and fans that we will be reporting the donations."

"We will be transparent in the planning and use of these funds from them," he said.

For about a week, members and fans of the club have been donating money for the stadium construction.

um construction.

After donating, many of the side's followers have been posting their transaction details on social media sites for publicity.

The idea of stadium construction came to the attention of a section of Simba SC members and fans after the club's Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, was barred by Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) officials from accessing Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam to watch her outfit's NBC Premier League match against age-old rivals, Yanga, in the city on December 11.

Simba SC's advisor, Crescentius Magori, supported the stadium construction idea.

The leader stated that it was time for the outfit to express disapproval over the Chief Executive Officer's incident by contributing to the construction of a stadium capable of accommodating at least 30,000 fans.

Mohamed Dewji, the club's investor and honorary president, agreed with the idea and advised the club's Board of Directors to arrange the donation.

The investor promised to donate 2bn/- for the project.

## Gospel artists win plaudits at Christmas show

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

VARIOUS choirs and popular gospel music singers, including Rose Mhando, graced a festival, dubbed 'Christmas Carols 2021', held at Mlimani City Mall in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Other singers, who performed at the festival, include Goodluck Gozbert, Beda Andrew, Ambwene Mwasongwe, Elias Barnabas 'Barnaba', and choirs that include Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Kijitonyama, Bwagamoyo to Jesus, Revelation, and Trumpets.

The festival moreover had singers from the Tanzania Philharmonic Society (TPS) and many other choirs that performed right up to the night.

Coca-Cola Tanzania Marketing Manager, Kabula Nshimo, whose company sponsored the festival, disclosed this year's event was expected to be unique as attendees thanked God for blessing them.

"We have partnered with our colleagues in this concert, we are announcing our insulated Christmas tree, people can come and stand in front of it and take vari-



The Tanzania Philharmonic Society (TPS) singers perform at a festival, termed 'Christmas Carols 2021', which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

ous memorial photos," Kabula noted.

The Coca-Cola Tanzania official said the festival will continue throughout the end-of-the-year holidays in various regions in the country so that Tanzanians can enjoy gospel music.

The regions include Morogoro, Dodoma, Mwanza and Kilimanjaro.

"We have a Christmas Caravan, the reality is that Christmas would not be complete without

Coca-Cola," Kabula said.

"I believe that people will be entertained a lot," she added.

Rose, known professionally as Rose Mhando, is a prominent Tanzanian Gospel singer, songwriter, and choreographer.

She was born and raised in Kilosa District, Morogoro.

Rose, a former devout Muslim and mother of three, claims to have seen a vision of Jesus Christ while indisposed

on her sickbed at the age of nine.

She had been suffering for three years, after which she was healed and later converted to Christianity.

Rose started her music career as a choirmistress at Dodoma's Chimuli Anglican Church's Saint Mary's Choir.

On January 31, 2005, she was voted as the best composer, best singer, and also scooped the best album of the year award at the Tanzania

Gospel Music Award concert.

In December 2005, she participated in a gospel concert to help raise funds for a Dar es Salaam orphanage.

In February 2011, Rose signed a multi-album recording deal with Sony Music.

The signing was announced at a press conference in Dar es Salaam on February 9 and was the first deal of its kind for East Africa.

## Prisons' keeper salutes Yanga midfielder

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA Prisons goalkeeper, Benedict Haule, has disclosed that Yanga midfielder, Feisal Salum, was a constant threat to the former when the two outfits locked horns in this season's NBC Premier League match played at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Rukwa last weekend.

Yanga cruised to a 2-1 victory against Prisons to continue enjoying the NBC Premier League's driver's seat with 23

points.

According to Haule, Salum kept him under pressure in the tie because of the Yanga midfielder's ability to execute dangerous long-range shots.

He said apart from ruining his clean sheet record, Salum was one of Yanga's players that troubled the former, adding the midfielder dominated the midfield.

"They were not superb, it was just luck, but Salum was the best because he was very good in the

midfield, many of his shots kept me under pressure," Haule noted.

The goalkeeper, who plays for Prisons on loan from Azam FC, said they still hope to do well in the coming games against Geita Gold FC and Kagera Sugar as their squad is fit.

He said at the moment their minds are focused on the away matches, with the players concentrating on correcting mistakes they committed in previous fixtures.

"We can't give up because the league is not over, so we are preparing for the coming games, starting with the fixture against Geita Gold FC and then a tie against Kagera Sugar," Haule noted.

Meanwhile, Yanga's Burundian midfielder, Said Ntibazonkiza, has said that their squad still has a great chance of winning this season's NBC Premier League top honour.

After beating Tanzania Prisons

2-1 on Sunday, Yanga still leads the rest of the pack with 23 points, followed by the league's defending champion, Simba SC, with 18 points and a game in hand.

Ntibazonkiza, who was signed by Yanga during the 2020/21 mini registration period, said they are still fighting to win the title.

The midfielder maintained that his club's current momentum convinces the squad's players there is nothing that can stop them from fulfilling their goal.

He revealed: "The battle is still going on and we will fight hard to get victory to achieve the goal of winning the league, it will not be easy but plans are made."

"The fans love to see us win our matches and we love doing so because we have to win, we believe we will do well."

Ntibazonkiza has scored two goals and executed one assist, with his team having netted 14 goals in its matches.



## Analysis: Virus concerns overshadowing NBA League's Christmas slate

By TIM REYNOLDS

ANTHONY Davis is injured and out for at least a month. Klay Thompson's incredibly long recovery is not quite finished.

Kyrie Irving is almost certainly not going to be ready to make his season debut.

The NBA's Christmas lineup was already going to be missing some stars. And then ... there's COVID-19.

The virus-related numbers around the league are skyrocketing, and there's certainly a strong chance that some teams playing on Christmas this year will be without key players.

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, Atlanta's Trae Young, Golden State's Andrew Wiggins and Brooklyn teammates Kevin Durant and James Harden – all scheduled to be showcased on Christmas this year – are all sidelined right now.

It's possible each may be back soon. It's possible some may not be back by Saturday. Nobody knows.

"This is not all happening again is it," Hawks guard Kevin Huerter tweeted, the question that has undoubtedly been on plenty of minds in recent days. Sure seems like it is.

A year ago at Christmas, the pandemic was only keeping fans away from most arenas.

Phrases like "health and safety protocols" or "in the protocols" weren't truly yet part of the NBA lexicon.

Now, there are more players dealing with virus-related issues than there are injuries.

And the NBA knows the numbers are almost certainly going to get worse before they get better, that's one of the reasons why they are now allowing teams to replace players who test positive without any salary cap or luxury tax repercussions.

The league memo announcing that decision said the amended policy will be in effect until mid-January, at least.

"We have to make these adjustments because of the situation," Phoenix coach Monty Williams said Monday.

"Teams are at a competitive disadvantage when you have to lose a guy or two. Some of these teams, it's happening every other week, every week.

I think the league is just trying to help teams out. It speaks to the importance of the G League to have guys right there that are in shape and ready to go."

Officially, last season's lineup of NBA Christmas games had exactly zero players sitting out because of virus-related concerns.

Through Monday, the 10 teams scheduled to play on Saturday had a combined 36 players known to be in the protocols – not including Los Angeles Lakers coach Frank Vogel.

That number will obviously change by the weekend, but the odds of it going to zero are pretty much nonexistent.

"It's not the best situation in the world," Williams said, "but nothing is right now."

There were two Chicago games postponed last week, two Brooklyn games postponed this week, and five other games shelved as well to bring the total for the season to nine.

For now, the five Christmas games all remain on as scheduled.

And the lineup for Christmas, picked by the NBA months ago, sure seemed like it would be more sparkly than this.

There is Atlanta at New York, a rematch of a playoff series from last season.

Boston at Milwaukee, the traditional Christmas appearance as part of the perk package for reigning NBA champions.

Golden State at Phoenix, a matchup of perhaps the two best teams in the league to date this season.

Brooklyn at the Lakers, a game that many thought would be a potential NBA Finals preview a few months ago.

And Dallas at Utah, which will give Rudy Gobert fans in France and Luka Doncic fans in Slovenia something to watch at 4:30 a.m. on a Sunday.

Right now, neither the Hawks nor Knicks would be playoff teams. The Celtics, Mavericks and Lakers are all hovering around .500.

Doncic is dealing with ankle soreness, which might impede his availability for Christmas.

Davis won't play for the Lakers until probably late January, at the earliest, with a knee problem. Irving hasn't played for Brooklyn yet this season.

"We're all navigating uncertainty," Williams said.

There will certainly be arguments made by some suggesting that the league should pause, or postpone more games, since the numbers of players currently dealing with virus issues is massive – 15% of the league, give or take.

When Gobert tested positive on March 11, 2020, the league shut down for four months.

It's obviously a very different world now and a very different NBA, with 97% of players vaccinated and more than 60% boosted.

Yet the concerns are back and the future seems just as uncertain now as it did 21 months ago.

So, enjoy the Christmas games. No one knows what comes next.

# Juventus investigation shows soccer's problem with player trading

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

YOU may have heard the term "player trading." You sign a player for a million, he does well, appreciates in value, and you let him sign with another club for 10 million.

You've made money and, for many clubs, this is an increasingly important revenue stream alongside gate receipts, media rights, sponsorship and commercial income.

In fact, as the financial blogger @SwissRamble writes, in the past decade (pre-COVID), the top two tiers of English football have lost a whopping

£3.1 billion (\$4.1 billion), pre-tax, which would have become a massive £8.2 billion (\$10.85 billion) pre-tax if not for the massive (£5.1 billion) profit on player trading in that period.

And bear in mind, that's in England – the wealthiest, most commercially successful of Europe's big footballing landscapes.

Elsewhere, the reliance on this practice to square the books is far greater, and because it's a practice filled with grey areas, it is coming under more scrutiny because transfer values can be inflated to make the books look better.

In Italy, football's financial regulator reported 62 suspicious transactions since 2019, 42 of them involving Juventus. And last month, financial police raided the club's offices.

UEFA have also been looking at this practice as they try to wrap their heads around a fundamental, and almost philosophical, question, how should the game deal with something that generates huge profits, but isn't always related to events on the pitch?

**Q: OK, explain this "player trading" thing. Isn't it just clubs being rewarded for being smart, buying low and selling high?**

**A:** In some cases, sure. But there's a wrinkle and it has to do with accounting.

Accounting practices in football mean that when you move a player to another club for, say, 10m, you get to book 10m revenue straight away.

But if you acquire a player for 10m, that 10m is spread over the life of the player's contract. So, for example, a 10m player who gets a five-year deal will cost you 2m a season for the next five years.

The "asset value" of the player on your books declines by 2m each year.

Want a practical example?

Chelsea signed Romelu Lukaku from Inter for €115m last summer. (There may have been additional bonuses and whatever, but let's leave them aside for simplicity's sake.)

That €115m is spread over the five year contract they gave him, so on the books, it's cost-



Juventus Football Club's Chairman, Andrea Agnelli.

ing them €23m a season (what you call amortization) and his asset value declines by that amount each year.

Two summers from now, he'll have an asset value of €69m (€115m minus €23m x 2). In terms of accounting, if he leaves in 2023 for more than €69m, they'll make a profit off him, at least on paper and at least for that season.

**Q: What if he extends his contract?**

**A:** Then the residual asset value is spread out over his new deal. Taking the Lukaku example: after two years, he has three years left, meaning his value would be €69m.

If he extends the contract by another two seasons, he'd have five years left, so the annual amortization would go down to €13.8m (€69m divided by the five years remaining). All of this, of course, is on paper.

**Q: Why do they do it that way?**

**A:** It's based on something called International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Without boring you excessively, players aren't treated solely as employees, they're also treated as means of production. Think of a bakery buying an oven to make cookies.

They might spend \$10,000 on the oven and they figure it will last them five years, after which they'll need to replace it.

So on their books, they'll take a \$2000 hit each year for the next five years.

**Q: That seems to make sense in some ways...**

**A:** In some ways it does, but there are differences. You don't have to pay the oven to work for you, but you do have to pay Lukaku a salary, as well as accounting for the cost to acquire his services (his transfer fee), and you can sell the oven on the second-hand market to whoever you like.

Lukaku, of course, has to agree to the sale. And if his contract expires, he becomes a free agent and walks away for free, something the oven, presumably, won't do.

(Unless it becomes self-aware, like in Terminator and the machines all rise up against us, and then we're screwed

either way and it won't matter).

**Q: So what's the problem?**

**A:** There's no problem with Lukaku – other than the fact that it's a bit dubious to think of human beings as assets – but more broadly, there are two potential issues here.

I'll take the obvious one first, and it's the one for which Juventus and other clubs are being investigated: player trading swaps.

I'll give you the most obvious example. In the summer of 2020, Juventus sent midfielder Miralem Pjanic to Barcelona for €60m (plus up to €5m in bonuses) and, at the same time, acquired another midfielder, Arthur, for €72m (plus up to €10m in bonuses).

Leave the bonuses to one side for the sake of simplicity and this was basically a case of acquiring Arthur for Pjanic plus €12m.

They could have valued Arthur at €12m and Pjanic at €0, or Arthur at €12m and Pjanic at €200m – on a cash basis, it would have made no difference, but it was in both club's interests to get the numbers right, accounting-wise.

Arthur had been acquired for €31m in 2018 on a four-year deal and thus had a residual value of €15.5m on Barca's books.

He signed a five-year deal with Juventus, meaning the amortized annual cost for Juve would be €14.4m.

Pjanic had cost Juventus €32m in 2016 and signed a five-year contract, which he extended for another three years in 2018, leaving him with a residual asset value of €9.6m.

And he signed a four-year contract with Bar-

celona, so his amortized annual cost was €15m.

Do the math and both clubs come out well ahead, at least in the short-term?

Barcelona get €72m for Arthur: take away the €15.5m residual asset value and the €15m annual cost of Pjanic and they're up €41.5m.

Juventus sell Pjanic for €60m: take away the €6.4m residual value and the €14.4m in amortization for Arthur and they're up €39m.

In Juve's case, investigators suggest those valuations are inflated just so they could show more revenue in player trading to make their books look better.

**Q: Do the authorities have a case?**

**A:** That's the thing – it's a judgement call, as there is no objective cast-iron method for calculating a player's transfer value.

But history will record Pjanic as one of the 50 most expensive players in history. Among players at his position in central midfielders, only Paul Pogba (€105m) Frankie De Jong (€86m), Arthur (€72m) and Rodri (€62m) cost more than he did.

And the difference is that the four guys ahead of him on the list were all 23 or younger when they moved, while Pjanic was 30.

Transfer valuations are supposed to decline once a player hit his late 20s and early 30s.

So, of course, based on historical benchmarks – let alone how good you or I might think Pjanic actually is – that deal was always going to raise eyebrows.

That's just one example. Prosecutors suggest Juventus made as much as €300m in paper capital gains with an array of

similarly dubious deals, many involving lesser-known younger players.

(For example, striker Elia Petrelli, who is 20 and whose entire resume consists of 16 appearances in the Italian third division and 13 minutes of Serie B football, was sent to Genoa for €8m as part of the deal that made Nicolò Rovella a Juve player in January 2021).

Of course, they're not the only club that's being investigated, but the problem is who is to say Pjanic wasn't worth €60m, or that Petrelli wasn't worth €8m? Clubs overpay for players all the time.

**Q: It seems like a violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the law (or at least, accounting principles)...**

**A:** Maybe it is. Whether or not it's illegal and you can prove it is illegal, part of some wilful deception, is another matter. (And in Juve's case, the investigation is broader, using wiretaps to look for other forms of malfeasance).

More broadly, there's a case to be made – and Juve may wish to make it – that all of this is far from a deception.

The club is listed on the stock exchange, so their reporting standards are more transparent than most.

Any investor could have seen the Pjanic-Arthur swap and drawn his own conclusions, for example.

Beyond that, 64 percent of the club's shares are owned by Exor, the Agnelli family's holding company and Andrea Agnelli is the club president, so it's not as if he's being deceived.

The problem as I see it is that while a number of clubs have engaged in these sort of shenanigans – mainly to gain fiscal advantages or show paper profits to meet league guidelines or even just avoid equity injections in the short-term – many have not.

And the rules should be the same for everyone; they should not depend on how clever or brazen your accountants are.

**Q: You said there was a broader problem earlier...**

**A:** Yes. I'll give you three reasons. First off, the practice of player trading depends on agent intermediaries to make deals happen, and that's a largely unregulated, murky business.

This has been especially true recently, as a

flurry of mergers have given out-sized power to half a dozen agencies – whose main business isn't representing players as much as it is representing clubs to move said players around – often at the expense of clubs.

Second, relying on player trading to balance the books can work exceptionally well for some clubs – Swiss Ramble estimates that, over the past decade, in the Premier League alone, Chelsea have made \$800m, Liverpool \$475m and Arsenal \$470m – but it's nowhere near as stable as, say, filling your stadium or media income.

And when you can't (or don't want to) sell, things can get hairy very well. Especially if you engage in the sort of transactions – like dubious swaps – mentioned above, the risk is that you simply postpone costs down the road and they get bigger and bigger.

Finally, there's something slightly distasteful about the commodification of athletes. These are people who play sports and entertain us for a living.

They're not simply numbers on a screen that you move around to balance books.

**Q: So how do we fix this? And does it need fixing at all?**

**A:** I think it does need fixing. More transparency would help: it always does.

I'm not sure you need to go as far as FIFPro did a few years ago, when they proposed abolishing transfer fees altogether, but at some point we need some guidance on what the purpose of a team actually is.

Yes, they play a sport and that's also entertainment, and they fund themselves in different ways.

But should this part of the business – especially when finalized to generate revenue, rather than improve results – be a part of that?

And should it be included in considerations when we license clubs and assess their financial health?

Are there better accounting practices we can use to determine the financial health of a club?

I'm not an accountant, but I imagine there must be ways that are a better fit for something that is part-sports, part-entertainment and part-business. As for the rest, there's definitely a conversation to be had.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Juventus investigation shows soccer's problem with player trading

PAGE 19

## Midfielder stages no show at Azam FC training



Salum Abubakar

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**T**ANZANIAN midfielder, Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy', has failed to appear for training at his club, Azam FC, as he seeks to transfer to another outfit.

It appears the 29-year-old midfielder is running out of patience with Azam FC and is trying to force a move out of the club.

'Sure Boy' did not return to the squad to resume training under the interim head coach, Mohamed Badru, after the midfielder was pardoned from his indefinite suspension.

Last week, Azam FC recalled 'Sure Boy', central defender, Aggrey Morris, and midfielder, Mudathir Yahya, back to their squad.

The trio had been serving an indefinite suspension following gross misconduct they reportedly committed after an international match.

They were accused and found

guilty by the club following an incident that involved a match bonus row in early September.

Mudathir and Morris have already resumed training while 'Sure Boy' has failed to do so.

Instead, 'Sure Boy' wants to negotiate with the club to reinforce his determination to move.

It is understood Yanga has been in touch with 'Sure Boy' representatives, expressing a desire to sign him.

Azam FC information officer, Thabit Zakaria, confirmed 'Sure Boy' has verbally informed the club he wants to leave after serving for more than a

decade.

He has been playing for Azam FC since 2007 and has won the Mainland Premier League, Mapinduzi Cup, Kagame Cup, and Federation Cup at the club.

Thabit Zakaria, Azam FC information officer, disclosed: "Sure Boy" has not joined his teammates, instead, he has verbally told us he thinks his time with the club has come to an end after a long time and wants to terminate his contract."

"We are waiting for his formal request so that the club lawyers can sit down and decide what to do."

"He is not part of the training squad though Mudathir and Morris are back in the fold."

Despite the reported interest from Yanga, there would be no deal unless Azam FC is willing to negotiate, which could leave 'Sure Boy' stuck in limbo.

He still has eight months to run in his contract.

This week will be key in determining his future at Azam FC, with Yanga ready to make their move.

Azam FC sits eighth in the NBC Premier League standings with 11 points after playing nine league games this season.

**TONIGHT @ 7:00**

**EATV SAA 1**

**WEDNESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Nirvana (r)  
16:00 Skonga (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 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 Kibiashara Zaidi

**EATV SAA 1**  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## TPC lauds Dar swimming club for recognizing Para swimmers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) has hailed Dar es Salaam swimming outfit, Champion Rise, for recognizing swimmers with disabilities in the country.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC secretary-general, issued the information in the city recently after Champion Rise had awarded Amos Bonifasi as the best local Para swimmer of the year 2021.

The event was held to award 2021's best swimmers and their coaches. It took place on Sunday in the city, with Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, gracing it.

Namkoveka was awarded the best Paralympic swimming coach's award and he thanked Champion Rise's Executive Director, Amina Mfaume, for her efforts in recognizing Para swimmers in the country.

He said the awards are part of the Paralympic Movement which is a global sporting movement for persons with disabilities.

The aim is to change attitudes about persons with disabilities, increase mobility and accessibility and ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunity to education, sports, healthcare, and employment.

The TPC official disclosed: "Let me thank Champion Rise for recognizing Para Swimmers, this shows that we are appreciated for the contribution we are making in swimming in the country."

"We ask organizers of the awards to continue with this spirit," Namkoveka, the only local Paralympic swimming coach recognized by World Para Swimming Association, disclosed.

Minister Bashungwa thanked Champion Rise for hosting the awards and for recognizing Para swimmers, saying this is in line with Paralympic Movement.

He said as part of promoting swimming in the country, the government will in next year's budget allocate funds to construct a modern swimming pool.

"The government thanks Champion Rise and Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) for the awards and also for recognizing Para swimmers, this is in line with Paralympic Movement which wants to see many people with disabilities take part in sports," he said.

## Azam FC out to post win over Ruvu Shooting

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS season's NBC Premier League side, Azam FC, says it is ready for tomorrow's league encounter against Ruvu Shoot-

ing to be played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Azam FC's interim head coach, Mohamed Badru, said he is confident that they will do well in the game.

He said after Azam FC's 2-2 draw with Mbeya City FC in the previous league tie, the former's players have shown character that they are ready for any opponent.

The coach noted: "In our last game against Mbeya City FC which ended in a 2-2 draw, we played well and we are happy with the character shown by our players."

"Sometimes the change of coaching panel can affect the players but they played well and I'm hopeful that we will do well in our next game," he said.

Ruvu Shooting is coming into tomorrow's game whilst reeling from a 2-1 defeat to Geita Gold FC in a top-flight tie that took place in Geita.

After the defeat, Ruvu Shooting's information officer, Masau Bwire, said they will do well in the next game.

"We have lost but I'm sure the technical panel will rectify the problems and do well in our next game," he said.

Meanwhile, Azam FC has said its doctors are closely monitoring its players, Prince Dube, Paul Katema, Zubeir Koba, and Paschal Msindo, who have reportedly been sick.

"Some of our players have not trained with the team as they were sick, we are monitoring the situation and hope by the time we face Ruvu Shooting, they will be in good health," the club's information officer, Thabit Zacharia, noted.



Junior soccer coaches' instructor, Raymond Gwebu (C), trains some of the coaches who attended a program, dubbed 'Grassroots', at Karume Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The program seeks to see to it children have fun playing football. This is best achieved through Grassroots events encompassing training sessions, tournaments and festivals which bring the game closer to children. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

