



**National Pg 2**  
'Fish consumption in Tanzania still low'



**National Pg 4**  
Why sustainable agriculture crucial



**National Pg 6**  
CRDB Bank Plc branch for Tanzanite miners



### Choppies closing outlets in several African countries

**GABORONE**

CHOPPIES Enterprises Ltd is shutting down its supermarkets across several African nations in a bid to concentrate on growth in Botswana, where it is listed, as well as other southern African countries Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The giant retailer, which has since exited the South African and Mozambican markets, is also divesting operations in Tanzania and Kenya, a move initially reported by Ventures Africa last September. The loss-making markets have been funded by growth in Botswana. Chief Executive Officer Ramachandran Ottapathu (pictured) said, as reported by Gaborone-based news site Mmegionline early this week.

The company will instead focus on more profitable subsidiaries with plans to add stores in Botswana this year and explore new markets.

"Zambia is self-sustaining and growing slowly and in Zimbabwe, we'll look at the market and how it goes. (In) Namibia, we



**Zambia is self-sustaining and growing slowly and in Zimbabwe, we'll look at the market and how it goes. (In) Namibia, we need to grow**

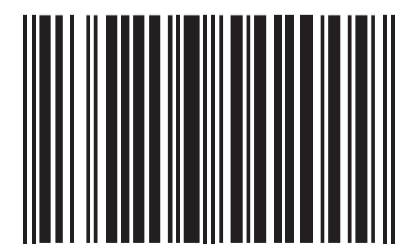
need to grow," Ottapathu said.

News of Choppies' planned consolidation comes after the Botswana Stock Exchange lifted a nearly two-year suspension of its shares on the bourse late last month. Its shares plunged by more than 60 percent in September 2018 after failing to publish its financial results, leading to the suspension on both the local bourse and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, where the company has a secondary listing.

The statements were delayed after the retailer's new auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers raised concerns with the board over accounting practices. "The company has now published all its financials up to December 2019 bringing it into compliance with the stock exchange requirements," the BSE said in a statement. Choppies now hopes to resume trading on the South African stock exchange.

"We are hoping the JSE will soon lift the

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# Fuel prices rise further, Ewura admits shortage

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MOTORISTS will from today have to dig deeper into their pockets to buy fuel following the announcement of new, higher prices yesterday.

New indicative prices unveiled by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) show that effective today, price for petrol has increased by 139/- per litre, being 8.22 per cent push while the price for diesel rises by 69/- per litre, a four per cent increase.

In Dar es Salaam petrol will sell at 1,832/- per litre with diesel selling at 1,785/- per litre. Ewura's Communications and Public Relations manager Titus Kago who announced the changes admitted that there is a shortage of fuel in various regions.

However, he asserted that contrary to some reports of countrywide shortage, just some parts of the country experienced the problem.

He explained that the July consignment was delayed due to challenges with the refinery where the petroleum cargo was sourced and a strong monsoon wind that made the ocean supertanker to travel at a low speed.

"Due to the delay of the shipment for about seven days, EWURA communicated with wholesalers to ensure availability of the



**In Dar es Salaam petrol will sell at 1,832/- per litre with diesel selling at 1,785/- per litre.**

products in all parts of the country," he said.

There has also been a lot of movement by various groups of people in the past month compared to two months earlier, thus raising the demand for fuel, he said.

Daily demand petrol increased from 3.650m litres in June 2019 to 3.683m litres in June 2020. In July, the demand increased to 4.425m litres per day, a 21 percent addition, he pointed out.

"Despite higher demand for petrol, there is still enough stock that can last beyond one month," he said, noting that from 29th July to 31st August six ships with petroleum consignments are expected to dock.

Three of the ships with 89.564m litres, enough for 18 days had already docked while three other ships are slated for 13th August to 31st August, with 100.075m litres of petroleum, sufficient for another 22 days, he elaborated.

There is enough stock of diesel, even with a total of 193.391m litres expected to be unloaded in the course of this month, a consignment that suffices for one month, he stated.

In an effort to ensure a stable stock, EWURA has raised its estimate for daily demand for fuel from 4.812m litres to 6.082m litres for next month, September.

"The Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency

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Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) national Chairman Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad waves to Chadema members after attending their general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Chadema deputy secretary general Salum Mwalimu, who has been picked as the party's running-mate for the Tanzanian Presidency in the General Election slated for late October. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siyame

By Guardian Reporter

## Dividends pile-up has Tancoal losing permit

TANCOAL Energy, with a 2.7bn/- unpaid dividends bill with the government, has lost its operating licence.

Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa has ordered the suspension of the mining licence for Tancoal Energy over the substantial unpaid dividends.

The minister instructed Permanent Secretary Prof Riziki Shemdoe to furnish the firm with a suspension notice and immediate halting of its operations.

He issued those instructions on Monday during a visit to the Ngaka coal mining project at Ruanda area in Mbinga District, Ruvuma Region.

The minister has also appointed a special



**Tancoal Energy needs to pay dividends to the government for its 30 percent shares in Ngaka mine, the minister noted**

team to probe the contractual agreement between the company and the National Development Corporation (NDC).

Tancoal Energy needs to pay dividends to the government for its 30 percent shares in Ngaka mine, the minister noted.

"It's better for the coal to remain in the ground than being mined while the government does not benefit from it, and

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## WHO guideline takes up Ifakara innovative TB testing technique

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) has been featured in the latest World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on a tuberculosis (TB) diagnostic tool.

This recognition arises from its work on new technology for testing TB called Xpert MTB/RIF. It contributed to new consolidated



guidelines on tuberculosis module three that was published by the WHO recently.

IHI senior researcher Dr Frederick Haraka (pictured) was amongst 12 scientists forming the WHO team which reviewed a range of new diagnostic technologies endorsed by WHO during the past 10 years.

"Our review of the impact of Xpert on patients highlighted important outcomes which contributed particularly for recommendation 1.1," said Dr Haraka.

"Before our review, Xpert MTB/RIF was strongly recommended as initial diagnostic test in adults who are suspected for TB but

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Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (2nd-R) has a word with members of a women’s group engaged in the preparation of coal for domestic at the Ngaka coal mining site in Mbanga District, Ruvuma Region, yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

APART from the war against illegal fishing that has seen the increase of fish in lakes, rivers and oceans, still fish consumption in the country is still low, a senior official has said.

Stephen Lukanga, assistant director of fisheries in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries revealed this on Monday when speaking at the ongoing Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region.

It is estimated that a Tanzanian consumes an average of 8.3kg of fish per year while the global average is 20.5 kgs per person per year.

Lukanga said the government’s strategies at present are to mobilize Tanzanians to consume fish in big

‘Tanzania’s per capita fish consumption is still low’

quantities to attain the world average due to ample supply of fish. He said the operation against illegal fishing conducted in Lake Zone regions where the practice had been flourishing had positive results after stern steps were taken against those involved.

He said as for now the operation has shifted to other areas including areas with large rivers and other lakes.

The director of marine life development in the Ministry of

Livestock and Fisheries Dr Nazael Madalla said they have decided to introduce modern technology in fish farming to be used in the Tanzanian environment for the production of fish fingerlings in order to sustain fish production.

He said at the exhibition the technology they teach includes fish farming in tanks that is used in confined, urban areas by recycling the water.

He said another technology is fish

farming in large ponds of water with little cost which many Tanzanians can do especially in areas with clay soil.

Deputy Governor of Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Bernard Kibasse who visited the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries pavilion said middle income economy can be sustained if Tanzanians engage themselves in better fish farming methods as the market thereof are readily available within and outside the country.

WHO guideline takes up Ifakara innovative TB testing technique

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also have either HIV or multi drug resistant TB (MDR). Now it is strongly recommended for all adults with signs and symptoms of TB regardless of HIV or MDR status.”

A set of recommendations under Section 1 of the guideline, titled “Molecular assays intended as initial tests for TB,” provide for application of two novel technologies: Xpert MTB/RIF and Xpert Ultra as initial tests in adults and children with signs and symptoms of pulmonary TB.

IHI work contributed in the review and adoption of the first one: Xpert MTB/RIF.

In the review, Dr Haraka and other team members had shown that patients diagnosed using Xpert MTB/RIF had better chances of surviving and being cured compared to those diagnosed using the standard of care, smear microscopy.

“In adults with signs and symptoms of pulmonary TB, Xpert MTB/RIF should be used as an initial diagnostic test for TB and rifampicin-resistance detection in sputum rather than smear microscopy/culture and phenotypic drug susceptibility tests (DST), the recommendation specified, with remarks it is

strong recommendation, with high certainty of evidence for test accuracy; moderate certainty of evidence for patient-important outcomes”

What does this mean? Dr Haraka said that the new guidelines when adopted by national TB programs will be applied by health care personnel to improve TB diagnostics.

“The new recommendation means better access for TB diagnostic for all.”

Commenting on his involvement and participation in the review of the testing technology along with top scientists from around the world, Dr Haraka said: “It was a great learning opportunity on how WHO guideline development process occurs. We are happy to have been part of this great global effort and to learn that our ten years of TB research at our Institute gets global recognition in some way.”

Dr. Ally Olotu, IHI head of the interventions and clinical trials department, who is Frederick’s peer, said: “It is indeed fulfilling to see your work is being recognized and considered in the development of

international guidelines. Congratulations to the entire TB research team!”

“Great milestone,” said Dr Robert Ndege, head of the chronic diseases clinic in Ifakara.

“We appreciate the effort made to contribute to the global recommendations,” Dr Ester Elisaria, senior researcher at IHI.

“Great achievement,” said Dr Maja Weisser, an international public health researcher with IHI.

The political declaration at the first United Nations (UN) high-level meeting on TB held on September 26, 2018 included commitments by member states to diagnose and treat 40 million people with TB in the five-year period 2018-2022. An approximate breakdown of the target is about seven million in 2018 and about eight million in subsequent years.

The traditional method for diagnosing TB using a light microscope, developed more than 100 years ago, has in recent years been challenged by several new methods and tools. These methods are based on either the detection of mycobacterial antigens or on the detection of mycobacterial DNA. The novel tools to detect presence of mycobacterium tuberculosis and resistance to anti-TB drugs called for evidence-based policy recommendations.

The WHO published a number of guidelines developed by WHO-convened Guideline Development Groups (GDGs), using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach to summarize the evidence and to formulate policy recommendations and accompanying remarks.

However, the growing number of published guidelines complicates overview of recommendations for the intended audience (which includes health care personnel, national TB programs and policymakers), and WHO recognized the need to consolidate the recommendations into one document.

The recommendations in the new document, one of them being that on the use of ‘Xpert MTB/RIF’ tool which IHI contributed in reviewing, have been presented in five guidelines published by WHO between 2016 and 2020. Earlier guidelines on diagnostics that were not developed according to the GRADE approach have not been included in the consolidated document.

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if we get better partners who are already in waiting to pay the country its appropriate benefits according to the contractual accord, we shall do so without hesitation,” he said.

He directed the probe team to start work at once - to examine the contracts signed since coal the company started operations so that the government gets its rightful revenue.

NDC’s Director of Operations Prof Damian Gabagambi explained that Tancoal owed NDC 2.7bn/- dividend from its 30 percent share in the mine.

Tancoal Energy was established on 3 April 2008, as a joint venture between NDC and Intra Energy (T) Ltd, a subsidiary of Intra Energy Corporation, a publicly listed firm in Australia.

The Ngaka coal project is Tancoal’s flagship project, located in the vast

coalfields of south western Tanzania. Ngaka Basin has the potential to yield up to one billion tonnes of high quality thermal coal.

The basin comprises the Mbalawala sub-basin in the south and the Mbuyura-Mkapa sub-basin to the north. Tancoal has total coal resources of 367m tonnes and expected to increase this projection with further drilling at Mbalawala and Mbuyura-Mkapa sub-basins.

Coal mining commenced at Ngaka in August 2011, with initial mining conducted by a simple, low cost “truck and shovel” operation. It currently sells up to 600,000 tonnes per annum of unwashed coal to local customers.

“As the mining rate increases, Tancoal will ramp up coal production to meet requirements for a power station expected to come on-line in 2021,” the firm says on its website.

Fuel prices rise further, Ewura admits shortage

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(PBPA) will use the new estimates when ordering fuel for the month of September,” he affirmed.

Katavi region experienced some challenges but 37,000 litres were on sale since yesterday another consignment of 100,000 litres was on the way, the manager noted.

A slight shortage was noticed in Lake Zone towns of Bunda and Musoma in Mara region, following a delay in fuel tankers from Dar es Salaam reaching the region arriving on 31st July.

EWURA, admitting that there is shortage of fuel in some parts of the country after shipping delays, blamed ongoing political activities for unusually strong demand.

Choppies closing shop in several African countries

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suspension ... they have to follow what has happened in the primary market,” Ottapathu said last week.

Group revenue fell by 17.5 percent in the half-year to December 2019 due to a weakening currency in

Zimbabwe against the Botswana Pula, the company said in its latest results. It recorded an \$18 million loss on discontinued operations while the gross profit margin improved from 22.5 percent a year before to 22.9 percent, indicating good performance in the local market.



Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday addressing the opposition party’s extraordinary general meeting that was expected to endorse the party’s candidate for Tanzania’s Presidency during late October’s General Election. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siyame

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TOTAL number of public and private institutions participating in the ongoing 27th Agricultural, Livestock and Fisheries Exhibition (NaneNane) in the northern zone of Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara has increased from 460 participants to 560.

Arusha regional administrative secretary Richard Kwitega yesterday said apart from the increase, the biggest challenge that came up was the delay in the commencement of the exhibition due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The exhibition involves research and training institutions from the farming, livestock and fisheries sectors, processing of livestock and fisheries products, agricultural and fertilizers and pesticides as well as financial institutions.

Kwitega said yesterday minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga met with

Northern zone Nanenane fair records an increase number of participants

stakeholders from public and private institutions taking part at the fair.

He said the exhibition being held at Themu grounds in Njiro, Arusha also involves sectoral ministries including those for agriculture, livestock and fisheries, industry and trade and natural resources and tourism.

He said this year’s Nanenane exhibition is the fourth to be managed by Tanzania Agricultural Support Organization (TASO).

He said: “Themu ground is among the first ones to be built with good infrastructures and from now on it will be used as an important centre for technology trainings and conduct seminars on agriculture, livestock and fisheries throughout the

year.” The exhibition’s coordinator Daniel Loiruki said this year the fair is unique due to better preparations that drew many participants compared to past exhibitions.

He said the exhibition’s secretariat in northern zone has appealed to participants to abide by directives from the government through the Health Ministry in taking precautionary measures against Covid-19 infections.

The exhibition, whose slogan: “For Agricultural, Livestock and Fisheries Development Elect Better Leaders 2020” is slated to be closed by the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries.





An Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) delegation including national Chairman Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad (R, front row) listens as Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe addresses the meeting of the former opposition party in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siyame

## SUA: We'll ensure all research results reach farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

DEPUTY Administrative Vice Principal of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Prof Maulid Walad Mwatawala has said the university's strategy is to ensure the results of all researches by various researchers are received in time.

Speaking about the instructions of the Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan when opening the Nanenane Exhibitions being held at the national level at Nyakabindi Grounds in Simiyu Region, Prof Mwatawala said SUA has initiated a new diploma in seed

technology and production that is special for extension officers.

"The diploma in seed technology will assist extension officers results reach various researches to farmers to assist them engage in gainful farming," he said.

He said apart from the diploma that is expected to offered this year, SUA has also been conducting various trainings on seeds to extension officers as well as farmers from local councils and other institutions in the country. "So far local councils and private institutions have been bringing extension officers and farmers for various training seminars

in fruit tree grafting and how to manage seed beds," Prof Mwatawala said.

On the issue of sprinkle farming as opposed to irrigation farming in order to reduce costs for infrastructure construction, Prof Mwatawala said SUA has Degree courses on water resources management hence there was a need see how they can change that to abandon irrigation farming.

Early this week while in Simiyu, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed researchers in the farming, livestock and fisheries sectors to ensure they disseminate results of the researches to extension officers and

other stakeholders to enable them reach the farmers.

She also instructed the Agriculture Ministry to provide training on the sustainable development of irrigation infrastructures in particular water sprinkling to reduce the high cost in the construction of irrigation infrastructures.

SUA is participating in the Nanenane Exhibition for the Eastern Zone in Morogoro, while nationally it is held in Simiyu Region with the slogan: "For Agricultural, Livestock and Fisheries Development Elect Better Leaders 2020."

## Dr Shein: Without enough food, there is no guarantee of peace, tranquility

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said without sustainable and gainful development in the agricultural sector, the existing peace and tranquility could be at stake, as the sector's decline can have adverse effects to food security.

Dr Shein was speaking at the opening of the Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition at Langoni in West B District in Urban West Region attended by various leaders of the government and political parties including the Second Vice President Amb Seif Ali Iddi and other people.

President Shein said when food security is affected inflation erupts over the little food available, hence, he added complaints, anger, and hate will prevail as hunger gives rise to many things including people's health and psychological effects.

He said lack of peace and tranquility erode even the development that had been attained just on how locusts devour crops in the fields.

He said the Zanzibar government, in recognition the importance of food security and nutrition and the sustainable development in agriculture, it has been implementing by deeds Act No 5 of 2011 on Zanzibar Food security and Nutrition.

He said during Financial Year 2020/21, the government has increased the budget for agriculture from 88.17bn/- for FY 2019/2020 to 129.86bn/- for 2020/2021.

He said the government has changed the Kizimbani Agricultural College to become the School for Agricultural of State university of Zanzibar (SUZA) whereas a total of 26 students continue with their First Degree in Agriculture.

He said the government has also

accorded priority the issue of Blue Economy whereas as for now it has been among big sources for economic development.

Dr Shein also said the government has also revived the Zanzibar Fishing Corporation (ZAFICO) to strengthen fishing activities and push for fishing revolution in the country, stressing in deep sea fishing.

He said due to Phase VII Government efforts, seaweed farming has been improved as well as its price - from 800/- per kg to 1,800/- per kg for the 'Cotonii' type of the seaweed.

In regard to livestock, he said the government is developing the sector by taking various steps including education to livestock keepers, vaccination services including the purchase by the government for the production of chicken and fish feed.

In conclusion Dr shein called on Zanzibaris to continue with their long time tradition during election campaigns that were soon to start.

The Acting Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries haji Omar Keir congratulated president Shein for his idea in initiating the exhibition.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Mariam Abdalla Sadalla said the Exhibition slogan for this year is "Maintain Peace and Tranquility for Agricultural development."

She said the Exhibition's apex will be December 8 this year whereas 219 institutions have participated, surpassing last year's figure of 172.

She called on those institutions given permanent areas for their pavilions to construct permanent structures to reduce annual preparations costs.

She said the Exhibition has been held simultaneously in Zanzibar and Pemba and has cost 71.1m/- while other private participants contributed 12.4m/-.

## ICT experts in Dar to discuss better use of the digital space

By Guardian Reporter

A social enterprise, Paradigm Initiative (PIN), has brought together information and communication technology (ICT) stakeholders to discuss various issues on digital rights and freedom in a bid to expand the proper use of the digital space technologies for sustainable development.

The two-day workshop provided a platform for ICT players to discuss digital laws of Tanzania and Nigeria and learn from expertise on what should be improved for the betterment of the countries.

PIN's coordinator Peter Mmbando said that the discussion also aimed to exchange knowledge and expertise on the digital policies and laws between two countries.

He noted that the expansion of Africa's digital landscape means that the internet is fast becoming a human right and affects a lot more people.

"It is my plea to all internet users to ensure that they adhere to rules and laws laid by the country. But whenever there are laws reviews and changes, the public should come forward to provide their opinions."

Paradigm Initiative's Digital Rights programme manager Adeboye Adegokwe said: "Our firm belief that so much is possible when citizens, civil society, and government work together in shaping the future, through policy

interventions that support innovation and protect the people."

"This discussion will enable participants to be well informed on digital policies, rules and regulations and thus be able to educate the public on internet rights. We recognise the ministry's leadership roles in policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation, and regulatory and legal matters pertaining to communication, information and communications technology (ICT), science, technology, and innovation," he noted.

According to Adegokwe, PIN is a social enterprise that builds ICT-enabled support systems and advocates for digital rights in order to improve the livelihoods of under-served young Africans.

"Our digital rights advocacy program is focused on the development of public policy for internet freedom in Africa, with offices in Abuja, Nigeria (covering the Anglophone West Africa region); Lome, Togo (Francophone West Africa); Yaoundé, Cameroon (Central Africa); Nairobi, Kenya (East Africa) and Lusaka, Zambia (Southern Africa)," he added.

The forum underscored the critical role of stakeholders and the government across the region in the formulation of Internet policies, regulation and legislation that are favorable and meant to transform communities.



An NMB Bank Plc senior agri-retail banking relationship manager makes remarks at a capacity building seminar for members of agricultural marketing cooperatives (AMCOs) from Simiyu, Mara, Geita and Shinyanga regions at the Nane-Nane agricultural exhibition in progress at Bariadi in Simiyu Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Poultry farmers complain credit facilities come too late

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A GROUP of poultry farmers in Mbeya District have complained over slow pace in the issuance of loans to the entrepreneurs' groups claiming the situation is a great discouragement in their efforts.

They aired their complaints at the

weekend at the forum for youths in the district that discussed the involvement of the youths in entrepreneurship projects held in Ilembo Ward that drew youths from various o wards.

An official from the group Scholastica Malimali said out of 61 poultry groups for youths, only two had received

loans, the situation that makes other groups conduct businesses without tangible benefits.

"We appeal to the district council's community development department to increase the pace in the issuance of loans," she said.

The veterinary officer for Ilembo Ward, Aisha Peter, said some of the

poultry keepers fail to buy necessary inputs for their chicken due to lack of funds, as well as lack of skills in better poultry keeping.

"To make easy for these youths to engage in modern poultry keeping we have chicken feed and drugs at affordable prices, the only problem these youths lack the funds for buying

the inputs," she said.

Mbeya District Commissioner William Ntinika instructed the district executive director to increase loans to the youths to motivate them in their businesses.

He said Mbeya District Council is among local councils in the country doing well in the implementation of the

law that requires councils to set aside 10 per cent of their internal incomes for loans to small entrepreneurs, but of recent it had been slow in issuing the loans.

He called upon all the groups who had received the loans to ensure they repay in time to enable other groups access the loans.

# CRDB Bank Posts TZS 100 Billion Pre-tax Profit, Despite COVID-19 Disruptions

**D**ar Es Salaam, Saturday August 1, 2020 - Tanzania's leading financial services provider CRDB Bank Plc has posted impressive half-year results with a 15% jump in Profit After Tax of TZS 70.4 billion, up from TZS 61.1 billion reported in the same period 2019.

Group CEO & Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela attributes the growth to the company's swift strategies that have enabled it to navigate the COVID-19 disruptions. The Bank Group focused on supporting businesses to wither the storm of the crisis, which continues to disrupt the global supply chains.

"We made a commitment to support our customers during the crisis period to enable them to stabilize and, in the process, launched new ventures designed to uplift the micro and small businesses across the country," says Nsekela.

The CEO commended the government for making timely interventions to mitigate the COVID-19 crisis, which have created an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. He noted that the measures implemented by BOT have played a major role in fostering stability in the market and provided a conducive environment for growth.

"To adapt to the new norm, we continue to create new and unique propositions to take advantage of emerging opportunities within different market segments and sectors. We continue to leverage digital technology to expand our reach and deliver banking to the underserved communities in remote locations," The CEO explains.

During the half-year period, the bank rolled out various digital banking solutions, to support its customers as part of the broader plan to maintain closer engagements and understand customer needs better. In May the Bank held a virtual consultative forum with stakeholders in the health sector dubbed 'Afya Forum', which explored opportunities for collaboration in terms of how the bank could support the health and best deal with the crisis at hand.

"We have seen SMEs perform better even during the crisis and we want to continue focusing this sector as well as agriculture, which have a great potential to transform our economy," he added.

"Strategically, we integrated microfinance services with the parent company to improve our capability cater to more small and medium entrepreneurs to enable them to achieve their goals by addressing capital challenges and financial literacy gaps," quips Nsekela.



## Summary Highlights:

- Group profit up 15% (YoY) to TZS 70.4 billion from TZS 61.1 Billion posted in 2019
- Interest income grew by 6% to TZS 336 billion up from 315 billion in 2019
- Non-interest income grew by 7% (YoY) to TZS 129 billion from TZS 120 billion
- Non-Performing loans improved to 4.6% down from 8.7% in June 2019
- CRDB Bank Burundi SA net profit grew by 171% to TZS 4.4. billion from TZS 1.6 billion reported in 2019
- CRDB Insurance Broker Limited net profit grew by 143% TO TZS 2.6 billion, from TZS 1.1 billion in 2019.

The bank delivered a strong balance sheet performance with a 14% growth in total loans and advances to TZS 3.6 trillion, up from TZS 3.2 trillion reported in 2019. Group assets grew by 10% to TZS 7 trillion up from TZS 6.4 trillion posted in

the same period last year, mainly driven by growth in loans and Government securities. Customer deposits grew by 10% to TZS 5.5 trillion up from TZS 5.0 trillion reported in 2019. Net interest income grew by 7% to TZS 276 billion up

from 258 billion in 2019 whereas Non-interest income increased by 7% (YoY) to TZS 129 billion, up from TZS 120 billion. The growth in non-interest income is attributed to the bank's concerted improvements on service, especially service uptime, which led to increased transactions on alternative channels (mainly digital) during the crisis period.

"We accelerated our digital solutions to give our customers convenient options for banking during the crisis, which yielded a steady flow of cash despite the prevailing challenges," Nsekela further explains.

"We are also working to improve productivity through process re-engineering, adopting a cost-serve model. We have also embarked on resource optimization and automation of our key activities to leverage staff capabilities increase efficiency," says Frederick Nshekanabo, the Group Chief Finance Officer (CFO).

"We have taken several steps to improve productivity through resource optimization and inculcating a performance culture through the adoption of an improved performance management system," Nshekanabo explains.

The CFO further notes that the Group also achieved a notable reduction in impairment charge by 24%, attributing it to the decline in the Non-Performing Loans from 8.7% in June 2019 to 4.68%.

Meanwhile, subsidiaries also made significant contributions to the Group's performance with CRDB Bank Burundi SA posting a 171% profit after tax of TZS 4.4. billion, up from TZS 1.6 billion reported in 2019. CRDB Insurance Broker Limited posted a profit of TZS 2.6 billion, representing a year on year growth of 143% from TZS 1.1 billion achieved last year.

"We continue to strengthen our subsidiaries to improve their performance leveraging transformation initiatives being done at the parent company to ensure we achieve sustainability," Group CEO Nsekela says.

CRDB Bank profit streak has been on the rise, following a transformation exercise, which commenced early 2019. The transformation contextualized the company's medium-term strategy, focuses on building an efficient business, leveraging digital technology and culture change. The bank has rolled out various transformation initiatives, including revamping the operating model, which continues to deliver improved performance.

## PETROLEUM BULK PROCUREMENT AGENCY



PRE-QUALIFICATION NO: PBPA/PPP/PQ/2021

FOR

SUPPLY OF BULK PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

## INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCT IN THE YEAR 2021

- Petroleum Bulk procurement Agency (PBPA) has been established by GN. No 423 of 2015 and mandated to coordinate importation of petroleum product through the Bulk Procurement System by, G.N. 198 of 2017, under The Petroleum Act, No 21 of 2015;
- The Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) intends to Pre-qualify suppliers for Supply of Petroleum Products i.e. MOGAS, GASOIL, JET A1 & KEROSENE in Tanzania under Bulk Procurement System (BPS). It is mandatory for petroleum products in Tanzania to be procured under the Bulk Procurement System (BPS);
- Average monthly total volume of MOGAS, GASOIL, JET A1 & KEROSENE procured under BPS is 350,000 Metric Tons. Tenders shall be floated on cargo by cargo basis whereas the estimated number of cargoes per month is 5 to 9 with estimated cargo sizes as provided below: -
  - AGO- 60,000-100,000 MT
  - PMS 35,000- 38,000 MT
  - IK AND JET 20,000-25,000 MT
  - Comb cargo for Tanga AGO and PMS 25,000 -38,000 MT
  - Comb cargo for Dar es salaam KOJ1 and Mtwara AGO and PMS 25,000 -38,000 MT
- Pre-qualification will be conducted under International Competitive Bidding (ICB), through the procedures specified in the Petroleum Act Cap 392, the Petroleum (Bulk Procurement) Regulation 2017 GN. NO. 198 and Petroleum Bulk Procurement Manual of 2017.
- Applicants shall pay a non-refundable prequalification processing fee and shall receive a complete set of pre-qualification documents in English language, the amount payable shall be USD 5000 for international/foreign companies and 5,000,000 Tanzanian shillings for local companies. The amount shall be paid by direct deposit, direct transfer or banker's cheque in favor of Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency from Monday to Friday (Working Days) between 1000 hrs and 1600 hrs.
- The prequalified bidders shall be eligible to participate in tenders for supply of MOGAS, GASOIL, and JET A1 & KEROSENE for three (3) years from the date of being pre-qualified their after they will be required to pay validation fees of USD 1000 for the second and third year.
- Application for pre-qualification should be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address below, before or on Tuesday 01st September 2020 from 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM and be clearly marked "Application to be Pre-qualified for the Supply of Bulk Petroleum Products for tender no. PBPA/PPP/PQ/2021";
- Applications will be evaluated and results be announced on or before **15th November 2020** for pre-qualified suppliers to participate in tenders from **January to December, 2021.**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**Petroleum Bulk procurement Agency (PBPA)**  
**TPA- ONE STOP CENTER BUILDING,**  
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**Tel: +255 22 212 9009**  
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## NCPDRS requests govt to introduce special number plates for vehicles driven by PwDs

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Committee for Persons with Disabilities on Road Safety (NCPDRS) has proposed for the government to introduce special number plates for vehicles driven by people with disabilities.

Speaking here during training on the new six traffic signs for persons with disabilities NCPDRS Chairman, Jutoram Kabatele, said the committee has already submitted recommendations to the government on the same.

"We are currently on talks with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) over the matter that we should have special number plates," he said, adding that the vehicle number plates

numbers may be WT AZT 801, with the abbreviation referring to 'People with Disabilities Tanzania'.

The training which was funded by the Foundation for Civil Society brought together people with disabilities to learn on new traffic signs. The training has been offered to Dodoma, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

As for the introduction of new six traffic signs, Kabatele, said the new traffic signs were introduced to protect People with Disabilities on the roads, pointing out that one of the traffic signs is for vehicles driven by People with Disabilities.

He observed that despite designing of new traffic signs, there was a need for the introduction of special number plates for vehicles driven

by People with Disabilities to protect them against reckless drivers.

Kabatele said his committee had designed the traffic signs to address a number of challenges facing the People with Disabilities on roads, saying the traffic regulations stipulate that the group is entitled to a safe transport service.

He explained that the new traffic signs would help to protect the People with Albinism, deaf persons, People with mental illness and blind people.

"People with Disabilities are required to get no inconvenience while travelling in accordance with the law, but the group faces many challenges while on the trip," he said.



**Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga (L) and Agriculture ministry permanent secretary Gerald Kusaya (to his left) visit the Policy Analysis Group pavilion at the ongoing weeklong Nane-Nane (Farmers) exhibition being held at national level at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

## TADB awarded for supporting co-operatives

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) was awarded here yesterday for strengthening the cooperative movement by giving strategic loans to primary societies and cooperative unions to a tune of 100bn/- in one year period.

Presenting the award, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Angellah Kairuki, said TADB had strategically increased funding of primary societies and unions and therefore strengthening Tanzania's cooperative movement.

"Your contribution has ended problems and challenges which in the past were seen to be impossible

to overcome. This award is a sign of appreciation of your efforts in strengthening our cooperative movement," she said.

The minister also lauded the participation of the bank and other institutions in the Nane Nane Fair, saying their participation motivated members of the agricultural marketing cooperative societies and other smallholder farmers. That motivation, she explained, encouraged members to take seriously agriculture and fisheries sectors as a source of employment and disposable income.

"Your participation in fairs of this nature is an encouragement to smallholders to go on with the projected reforms in agriculture and fisheries sectors. We need badly these

reforms in strengthening our national industrialisation agenda," she told her audience at Nyakabindi Fair Grounds here in Bariadi District.

Contacted for comment in Dar es Salaam, the TADB Managing Director, Japhet Justine, said their bank was implementing focused strategy that contributed to national efforts in promoting agricultural and industrial efficiency.

"In this strategy we are working jointly with other banks. Our common objective is to ensure farmers and other producers get working capital and other inputs in time," he explained.

Nane Nane festivities are marked at national level in Simiyu Region, and in other selected zones.

## CRDB to put up branch for tanzanite miners

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

CRDB Bank has said it wants to put up a branch within perimeter wall which surrounds the tanzanite mining quarries of Mirerani, in Simanjiro District, Manyara.

The lender says its presence within the 25 kilometer fence where the rare blue gemstones are mined is meant to serve miners operating in both large and small scale units in the area.

Speaking in Mirerani on Monday, the bank's Northern Zone Manager Chiku Issa said it was high time that financial services were taken right to the Tanzanite mining area to enable pit owners to use them for paying taxes, banking their money and securing loans to service their mining operations.

"We are also starting to give financial advice to local miners in the extractive industry, for instance the new billionaire Saniniu Laizer, who recently struck three pieces of Tanzanite that are the largest in history, is among our clients and the CRDB bank is helping him make wise investment decisions,"

said Issa.

Apparently the CRDB Bank wants to ensure that all payments regarding buying and selling in the mining area take place right at the quarries doorsteps in order to save time and facilitate speedy and safer transactions.

Speaking earlier, Minister for Minerals Dotto Biteko said after the erection of what is now known as Magufuli wall, the government seems to plan to convert the mining area into a special business park and export zone which now requires all the necessary establishments such as banks, insurance companies and revenue authorities.

Meanwhile, the artisan miner who has so far struck the top three largest Tanzanite Gemstones in Mirerani, Saniniu Kurian Laizer, has repressed hope that the biggest pieces of Tanzanite are still yet to be lifted underground.

"I am using expert surveyors and can attest that the large Tanzanite stones so far, are nothing compared to what is yet to come from down under, these first three were just found

accidentally, but with ongoing serious mining, our quarries will soon see even more wondrous miracles," maintained Laizer.

He was recently speaking in Mirerani at the ceremony to sell his third largest specimen in form of the 6.3 kilogramme heavy Tanzanite piece which was bought by the state at the cost of 4.5 billion/-.

Laizer said he was sure biggest pieces of Tanzanite are yet to be mined due to poor technology employed by miners in the past, but with advanced technical know-how, many miners are now in position to venture further underground seeking the valuable stones.

Receiving the latest piece of Tanzanite from the local miner, Biteko said the achievements registered are results of the fort erected to protect the Mirerani mines from thieves and smugglers.

"And soon all the major banks and bureau exchange facilities will be established within the Mirerani Wall to ensure that this place becomes the ultimate mineral trading center and later on export zone," said Biteko.



# The Guardian

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2020

Taking A New Look At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Eradicating rural poverty remains big challenge for international community

RURAL poverty refers to poverty in rural areas, including factors of rural society, rural economy, and political systems that give rise to the poverty found there. Rural poverty is often discussed in conjunction with spatial inequality, which in this context refers to the inequality between urban and rural areas. Both rural poverty and spatial inequality are global phenomena, but like poverty in general, there are higher rates of rural poverty in developing countries than in developed countries. Eradicating rural poverty through effective policies and economic growth remains a challenge for the international community.

The first target of the past Millennium Development Goals was to decrease the extent of extreme poverty by one-half by the year 2015, which could not be achieved. Poverty remains a predominantly rural problem, with a majority of the world's poor located in rural areas. It is estimated that 76 per cent of the developing world's poor live in rural areas, well above the overall population share living in rural areas, which is only 58 per cent. Disparities between rural and urban areas is on the rise, particularly in many developing and transitional countries.

Globally, rural people and rural places tend to be disadvantaged relative to their urban counterparts and poverty rates increase as rural areas become more remote. Individuals living in rural areas tend to have less access to social services, exacerbating the effects of rural poverty.

Rural poverty is often a product of poor infrastructure that hinders development and mobility. Rural areas tend to lack sufficient roads that would increase access to agricultural inputs and markets. Without roads, the rural poor are cut off from technological development and emerging markets in more urban areas. Poor infrastructure hinders communication, resulting in social

isolation among the rural poor, many of whom have limited access to media and news outlets.

Such isolation hinders integration with urban society and established markets, which could result in greater development and economic security. Moreover, poor or nonexistent irrigation systems threaten agricultural yields because of uncertainty in the supply of water for crop production. Many poor rural areas lack any irrigation to store or pump water, resulting in fewer crops, fewer days of employment and less productivity. Both a lack of roads and insufficient irrigation systems result in greater Work Intensity in many rural communities

An African Development Bank (AfDB) project to enhance market infrastructure, value addition and rural finance (MIVARF) in Tanzania has increased the incomes of rural producers and traders threefold.

A report released recently by the project team shows that the initiative rolled out from 2012 to 2017 has substantially altered income expectations of the beneficiaries.

With \$56.8m in funding from the AfDB, the programme was undertaken in 32 districts with a population of 6.1m in 1.2m households. Around 78 per cent of beneficiaries reported improved incomes, rising from an average of \$41 in 2012 to \$133 in 2017, researchers noted.

"Despite challenges in terms of coverage, the programme has worked well thanks to efficiency of communication with district and regional liaison officers, along with effective relationships with district and regional administrative structures," the report underlined. The successful implementation of the project helped rural poverty reduction and economic growth, by improving incomes and food security. The project complemented the work of government agencies by boosting access to markets and increasing the quantity of value-added agricultural products, it stated.

## Africa must achieve universal access to clean and modern cooking fuels and technologies

ANY type of cook stove is considered 'clean' if its emissions meet WHO guidelines. Currently

available options that are clean at point-of-use include electricity, gas, ethanol, solar, and the highest performing biomass stoves. Universal access to clean and modern energy for cooking is integral to SDG 7 and critical for several other SDGs, particularly on good health and well-being, gender equality, climate action, and eliminating poverty.

Despite progress towards universal access to clean and modern cooking systems (more fuel efficient and/or lower emissions), 40 per cent of global households, or around 3 billion people, continue to prepare their daily meals with traditional stoves and fuels, posing risks to their health, the environment, and climate. Annually there are 4.3 million deaths (77 pc of total global mortality) from exposure to household air pollution. Without urgent action to scale up access to modern energy cooking solutions through policies, financing, and technology development, the world will fall short of Goal 7 and several other related

Exposure to air pollution caused by burning raw coal, kerosene or traditional biomass for cooking damages health, especially among the women and children most exposed to it.

The Covid-19 pandemic has just raised risk levels again, as the virus has a greater impact on those with respiratory illnesses prevalent among those using those cooking methods.

The pressing need to tackle this health risk - and the harmful climate change impact from cooking emissions - have long been voiced. But data showing progress makes grim reading.

In sub-Saharan Africa alone, a stagnant access rate combined with rapid population growth have led to a rise in the number of people without access to clean cooking from some 750m in 2010 to 890m in 2018, according to Tracking

SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report, published in May 2020 by a group of organisations including the IEA, the WHO and the World Bank Group.

More people without access to clean fuels and technologies now reside in Sub-Saharan Africa than in Eastern Asia and Southeastern Asia. Globally, the figure is almost 3bn people.

If observed trends in access and population continue, it can be estimated that in 2030 sub-Saharan Africa will have the greatest access deficit, at around 44 per cent of the region's total population. This represents a substantial geographic redistribution of the global access deficit and associated health, economic, and societal burdens. Future policies should take these trends into account, the report said.

In six of the 20 "access-deficit" countries identified by the agency, 5 per cent or less of the population had access to clean fuels, and all are in Africa - Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, and Tanzania.

There are many initiatives doing valuable work in this field. The Clean Cooking Alliance, for example, brings together public and private sectors to support research, clean cooking standards, and enterprise capacity building.

The alliance has called for clean cooking to be incorporated into pandemic emergency response plans to ensure that progress is not reversed. It cites India's plan to give away millions of cooking gas cylinders to those in need as an example of positive actions.

SEforALL, the UN-backed initiative to drive faster action meet energy access goals, calls for a more joined up approach to tackle the clean cooking crisis. It said in response to the Tracking SDG 7 report that a lack of political urgency and sustained investment, the absence of market-enabling conditions, and poor institutional frameworks had hindered wider uptake of clean cooking.

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## Washington's commitment to, partnership with, Tanzania will remain unwavering

By Dr. Donald J. Wright

I first visited Tanzania over 30 years ago to serve as a volunteer physician at a public hospital in Zanzibar. During that memorable summer, I treated children with malnutrition, malaria, parasites, and tuberculosis. I also developed a deep admiration for the Tanzanian people; they were warm, generous, and treated strangers like family. In the years that followed, I worked as a physician in Texas and then as a civil servant in Washington, ultimately leading the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion for almost eight years. I never dreamed that my life would bring me back full circle to where it all began. Today, it is my honor to represent my country as the U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania. My experiences in Zanzibar as a young man had a great impact on my life. Returning now as the U.S. Ambassador, I am determined to continue strengthening the bonds between the people of Tanzania and the United States in order to bring greater peace and prosperity for both our countries.

In this spirit, I seek to foster a new era of engagement between our two countries and a partnership that will extend directly to the Tanzanian people. I look forward to visiting Tanzania's diverse cities, towns, and villages, from Kagera to Mtwara and from Kigoma to the Zanzibar Isles. I want to hear from members of the Tanzanian and American business communities, universities, and organizations about their ideas for how to expand these efforts and create new avenues for partnership that will build the next generation of leaders and create a brighter future for all Tanzanians. Since my swearing-in, I have been immersed in dozens of briefings and consultations with myriad U.S. government agencies, and multilateral and civic organizations in Washington DC. In each of these meetings, the common thread was the enormous interest, support, and enthusiasm for Tanzania's future and for our bilateral relationship. As ambassador, my top priorities will be improving health outcomes, boosting economic growth, and investing in young people. Ensuring the safety and security of American citizens and U.S. Embassy staff is a top priority. The United States has provided more than \$7.5 billion total in assistance to Tanzania over the past 20 years, with nearly \$4.9 billion spent to improve the health of the Tanzanian people.



Dr. Donald J. Wright

As a doctor, I know how important these efforts are. I am committed to ensuring that the United States' partnership remains strong. This year alone, American taxpayer support will provide \$5.6 million to combat COVID-19 in Tanzania. That amounts to 12.9 billion shillings.

Tanzania's challenging business environment presents both a climate of hope and hesitancy. There is hope because we all know that Tanzania is a country of unbeatable potential. At the same time, there is hesitancy on the part of prospective investors because of opaque and unpredictable policy shifts; contract law uncertainty; aggressive revenue collection tactics; unreliable and costly energy; weak infrastructure; and limited access to land.

The public and private sectors must partner with each other and trust each other if broad, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth is to occur. Through increased private sector investment, Tanzania can address critical infrastructure demands such as affordable energy for all and public transportation networks, while simultaneously developing the local human capital necessary to build on Tanzania's recent entry into lower-middle income status and bring even more people out of poverty.

U.S. businesses throughout the world have exemplified corruption-

free practices, compliance with local regulations and corporate social responsibility. I am eager to work with the Tanzanian government to strengthen ties between U.S. companies and Tanzania as we explore opportunities and expand markets to the benefit of all. By expanding our business partnerships and working together, we can make the United States Tanzania's premier trade and investment partner.

One of the driving engines of Tanzania is its youth. I believe strongly in the role that youth can and must play in leading the way to a more prosperous future. Through our many professional, cultural, and educational exchange programs, and the transformative initiatives participants implement in their communities upon their return to Tanzania, the United States continues to strengthen and empower Tanzania's next generation of civic, government, and business leaders.

Efforts to uphold the rule of law and strengthen democratic institutions undergird all these efforts. Our two constitutions acknowledge the vital role of citizen democracy with their opening words: "We the People," "Sisi Wananchi." This is one of the fundamental shared values that unite our nations. Yet, increasingly, restrictive democratic spaces and erosions of democratic norms have constrained Tanzanian citizens'

universal rights and personal liberties, such as freedom of expression and assembly. I am committed to working with the host government, like-minded diplomatic missions, civil society, and international organizations to reverse this worrisome trend. I look forward to the realization of President Magufuli's January 21 assurances that the October 2020 elections will be free, fair, and transparent, and his invitation to international election observers. We welcome an election where all citizens and candidates from all parties are able to gather peacefully, express their opinions, and campaign on an equal basis.

This is an exciting time and a unique opportunity - this next phase in our relationship is one that I am proud to be leading. I wish to echo the sentiments of the sixth president of the United States John Adams, when he was appointed our first ambassador to Great Britain. To paraphrase, he noted: I shall esteem myself the happiest of people if I can be instrumental in restoring confidence and affection between our nations. I can think of no greater goal, or greater honor. Working together, the United States and Tanzania can strengthen our economies, make our citizens' lives healthier, and shape the leaders of tomorrow. Kwa Pamoja Tutasonga Mbele! (Together we will forge ahead!)

*By Dr. Donald J. Wright, Ambassador of the United States of America*





# Smoke and mirrors? Public perceptions on banning the sale of cigarettes

By Narnia Bohler-Muller, Stephen Rule, Martin Bekker and Ben Roberts

Thus far, the South African courts have sided with the government when it comes to banning the sale of cigarettes. But there is cynicism about the advantages of its stance, and the matter is about to be reviewed.

Under Section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, currently Dr Nkosozana Dlamini Zuma, is empowered to make regulations concerning the movement of persons and goods. Under lockdown amendments published on 25 March 2020, only businesses involved in the provision of essential goods and services were permitted to operate during the first phase of the lockdown, Level 5. Tobacco products, including cigarettes, were not regarded as “essential”, so banned.

On 25 April 2020, the minister briefed the media regarding the implementation of the Risk Based Model for Economic Activity, and advised South Africans to submit inputs for consideration. A “draft framework for consultation”, made available at the end of April, proposed that the ban on tobacco products be lifted. However, when the Minister promulgated the Level 4 regulations on 29 April she omitted tobacco products from the list of “permitted” goods. There had been an about-turn, and the ban remained in place. On 28 May 2020, with the promulgation of Level 3, regulation 45 declared: “the sale of tobacco, tobacco products, e-cigarettes and related products is prohibited, except for export”.



A general view of people allegedly buying and selling cigarettes illegally during lockdown level 4 on May 11, 2020 in Johannesburg, South Africa. It is reported that police had chalked up close to 200,000 lockdown infringements, including fines, arrests and warnings. Many of those arrested were people buying, selling and transporting cigarettes during the lockdown. File photo

In the Fair-Trade Independent Tobacco Association v President of the Republic of South Africa and Another (21688/2020) [2020] ZAGP-PHC 246 (26 June 2020) the court held that the primary reason provided by the Minister for banning the sale of tobacco products was “to protect human life and health and to reduce the potential strain on the healthcare system.” (para 34). In reaching this conclusion, it applied the test of “rationality”. For this, reference was made to the Constitutional Court judgment in Merafong Demarcation Forum and Others v President of the Republic of South Africa and Others, specifically:

“The exercise of public power has to be rational. In a constitutional state arbitrariness or the exercise of public

power on the basis of naked preferences cannot pass muster. Judgments of this Court suggest that, objectively viewed, a link is required between the means adopted by the legislature and the end sought to be achieved. The fact that rationality is an important requirement for the exercise of power in a constitutional state does not mean that a court may take over the function of government to formulate and implement policy. If more ways than one are available to deal with a problem or achieve an objective through legislation, any preference which a court has is immaterial.”

The court held that the minister had “a firm rational basis” to include the prohibition of cigarettes in regulations designed to help curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Mounting support for lifting the ban

However, a large and growing minority of South Africans are unconvinced by the court’s conclusion. This is evident when comparing findings from Round 1 of our survey (13 April to 11 May 2020) with those from the first phase of Round 2 (3 July to 17 July). Data comes from an online questionnaire, with results weighted by race, age and education, making them broadly representative of the adult population.

The first round of the survey showed that only a fifth (20%) of adults supported lifting the ban. Since then, the figure has increased, to the extent that almost a third (31%) wanted the ban on sale of tobacco products to be lifted. Unfortunately, we do not know whether the remaining

69% are opposed to removing the ban, or indifferent, or just do not know.

Our survey asked 13 questions about policy options. The one on tobacco products recorded the largest percentage-point increase. The share favouring the suspension of the ban is greater than the 20% who currently use tobacco products. The National Income Dynamics Study, a project of the South African Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town conducted the fifth round of this panel survey in 2017, when about 24,000 adults in South Africa were surveyed. It found that 35.7% of men and 8.1% of women older than 18 smoked cigarettes.

In comparison with the case of alcohol, support for

alcohol sales rose more modestly from 12% to 16% (a rise of 4 percentage points) between our survey rounds. The implication is that support for lifting the tobacco ban now stands at around double that of the support for the removal of the alcohol ban.

The changing basis of support for the ban suspension

While we find increasing support for lifting the ban across a range of socio-economic attributes, the level of increase has been greater for some relative to others, producing clear gradients of variation in support. While men and women feel equally strongly about the issue, support for scrapping the ban increases with age. Whereas, only about one in four (25%) of those in the 18 to 24 years group want restrictions lifted, the figure rises to almost half (46%) with people aged 55 and older.

These views emerge as British American Tobacco SA (BATSA) prepares to challenge the government in the Western Cape High Court. BATSA claims that R35-million in tobacco excise taxes is being lost to the National Treasury each day. Additionally, the jobs of 8,000 tobacco farm workers are vulnerable, and the sale of illicit cigarettes is rampant.

Antipathy to the current regulations increases with level of income. It is lowest (24%) among people earning between R2,500 and R5,000 per month and highest (62%) for those with a personal monthly income above R20,000. This suggests a notable class effect informing patterns of support for suspension of the tobacco ban, which is reinforced by the stronger

than average support found in suburban areas.

These trends indicate a hardening of attitudes among a sector of the population that was initially very willing to sacrifice some rights in order to fight the pandemic. Round 1 showed that older and wealthier people were significantly more prepared to sacrifice key rights, such as privacy, travel, attendance at religious meetings, or school attendance for their children, than were younger or less wealthy South Africans.

Opposition to the ban on selling tobacco products is more prevalent among white (78%), coloured (59%) and Indian (40%) adults than among black Africans (19%). There is also a strong party-political dimension, with ANC supporters being far less likely (15%) to want the ban to be lifted, than those who said they would vote EFF (25%), DA (62%) or “another party” (42%) if an election were to be held.

BATSA, which sells Peter Stuyvesant and Dunhill cigarettes, says it has a 78% share of the legal market. It initiated legal proceedings alongside Japan Tobacco, which will be heard later this week. BATSA is arguing that prohibition on the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products is unconstitutional and infringes on the right to dignity (Section 10 of the Constitution) which they argue extends to autonomy and the ability to make choices. The group also argues that the ban violates the right to privacy, the right to bodily and psychological integrity, and the rights of tobaccoists and tobacco farmers to practise their trade.

Agencies

## Movement should be safe for migrants, not profitable for smugglers

BY LUCIA BIRD

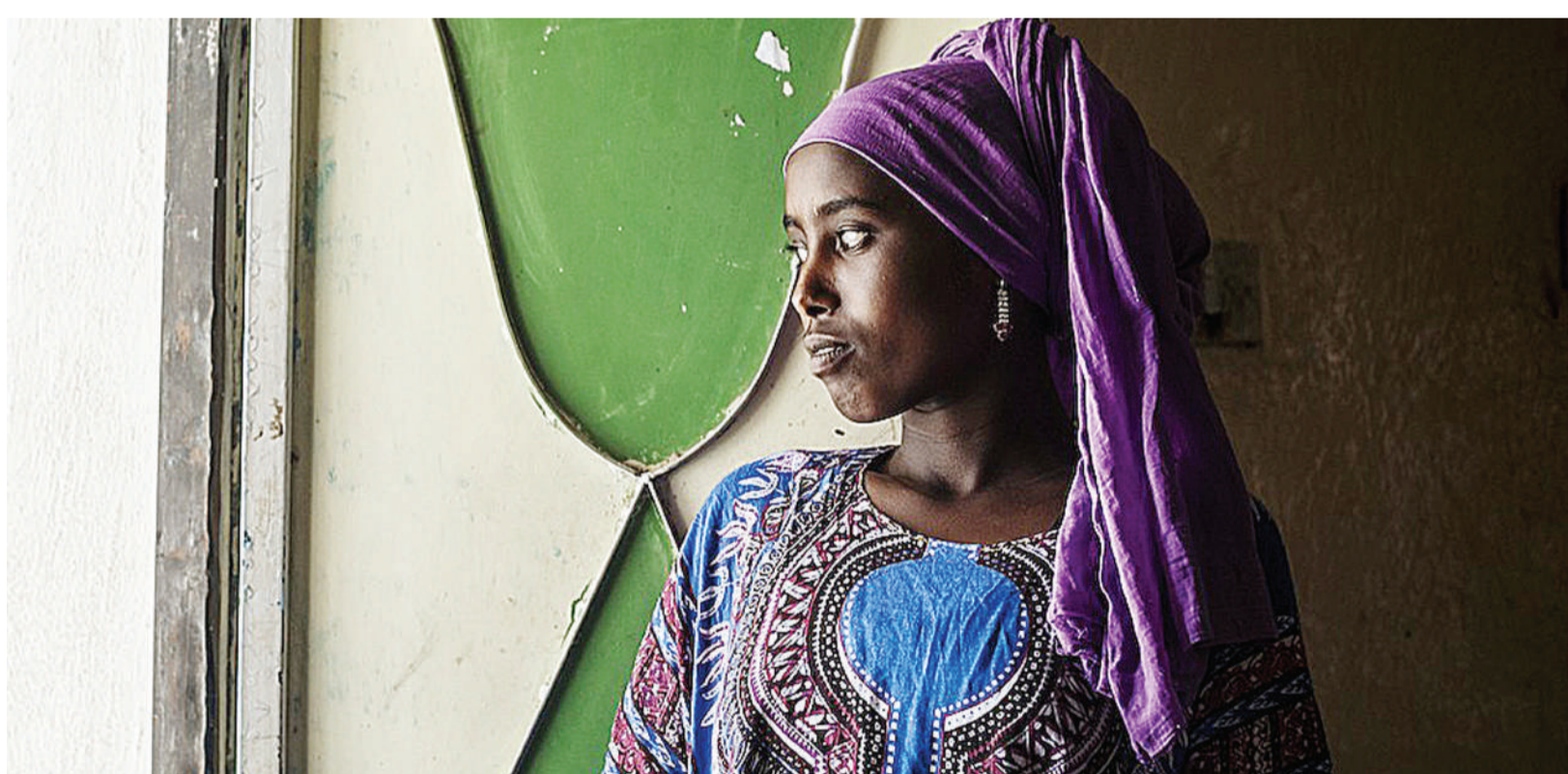
As legal avenues for migration have shrunk due to COVID-19 related restrictions, movement has increasingly been facilitated by smugglers. Governments need to ensure their responses don’t inadvertently make movement more dangerous for migrants and more profitable for criminals.

Although migration decreased as governments closed borders at the outset of the pandemic, it is expected to resume and grow as borders open.

The United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (UN Smuggling Protocol) defines human smuggling as enabling the illegal entry of a person into a state for financial or material gain. This distinguishes it from human trafficking, where people are moved against their will or under false pretences for the purposes of exploitation.

Research by the EN-ACT organised crime programme has shown that most human smugglers in Africa are low-level operators. They often come from the same community as their clients, and their interests are aligned in the safe journey of the migrant. The industry therefore enjoys considerable local legitimacy.

Human trafficking and smuggling are distinct crimes requiring different policy responses



Clampdowns on low-level smugglers have helped turn the industry into a multimillion-dollar global business. File photo

But shrinking opportunities for legal migration and enhanced focus on border control have heightened demand for smugglers, and driven the market to professionalise, putting the lives of vulnerable people at risk. Between 2014 and 2019, 7 500 migrant deaths were recorded in Africa, and Africans counted for a significant portion of the 19 000 migrants who died trying to cross the Mediterranean. These are likely to be significant underestimates.

In line with global trends, African governments tend towards a criminal justice approach and focus on the supply side by targeting smugglers. States would do

well to heed lessons from the failed war on drugs, where prohibition built a booming black market and attracted organised crime.

Policies that militarise borders and close down legal routes to migration make people more reliant on smugglers. More legal and safe routes would lessen the risks and harms experienced by migrants, reduce profit for human smugglers and make the industry less attractive to organised crime.

The African Union’s Agenda 2063 vision of open borders is a long way from national political and economic realities, with most states still tightly controlling

their frontiers. Only four states have ratified the AU’s Free Movement of Persons Protocol, well short of the 15 countries required to bring it into force.

Forty African states have ratified the UN’s Smuggling Protocol, but far fewer have criminalised migrant smuggling in line with the protocol’s definition, which requires the intent of the smuggler to be material or financial benefit.

Ten African countries include smuggling in human trafficking laws which confuses the two offences

Human smuggling offences are typically enacted within immigration laws, the criminal code, trafficking in

persons legislation or stand-alone smuggling laws. Incorporating smuggling crimes in immigration laws severs the link between smuggling and organised crime, encouraging criminalisation of the migrant rather than the smuggler.

A number of concerning trends have emerged in the approach taken by African states to the criminalisation of smuggling. First, 16 African states impose mandatory minimum sentencing for human smuggling, ranging from one to 15 years. Yet smuggling is a complex crime where too often the wrong people are targeted. Low-level smugglers and migrants often bear the brunt

of punitive policies, while crime bosses and corrupt officials go unpunished. This makes mandatory minimum sentences inappropriate and disproportionate.

High penalties should be reserved for aggravated smuggling offences, where smugglers endanger human lives, or subject migrants to inhuman or degrading treatment. Corrupt officials facilitating human smuggling should also receive harsh sentences.

A second worrying trend in Africa relates to one of the pillars of the Smuggling Protocol which protects migrants. It prohibits the prosecution of migrants merely for using smugglers’ services. Yet most African states exclude this prohibition, risking wrongful criminalisation of the migrant. Indiscriminate law enforcement responses to smuggling risk driving the market from an informal side business, with low risks and low profit, to a full-time criminal enterprise with profits invested back into the criminal economy.

The focus of counter-smuggling responses should be on networks causing the greatest harm

More enforcement makes it harder to move people, so smugglers need to take more risks on longer and more clandestine routes to avoid detection. The greater the skills required to evade capture, the greater

the price for these skills, and human smuggling attracts operators with experience moving other illicit goods.

Greater enforcement prompted a five-fold increase in the price of being smuggled across the desert from Niger to Libya between 2015 and 2019. The human costs are also high – the International Organization for Migration recorded a six-fold increase in desert fatalities on the roads to Algeria between 2015 and 2017.

As enforcement increases, so does the smuggling industry’s reliance on state involvement to evade capture. As smuggling prices grow, so does the market’s power to bribe officials. The smuggled journey thus becomes more expensive and dangerous for migrants, while higher profits make the industry more attractive to organised criminal networks.

To avoid swelling the industry’s profits and fuelling corruption, African governments and destination countries should collaboratively adopt policies that recognise the benefits of migrants to their economies. The focus of counter-smuggling responses should be on networks causing the greatest harm.

This would facilitate labour migration to feed market demand, render the services of smugglers unnecessary, and lessen the exploitative nature of the smuggling industry.

Agencies





## BUSINESS

## COMPETITION

## Shoprite exits Nigeria: Proof that the market there is impenetrable?

JOHANNESBURG

"Nigeria is a largely informal market and there are a lot of businesses that have gone there and thought it is a good opportunity to consolidate and introduce some formalisation because that has worked in SA, but that does not work in countries outside of SA."

These are the words of Lulama Qongqo, an investment analyst at Mergence Investment Managers who is of the view that South African companies fail in Nigeria because they do not understand the market and apply strategy that is not tailored to that market.

The continent's largest grocery retailer, Shoprite, is the latest South African player to exit Nigeria. The Christo Wiese chaired retailer, which has been in the country for 15 years, announced the move on Monday with its year-end results. Shoprite has 25 stores in Nigeria, all of which will be discontinued by a later communicated date.

Retail analyst Syd Vianello said he was impressed with this decision by Shoprite's new management. "Engelbrecht [Pieter Engelbrecht the chief executive officer of Shoprite] has taken a good decision to exit Nigeria and I think he may even exit a few other marginal operations in Africa. Nigeria has become a problem; the lines of communication are hard, and it is difficult to get goods into the country because of customs duties. The currency is volatile.

"Angola is also very problematic, and I would not be surprised in time if they think of exiting Angola. We are going to see far more emphasis on the South African business rather than the African business," added Vianello.

Shoprite shares have plunged 57% since March 2018, while the JSE All Share has weakened to under 18%. Since Shoprite's first foray outside the country's borders into Zambia in 1995, the retailer once led by Whitey Basson was heralded as the most successful South African operator on the continent. But over the past 25 years, sales outside the country still only make up 11.6% of overall sales.

But why are SA companies not able to penetrate the Nigerian market?

Qongqo said South African companies overestimated their

capabilities and attractiveness of their product offerings moving into the Nigerian market and forgot different countries have different cultures and tastes because the strategy that worked in South Africa might not work in Nigeria.

"Companies do not do enough due diligence. Taking your same offering and going out of the country selling it at the same price point is not going to work. The thinking that people should aspire to shop our product is damaging. Even though the Nigerian economy is big and growing fast, which is usually the selling point, the GDP per capita is so low," she added.

Vianello said the culture in Nigeria was different as "people still prefer to buy from street vendors. The most difficult problem they have is the lines of communication. They have a massive but skewed population compared to SA between lower-income and upper-income earners." He added the strategy Shoprite used to enter the Nigerian market was to appeal to the higher-end customer, but this proved challenging when they had to expand.

"They had to roll out stores in 'mainstream Nigeria' which is not Lagos or Abuja but all the other cities of the lower-end resident who earns a low salary. The average Nigerian cannot afford luxury items sold at Shoprite." Distribution in Nigeria was also a problem that might have contributed to Shoprite discontinuing its operations, said Vianello.

"Distribution is near impossible, with being far away and the problems in landing goods at the port, the bribery that takes place with payment of duties. I think that Engelbrecht has just decided that he does not need it. There are more opportunities in SA than Nigeria and that's why he is doing it."

Qongqo said this was the right move for Shoprite "because if you can't grow to the extent that you can get to critical mass and operate profitably in a sustainable manner then it makes for a poor investment." South African retailers have struggled in the Nigeria market. This exit follows the recent retreat of Mr Price which exited the country after Truworths pulled out as well.



Cargo trucks from Zimbabwe wait at the Beitbridge border post in Musina, which borders South Africa.

## BARRIERS

## Tempers flare as bribes block border crossing between SA and Zimbabwe

JOHANNESBURG

Tempers are raging at the Beitbridge border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe, where truck drivers claim that bribes of up to R1 000 are being extorted from those who want to cross the border.

The queues at the border post are now so long that some trucks are having to wait for as long as four days to get through. "You can be number 10 in the queue, but if

you or your boss don't pay a bribe, then you're not going anywhere," said a source in the road freight industry, who asked not to be identified.

FreightNews reported last week that truck drivers at Beitbridge were protesting against corrupt law enforcement officials who usher certain trucks to the front of the queue. The truckers claim that this preferential treatment is being doled out because bribes are being paid. Some furious

drivers drove out of the queue and blocked access to the border post, eyewitnesses told Freight News.

Both the Road Freight Association and the Cross-Border Road Transportation Authority (CBRTA) have confirmed that they are aware of cases of bribery. Road Freight Association chief executive Gavin Kelly said the association sometimes receives hourly complaints about incidents where money is demanded from

truck drivers for them to move forward in the queue.

"The average waiting time at the border post is 24 hours, but truck drivers sometimes wait for up to four days before they are allowed to move through the border post," said Kelly. If you don't do it, your truck stays where it is for as long as three days while the client waits for their freight.

The Beitbridge border post is notorious for long delays, but the situation has worsened

because travellers now have to be screened for the Covid-19 coronavirus and both countries have imposed curfews. In Zimbabwe, the rule applies from dawn to dusk. "Everyone knows there is corruption and bribery, especially among traffic law enforcement officials in South Africa. We report all of these cases, with comprehensive evidence," said Kelly.

Aside from officials, there are also people who pose as law

enforcement officers at the border post. Spokesperson for CBRTA, Mmenyane Seoposengwe, said the organisation was aware of the problems. Kelly said general bribery declined during the initial part of the lockdown because there were fewer trucks on the road, but "normal levels" of bribery and corruption had become the order of the day again.

One source said that corruption among South African law

enforcement officials was now so bad that foreign truck drivers would rather drive to "war-torn" places such as the Democratic Republic of Congo before they came to South Africa.

The bribery is not limited to the border post; it also happens at weigh bridges, where truck drivers or the companies for whom they work allege that they are forced to pay bribes to stop their trucks from being impounded.

## DIRECTIVE

## PM wants all farmers' transactions to be done through bank accounts



NMB Bank Plc's Western Zone manager, Sospeter Magesse, addresses representatives of cooperative societies from Geita, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions at the ongoing 'Nane Nane' agricultural exhibition being held at national level in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region. Photo courtesy of NMB.

By Guardian Reporter, Bariadi

ALL transactions relating to farmers including payments for their produce should be done through formal banking services with immediate effect, Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa has ordered.

In a speech read on the PM's behalf, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for investment, Angela Kairuki said after touring the ongoing 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibitions being held at Nyakabidi

Grounds in Bariadi District yesterday that the move will help incorporate mainly smallholder farmers into the formal financial system.

"As government, we want all payments to farmers be made through their bank accounts so that it's safe and convenient," Majaliwa said after an NMB Bank Plc official raised the issue of cash payments to cotton farmers in Simiyu Region.

NMB's Western Zone Manager, Sospeter Magesse told Kairuki who visited the bank's pavilion which among other things, showcased implementation of its five-year strate-

gic plan to transform cotton farming in the region that was launched in March 2019.

Magesse said as part of NMB's participation in implementing the cotton farming transformation strategic mission, they have opened 86,000 banks accounts for farmers in Simiyu. "Our fear is that these accounts may end up not being used since cotton buyers here pay farmers using cash, which is not a healthy trend for our financial inclusion strategy," he noted.

He said the bank has been playing an active role in the implementation of the Simiyu

Region Five-Year Strategic Plan (2019-2024) which has an objective of revolutionizing cotton farming through lending to the commodity's value chain.

According to him, one of the outstanding contributions of the bank in the cotton farming reform strategy has been disbursement of 1.9bn/- to rehabilitate warehouses for the crop that had deteriorated.

Through such investment, the NMB Western Zone Manager added, the result has been creation of a robust infrastructure of cotton storage facilities in the country's top

producer of the crop.

Magesse further noted that the bank's investment has also helped sensitize smallholder farmers on financial management through their various Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) in the region.

"We have also managed to bring together and empower 26 AMCOS which are participating in this programme to revolutionize cotton farming. The successful implementation of this program will enable the bank to lend to both individual farmers and their AMCOS," he noted.

## APPRECIATION

## SBL chief excited with appointment to CEOrt board

By Guardian Reporter

CEO Roundtable has announced two new appointments to its board of directors and they include Serengeti Breweries Limited's Managing Director, Mark Ocitti.

Speaking after learning of his appointment yesterday, Ocitti said it's a great honour to get the appointment to the CEOrt's board of directors. "I'm excited about the opportunity to join CEOrt's board at a time when the world is going through the biggest shift it has ever witnessed," Ocitti said.

Ocitti who is an Executive Master's of Business Administration holder from London Business School and Master of Business Administration from Herriot Watt University in Scotland, said the challenge of shaping discourse in these critical times offers exciting opportunities he is looking forward to. "I see the CEOrt as a strategic organization for the private-sector partnerships between us and the public sector and will play my part in bringing that vision to life," the SBL chief added.

Commenting on the two appointments of Ocitti and Deloitte East Africa Partner, David Nchimbi, CEOrt's Chairman, Sanjay Rughani expressed confidence in the appointees saying,



New CEOrt chairman Mark Ocitti

"We are delighted to welcome Mark and David to our board. They carry decades of leadership experience and will help the organization execute its plan to accelerate sustainable socio-economic growth in Tanzania."

Rughani explained that he knew both men in person for a number of years hence looking forward to work closely with them to drive prosperity through effective engagement with the government, development partners and other private sector leaders. He also paid tribute to former director, Francis Nanai from Mwananchi Communications Limited for outstanding performance and invaluable contribution to the roundtable.

Responding to his appointment Nchimbi said, "I look forward to contributing to the growth of the CEO Roundtable within both the Tanzanian and global context. By harnessing strategic partnerships, we will enhance the organisation's brand for further reaching impact."

The CEOrt is a policy dialogue forum bringing together CEOs of leading companies in Tanzania. Established in 2000, the CEOrt fosters close cooperation between the public and private sectors in the country with the view of accelerating expansion and growth of the nation's economy.

## CALL

# WMA wants farmers to report cases of tampering with scales

By Guardian Reporter, Bariadi

THE public has been advised to report unfaithful business people who tamper with weighing machines to Weight and Measures Agency so that legal action should be taken against such culprits.

The agency's Director of Business, Deogratias Maneno said the practice is rampant in the country and has affected badly the public including farmers who are billions of shillings annually in commodity trading. Maneno said at the ongoing 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibitions here yesterday that WMA offices are available in all regions on the Mainland backed by a toll free call number 0800 11 00 97 to report such incidences.

He told visitors to the WMA pavilion at Nyakabindi Grounds in Bariadi that business owners have a responsibility to adhere to regulations that govern weights and measurements because violation of the same attracts hefty penalties including jail term and fines or both.

"The law is very clear on people who tamper with weighing scales or official measurement machines hence let me warn cheating business people against the vice," he



Weights and Measures Agency's acting regional manager for Simiyu, Tuntufye Mkumbwa, briefs visitors on the agency's activities at the ongoing 'Nane Nane' agricultural exhibition being held at national level in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region. Photo: Guardian Photographer

warned adding that according to the law people who are found guilty of tampering with weighing machines pay fines of between 1m/- and 20m/- if they plead guilty for a first time offence.

The WMA's Business Director further noted

that culprits who plead not guilty will be fined between 300,000/- and 50m/- or go to jail for not less than two years or both. "Second time offenders pay fines of between 500,000/- and 100m/- or imprisonment of not less than five

years or both," he added. He said currently WMA experts are examining water meters countrywide hence encouraged people to visit its pavilion so that they can get more information on all aspects.

## COMPETITIVENESS

## Konga to list on global stock markets as part of Africa expansion

LAGOS

E-commerce company Konga claims to have invested over US\$120-million since being acquired two years ago in Nigeria, and believes it is now strategically structured to engage other African countries, with plans to leverage listing on global stock markets as part of its expansion strategy.

In an interview broadcast on a programme called Kaleidoscope Co-CEO Konga Group, Prince Nnamdi Ekeh, said: "We are also keen to expand into other African markets after taking charge of the Nigerian market. The e-Commerce market in African is still a largely untapped one. Therefore, any company that makes the right in-roads will reap huge benefits from it," he said.

"We have also received enquiries from the New York Stock Exchange, the London Stock Exchange and the Nigerian Stock Exchange to list on these markets. It's something that will happen as part of our African expansion plan when Konga becomes a multi-billion-dollar business."

He added: "Though we started with a monthly loss of N400m, but with new systems, structure and energy put in place, we have gradually been reducing losses and now about N100m loss per month. E-Commerce is an expensive project but we are best positioned to deliver as a very innovative technology company."

Ekeh described Konga as a technology company that em-



Konga Group Co-CEO Prince Nnamdi Ekeh.

ploys directly and indirectly over 150,000 Nigerians. Most of them are merchants, logistics and other service providers.

"We partner to create a trusted and sustainable digitally-driven ecosystem and working hard to scale this to about 250,000 be-

fore the end of 2020.

"We see ourselves as more than just an e-Commerce company. Konga is a technology

company and as a technology company, we are positioned to leverage that status in deploying new solutions and innovations. Indeed, no one should be surprised if tomorrow, Konga starts launching space ships into orbit.

Although we have received several offers from interested investors, we are content with the group that is currently funding Konga. The group is highly ethical and want us to maintain the highest level of integrity. Our investors have assured us of enough capital to survive the next five years at least. This was why we did not accommodate a valuation of \$300m from a consortium of global investors last year.

Ekeh added: "Our strategies and tact are 21st century influenced, but also taking cognisance of deficiencies in our country and that was why we spent the first two years rebuilding technologies, setting up secure but robust warehousing facilities and delivery logistics nationwide. With these under our control and owned by us, we are driving towards profitability. It is important to note that at Konga, we do not believe in just hype

"In addition to our status as a technology company, Konga is also Nigeria's first ever marketplace and composite e-commerce group. The company is on the verge of rolling out a suite of cutting-edge solutions and services that will excite the market very soon.

Acquired by the Zinox Group in December 2018 and having achieved over 1000% growth, Konga has grown from a position of strength into arguably Nigeria's leading e-Commerce brand, with a long list of innovative strategies and solutions setting it apart in the sector. In early July 2020 the company announced that it would revive its reseller scheme YUBOSS with the launch of Konga Affiliate, targeted at Nigeria's unemployed.

## GROWTH

## South Africa's telecom operator Telkom takes on financial services

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's telecom operator Telkom has branched into the competitive space of financial services by launching a life insurance business that it said will initially sell funeral insurance.

Telkom and other mobile operators in South Africa are looking to tap more than 11 million South Africans who do not have bank accounts to offer lending and other financial services, a move that is set to threaten traditional and digital banks. They are also seeking to expand their mobile payment apps into online market places to leverage their network and customer base.

"In recent years Telkom has made a strategic shift to digital distribution, which puts it in an ideal position to distribute insurance products using its considerable digital structure and intellectual property," Sibusiso Ngwenya, managing executive for Telkom Financial Services said in a joint statement on Sunday with insurer Guardrisk which will underwrite the service. Partly state-owned Telkom has been diversifying its income streams beyond the fixed-line business, which now contributes just over 20 per cent to group revenue, up from 56 per cent in 2013.

Underwriter Guardrisk Life is part of JSE-listed insurer Momentum Metropolitan Holdings Limited. In a Sunday Times newspaper ad, Telkom said it will also offer business loans and soon launch a digital wallet service for customers to buy products and pay for services via its Yep! app as well as other online transacting platforms.

The battle to capture South Africa's unbanked is intensifying among mobile operators after biggest mobile operator by subscribers MTN Group relaunched its mobile money app in South Africa in February and has been building the platform to include online shopping payments and micro loans.

In July Vodacom Group announced plans to create a 'super app' in partnership with digital payment provider Alipay, part of China's Alibaba group, to allow consumers in South Africa to shop online, pay bills and send money to family from next year.

## Gozem comes up with e-commerce delivery service for Togo and Benin

LOME

At a time when economic activity across the continent is facing massive disruption from the global pandemic, many businesses are adopting innovative solutions to their business operations.

A good example would be ride-hailing startups that halted their logistics services during the lock-down, while others focused more on delivery of food and essentials.

Described as Africa's super App, Gozem the popular ride-hailing service, launched a mobile platform allowing users to order gas canisters, groceries, and other essentials. The platform is targeted at users who want to stay safe inside while accessing their basic living needs.

Users download the latest version of the Gozem app, scroll to the shopping section of its menu then pick their desired vendor or items. All desired items reflect in the shopping cart where delivery details are entered, then payment is requested through the Gozem wallet.

Gozem co-founder Emeka Ajene, described the move as a response to the challenges clients face when "navigating these unprecedented times." The startup expressed delight in accelerating their plans for "eCommerce delivery." The new service will create value for the customers in Togo and Benin.

## STIMULUS

## Mozambican government spends over 70 billion meticaais in direct awards

MAPUTO

From April to July of this year, during which time the country was in a state of emergency, the government spent, internally, 68.22 billion meticaais in the execution of 12,204 direct award processes, the report sent by President Nyusi to the Assembly of the Republic on the occasion of the end of the April 1st to July 29th State of Emergency

reveals.

The report, to which 'Carta' has had access, also reveals that the government spent, by means of 110 direct awards processes, 3.32 billion meticaais on the health sector. The document does not provide detailed information about the goods, services and works purchased through direct awards procedures, which were resorted to because of the state of emergency.

"Despite the suspension of the issuance of certain documents required for the registration of eligible natural and legal persons to contract with the State, 1,632 public works contractors, goods suppliers and service providers were registered in the Single Registry of natural and legal persons contracting with the State, whose target group is small and medium-sized companies," the report reads. Within the scope of

economic activities licencing, 2,824 companies with a potential 7,200 employees were licenced.

The government notes that, in order to revive the economy, it has made Value Added Tax (VAT) more flexible, as well as the payment of accounts to suppliers of goods and services to the state whose contracts are in order. The report highlights the availability of a one billion meticaais credit line, granted on

concessionary terms to support cash flow and investment in micro, small and medium-sized companies.

It is noted in the report that the Administrative Tribunal issued Instruction no. OIGT / TA / 2020 of 02 April, which subjects to the regime of urgent convenience of service the administrative acts and contracts [otherwise] subject to [the general regime of] prior inspection which were signed during the

State of Emergency period.

"This instruction allowed the organs and institutions of the State to continue to execute contracts for public works contracts, supply of goods and provision of services, and guaranteed an account to facilitate the accountability of funds received within the scope of Covid-19," reads the report, which is debated and approved by parliament tomorrow.











In this Aug. 12, 2018 file photo, Brooke Koepka holds the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis. Koepka will try this week to become the first player to win three straight PGAs in stroke play. (AP Photo)

## Koepka's biggest challenge is history in bid for 3 in a row

BY DOUG FERGUSON

PETER Thomson might have been up to his old tricks. He once described the Americans as the "greatest collection of golfers in the world" right before he captained an International team that annihilated the U.S. in the 1998 Presidents Cup.

So what to make of his prediction at Carnoustie nine years later? Tiger Woods was going for a third straight British Open title, a feat accomplished only six times in major championship history, most recently by Thomson in 1956.

"He has a chance to win eight in a row," Thomson replied.

It wasn't clear if Thomson was joking or trying to create even more attention for Woods. By the end of the week, it was a moot point as Woods tied for 12th. Woods won majors at a faster clip than anyone. He remains the only player to win multiple majors in consecutive years. But he never won the same major three straight times.

Neither did Jack Nicklaus. The one chance he had, Nicklaus missed the cut going for a third straight Masters. Tom Watson shared the 54-hole lead at St. Andrews in 1984 in his bid for a third straight British Open. He closed with 73 and finished two shots behind Seve Ballesteros.

Arnold Palmer. Ben Hogan. Harry Vardon. The list of failures is much longer than the six men who actually won the same major back-to-back-to-back.

That's why the biggest challenge facing Brooks Koepka as he goes for a third straight PGA Championship this week at the TPC Harding Park in San Francisco is more about history than his troublesome left knee and recent form.

It's rare.

"I just want to play good golf. It's simple," Koepka said when he went to Bay Area in February to preview a PGA Championship that was supposed to be held in May before the COVID-19 pandemic upended golf's calendar.

"You start thinking about all the things that could happen, that's when nerve, everything else kind of creeps in. Just stay in the moment and keep plugging along."

Koepka already has had one crack at a three-peat and showed why he can't be overlooked. Trying to become the first player in more than a century to win the U.S. Open three straight times, he chased Gary Woodland all the way to the finish line at Pebble Beach and finished second.

Then it was all about Willie Anderson, the only player to win three straight U.S. Opens. Now it's about Walter Hagen, who won the PGA Championship four straight times (1924-27) when it was match play.

"Walter Hagen is a name every golf fan knows," Koepka said. "To even have a chance to put my name with his would be incredible and it would be super special. ... Two-time defending, it's a different feeling, and one you want to win this year."

Koepka won a thriller at Bellerive in 2018, when he set the PGA Championship scor-

ing record at 264 and matched the lowest score at any major. He nearly blew a seven-shot lead last year at Bethpage Black before winning by two. It helped that he set the 36-hole record for all majors at 128 with what he calls the best golf he ever played.

But this isn't the same player. Koepka had stem cell treatment after last season because of a partially torn patella. Two weeks later, he slipped on a wet slab of concrete at the CJ Cup in South Korea and injured his left knee further, keeping him out for three months. And then he lost another three months to the pandemic.

He has gone a year without winning. Last week at the World Golf Championship, he said he is adjusting his swing to accommodate his left knee and Koepka had his best chance of winning, tied for the lead until hitting into the water off the tee on the final hole as Justin Thomas won.

For someone with this much history on the line, Koepka still has managed to avoid the spotlight in the weeks leading into the PGA Championship. Attribute that to the pandemic, and the PGA Tour's return to golf two months ago in which positive tests – eight so far – get as much attention as birdies and bogeys.

"We're in different times now," said Curtis Strange, part of the ESPN broadcast team who had his shot at three straight U.S. Opens in 1990. "All sports have been put on the back burner just a little bit. I haven't read a lot about it, and I've talked a couple times to reporters about three in a row. ... But it would be a hell of an accomplishment."

That much is clear by the fact that no one has done it in 64 years. And when Thomson won his third straight British Open in 1956, it had been 29 years since Hagen, whose streak came 22 years after Anderson's. The other three were from the 19th century – Bob Ferguson (1880-82), Jamie Anderson (1877-79) and Young Tom Morris (1868-70) – when only about 40 players competed in the British Open.

Woods has won at least three straight times at four PGA Tour events – three in a row at Firestone and Memorial, four in a row at Torrey Pines and Bay Hill. Just not in the majors.

He has gone back-to-back in the Masters and British Open, and twice in the PGA Championship. He tied for 29th in the 2001 PGA in Atlanta. He tied for 15th in the 2003 Masters. He tied for 12th at Carnoustie. He never got a chance in 2008 because of season-ending knee surgery.

The Masters is the one major no one has won three straight times, and Woods knew it. He also knew the opportunity was rare. "If you're ever in that position, you want to take advantage of it because it doesn't happen all the time," he said.

What happened?

He went 21 holes before making his first birdie. He opened with a 76, his worst start in a major. And he never had another shot at three straight Masters.

AP

## Simba SC midfielder vouches for focus on CAF Champions League

BY CORRESPONDENT FAUSTINE FELICIANE

SIMBA SC midfielder, Clatous Chama, has said much as the side has had enormous success in the Vodacom Premier League and the Federation Cup, the squad must prepare adequately for the next season's CAF Champions League.

The Dar es Salaam club lifted this season's domestic top flight silverware with seven games to lay.

The side later edged fellow top flight club, Namungo FC, 2-1 in the Federation Cup final, played in Rukwa on Sunday, to lift the competition's top honour and, in the process, bag a domestic double.

Chama was of the opinion the CAF Champions League is not an easy competition and, thus, Simba SC's players and officials need to prepare well for the showpiece.

"We appreciate we have had much success this season, we are now preparing for CAF Champions League, it is a premier competition, it is not that easy," he disclosed.

"We have to prepare well, we need to have what it takes to give our all and in the end excell."

He moreover disclosed he believes his club's officials will prepare the players adequately with a view to seeing to it they perform well in the continental showdown.

"We truly thank our fans for their support in all top flight out-



Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (L), is presented with this season's Federation Cup's best player honour by Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Tulia Ackson, after the squad had locked horns with Namungo FC in the final, which took place in Rukwa last weekend. Simba SC emerged champions with 2-1 victory over Namungo FC in the final. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SPORTS CLUB

ings and even in the Federation Cup. They should continue motivating us to excel in the coming assignments," he stated.

Chama is one of Simba SC first choice side members who have

greatly contributed to the club's success in the 2019/20 domestic top flight and the Federation Cup.

The Zambian midfield maestro was moreover voted as the

Federation Cup best player.

He has as well been nominated for various honours which are, among others, this season's top flight's best midfielder and the tournament's best player.



New Orleans Pelicans' Zion Williamson (1) comes down after a dunk over Memphis Grizzlies' Anthony Tolliver (44) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Aug. 3, 2020 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Pelicans won 109-99. (AP Photo)

## Lakers beat Jazz 116-108 to clinch top seed in West

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

ANTHONY Davis had 42 points and 12 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers clinched the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference playoffs by beating the Utah Jazz 116-108 on Monday night.

The Lakers (51-15) own a six-game lead over the second-place Los Angeles Clippers and have five seeding games left before starting their first playoff run since 2013.

"If you're winning enough games to secure the No. 1 seed, you're building the right habits that are going to be necessary for you to win in the playoffs," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "Obviously we have bigger aspirations than the No. 1 seed, but we are proud of the accomplishment and we'll enjoy it while we're getting ready to get our group ready for the playoffs."

Utah (42-25) has clinched a playoff berth and is fifth in the West, a half-game behind Houston and a half-game ahead of Oklahoma City.

Davis' final basket resulted in a 4-point play with 42 seconds left, as he sank a 3-pointer while getting fouled by Rudy Gobert and made the ensuing free throw to give the Lakers a 114-104 lead.

Utah's Donovan Mitchell answered with a 4-point play of his own that cut the margin to 114-106 with 36 seconds remaining, but the Jazz couldn't get any closer. Davis made two free throws with 5.2 seconds left to wrap up the scoring.

LeBron James scored 22 points, Dwight Howard had 11 and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 10 for the Lakers.

Mitchell scored 33 and Mike Conley had 24 for Utah. Gobert added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz.

The Lakers were coming off a 107-92 loss to Toronto in which Davis shot just 2 of 7 and scored 14 points. Davis was much more active Monday night from the start, as he scored 13 points and shot 6 of 14 in the first quarter alone.

Davis had 24 points by half-time, marking the 20th time this

season he's scored at least 20 points in a half.

"Coach just told me to be more aggressive," Davis said. "He felt like, and I felt like too, that I just kind of played into Toronto's defense, accepted the double-team. I was making the right plays, but I still have to be aggressive at the same time."

Meanwhile, Fred VanVleet made another case for a big payday later this year.

VanVleet scored a career-high 36 points and made seven 3-pointers, and the defending NBA champion Toronto Raptors added to their strong restart with a 107-103 victory over the Miami Heat on Monday.

VanVleet, who is set to become an unrestricted free agent after the season, finished 7 of 12 from beyond the 3-point arc and was a perfect 13 of 13 from the foul line, topping his 34-point total against the Pelicans last December.

The 26-year-old VanVleet is in the midst of a two-year, \$18 million contract, but figures to cash in this coming offseason after

helping the Raptors win a championship and then following that up with another strong season in which he's averaging 17.5 points and 6.7 rebounds.

Pascal Siakam added 22 points and Kyle Lowry had 14 points and eight rebounds for the Raptors, who improved to 2-0 in the bubble. Toronto resumed its season by beating the Lakers and remains in second place in the Eastern Conference.

Goran Dragic had 25 points for the Heat.

Miami beat Toronto twice this season, but the Raptors avoided the season sweep behind VanVleet, who poured in deep 3s and repeatedly found his way to the foul line in the third quarter with strong drives.

The Raptors led by 17 midway through the third quarter before the Heat pulled ahead on Dragic's corner 3 with 10:11 remaining in the game. The Raptors regained command when Serge Ibaka, who had 15 points, added two dunks on back-to-back possessions.

AP



# Yanga now defend transfer approach

## SPORT

African leagues: Tunisia resume, Zambia falter, Algeria cancel

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



A section of Yanga players feature in the squad's training at Tanganyika Law School's venue in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the Vodacom Premier League, which culminated in July. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**Y**ANGA'S Information Officer, Hassan Bumbuli, has defended the club's approach of signing and releasing players without a recognized technical bench in the on-going transfer window.

After missing out on a place in next season's CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup, the club has opted for a massive clearance of the squad.

Yanga lost to Simba SC in the Azam Sports Federation Cup semi-final and the former also came out a distant second in the Premier League, won by the latter.

On Monday evening

Yanga released a list of 14 players deemed surplus to the club's requirements as rebuilding continues ahead of the new season.

Four foreign players have been released, among them, club skipper Papy Tshishimbi whose contract renewal negotiations broke down late last month.

Club top scorer, Congolese David Molinga, Rwandan winger Patrick Sibomana, Zambian winger Eric Kabamba and Ivorian attacker Yikpe Gnamien have all been shown the exit door.

Local players, who have been released, are Jaffary Mohamed, Mohamed Issa 'Banka', Tariq

Seif, Andrew Vincent, Muharam Issa, Ali Ali, Rafael Daud, Ali Mtoni Sonso and Mrisho Ngassa.

Fifteen players have been retained, namely Farouk Shikhhalo, Metacha Mnata, Ramadhan Kabwili, Haruna Niyonzima, Lamine Moro, Bernard Morrison, Feisal Salum and Juma Mahadhi.

Adeyem Saleh, Said Makapu, Balama Mapinduzi, Deus Kaseke, Ditram Nchimbi, Abdulaziz Makame and Paul Godfrey are as well in the list.

Yanga have already landed defender Bakari Mwamnyeto from Coastal Union, striker Waziri Junior from Mbao FC, left fullback Yassin Mustapha from

Polisi Tanzania and midfielder Zawadi Mauya from Kagera Sugar.

The GSM Group, who are Yanga's main sponsors, have declared they are ready to bankroll more deals with several foreign players on the club's wishlist.

However, Bumbuli, who is as well the club's Information Department's Head, is content that his club has gone about things the right way, saying the technical committee is made up of various members with solid coaching licences and experience.

Bumbuli said: "I would like to assure Yanga fans and

supporters that the club is doing things the right way. They should not listen to pundits and critics who are doing their job to earn money."

"We are building a squad, something that we have done before when we cleared the entire squad and still won the league within two years."

"The technical committee has solid people. You should not forget our chairman is the one who recommended the signing of Mapinduzi Balama and the player is doing well."

"We have someone like Kennedy Mwaisabula who is a respected coach who knows the league very well."

**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 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 #Newz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

**EATV SAA 1**  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## VPL awards ceremony set for Saturday

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's ceremony for awarding best players, coaches and referees for the just ended Vodacom Premier League will be held at Mlimani City hall in Dar es Salaam on Friday.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, said all is set for the awards and promised that the event will be more entertaining as it targets to honour and celebrate the success the players, coaches and referees have had in the 2019/20 football season.

He said a panel of judges has selected three individuals in each category of best player, best keeper, best referee, best coach, best upcoming player, most disciplined outfit, best assistant referee, best defender and best midfielder.

In the best player category, players competing for the honour are Nicholas Wadada (Azam FC), Clatous Chama (Simba SC), and Bakari Mwamnyeto (Coastal Union).

Contenders for best goal award are KMC FC's Sadallah Lipangile that netted a goal during his side's match against Mtiwba Sugar, Simba's Luis Miquissone's goal against Alliance FC and Paston Shikala of Mbeya City FC that netted a goal against JKT Tanzania.

Contenders for best goal keeper honour are Aishi Manula of Simba SC, Daniel Mgore of Biashara United and Nouridine Balora of Namungo FC.

In the best upcoming player's category, contenders are Kelvin Kijiri of KMC FC, Dickson Job of Mtiwba Sugar and Novatus Dismas of Biashara United.

Coastal Union, Kagera Sugar and Mwadui FC are competing for the award in the most disciplined team's category whereas Ahmed Arajiga from Manyara, Ramadhan Kayoko of Dar es Salaam and Abdallah Mwinyimkuu are competing for best referee of the season's honour.

In the best assistant referee's category, contenders are Frank Komba from Dar es Salaam, Abdulazziz Ally of Arusha and Hamdau Said of Mtwara.

Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandernbroeck, Thierry Hitimana of Namungo FC and Aristica Gioaba of Azam FC are competing for the best coach honour.

Those contesting for the best defender award are Mwamnyeto of Coastal Union, David Luhende of Kagera Sugar and Wadada of Azam FC.

The best midfielder's category contenders are Mapinduzi Balama of Yanga, Lucas Kikoti of Namungo FC and Clatous Chama of Simba SC.

Simba SC won the Vodacom Premier League title with 88 points while their age old rivals, Yanga, finished second with 72 points.

## Simba SC quashes Vandernbroeck sacking rumours

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League Champions, Simba SC, have brushed off reports that there are plans by the side to fire head coach, Sven Vandernbroeck, and his back room staff due to unimpressive performance in local and continental matches.

Simba SC Information Officer, Haji Manara, on Monday said there are no plans to fire the Belgian tactician and his backroom staff.

Manara stated that those who are spreading the news are targeting to fuel conflict between the technical department, players, management and the club's supporters.

He asked those, who are behind the rumours, to stop forthwith.

"We don't have any plan to fire our coach and his backroom staff, I'm asking those who are spreading the news to stop forthwith," he noted.

"Those people's aim is to create confusion in our club, stop it... if you want to spread lies you better say Haji Manara has been (word withheld), not what you are spreading about our coach and his backroom staff," the highly charged Manara said.

He said the outfit is happy with the coach and his assistants' performance as they have guided the club to win the 2019/20 Vodacom Premier League and this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

Vandernbroeck, who had in 2018

coached Zambia's national team, had also worked an assistant to coach Hugo Broos who guided Cameroon to lift the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations' trophy.

Manara also disclosed that after Simba had achieved their set goals for this season, the focus is on the CAF Champions League, insisting they want to cruise past the competition's group stage.

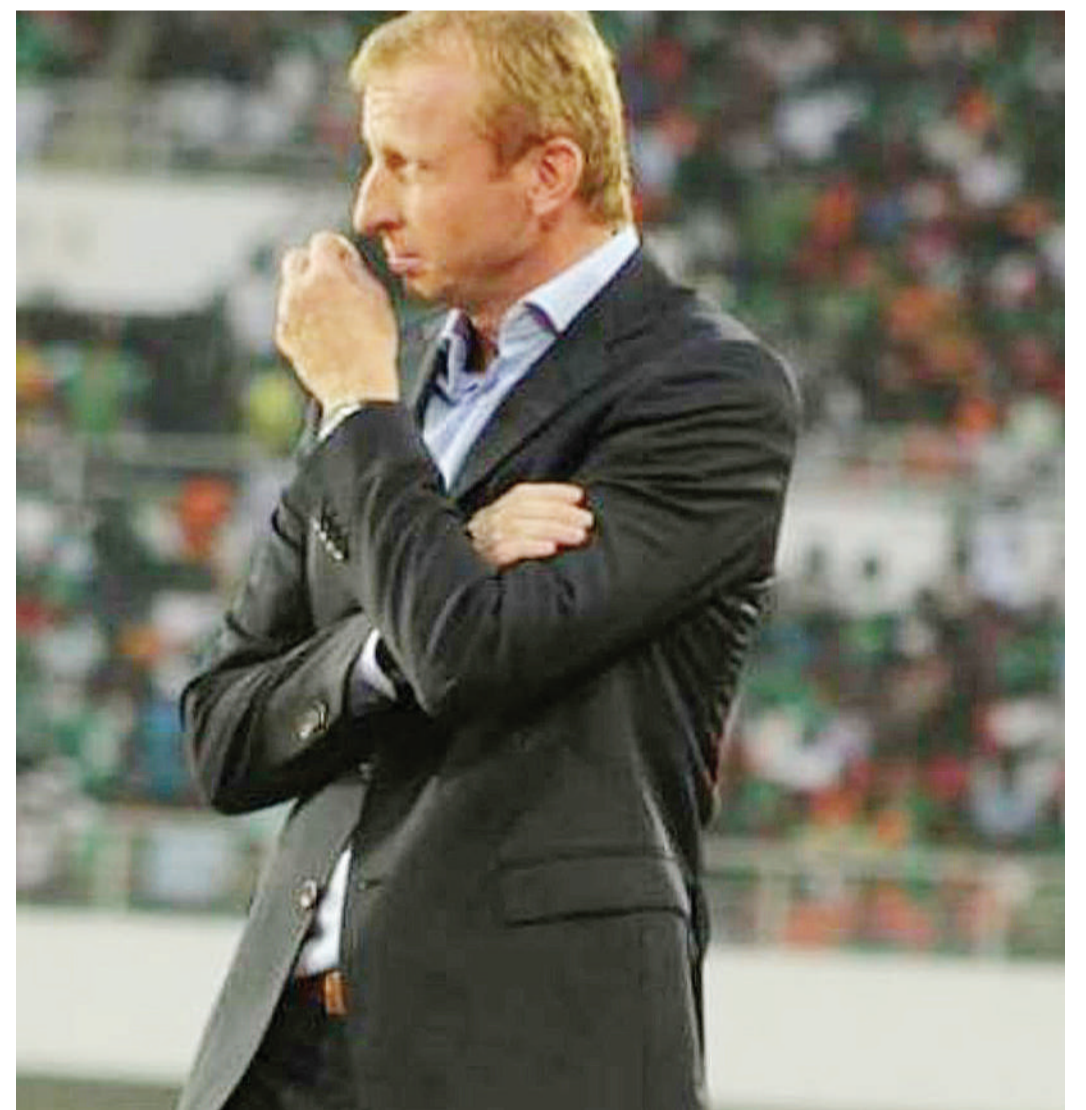
In a monitored radio interview, held in Rukwa on Friday, Vandernbroeck said after guiding his side to 2-1 win over Namungo FC in ASFC final that he has been hearing of the rumours of his impending sack.

He said he however is focusing on building a strong Simba which can compete in the continental tournament.

"I have seen stories of my impending firing, but my focus now is on building a strong Simba which can compete well on the continental level, if I will be sacked my wish is that the one who comes after me should build a strong team," the former Zambia national team head coach stated.

Manara's remarks comes after some of domestic football lovers had said the coach and his backroom staff have failed tactically and technically to inspire confidence in the outfit.

The enthusiasts noted the results which Simba have recorded this season have come about because of individual brilliance of the side's of players.



Simba SC head coach Sven Vandernbroeck.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

