



## INVESTMENT



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## DEVELOPMENT



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## MINING



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## AGRICULTURE



IRINGA RC HOLDS TALKS OVER AVOCADO FARMING PAGE 5

# Nala gets 4.0 bn/- organic fertiliser plant project

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

LIVESTOCK keepers in Dodoma region have a reason to smile as a 4bn/- organo-mineral fertilizer factory whose main raw material is animal wastes is under construction in the city. The investment by Burundian company, Itracom Burundi is on some 1600 hectares on Nala investment area located some 20 kilometers from Dodoma city. It is estimated to generate at least 3000 direct jobs and produce 500,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer per year upon completion in the next nine months. The project is a result of Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) efforts to attract investors into the country by having in place conducive areas for local and international investors. Itracom manager Dieudonne Msafiri expressed his satisfact

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# Govt stops cashew levy after protests

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has suspended a 110/- deduction on every kilogramme of cashew nuts sold which was recently imposed to pay for inputs loaned to farmers who have since protested the cuts.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa told the National Assembly during a question and answer session yesterday that implementation of the revenue collection has been put on hold.

Instead of implementing the directive issued by the Cashewnut Board of Tanzania (CBT), the government will come up with another method after farmers began rejecting farm inputs in protest of the deductions.

Majaliwa was responding to a question by Liwale legislator Zuberi Kuchauka, who told the premier that

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There is a meeting set for June 6 which will show the way forward on how the money will be deducted



President Samia Suluhu Hassan reads a special message from Rwandan President Paul Kagame presented to her by Rwandan Foreign Affairs and International Relations minister Dr. Vincent Biruta (L) at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House.

# 'TBS fuel marking work still in limbo'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have called on the government to legally and financially empower the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to enable it effectively undertake fuel marking which it took over recently from a consortium, Global Fluids International (GFI).

Debating the 2021/22 budget estimates for the Ministry of Energy, a section of MPs said that handing TBS the fuel marking duty was long overdue



My life has been threatened by unknown people for speaking on the matter and I have reported the matter to the police. What we want is to see our country benefit

but the bureau has not been legally mandated to do so and has not been financed to cover the costs involved.

Sengerema legislator, Hamis Tabasamu asked the government to set aside to provide funds for TBS to purchase sophisticated machinery to identify counterfeit marking enzymes, specifying that the system will not cost more than 10bn/-.

"My life has been threatened by unknown people for speaking on the matter and I have

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# American investors gear for hospitality, real estate sectors

By Guardian Reporter

CHIEF executive officers of two American companies jetted into Tanzania yesterday to scout for investment opportunities in hospitality and real estate business, among others.

Roslyn Parker, CEO of Affinity Travel Group and Miguel Pilgram, CEO of The Pilgrim

Group arrived at the Julius Nyerere International Airport where they were received by officials from the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) and Kilimanjaro International Tourism and Safaris Inc. (KITS) which coordinated the

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF WORK AND TRANSPORT  
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION  
TASAC

CLARIFICATION: TASAC FINE ON VIOLATION OF EXCLUSIVE MANDATE IS NOT USD 200,000 AS REPORTED BY THE CITIZEN NEWSPAPER

On Monday 24th May, 2021, the Citizen Newspaper published on its front page an article with a message that any person caught performing exclusive functions mandated to TASAC shall be required to pay a fine of USD 200,000. **The quoted figure is wrong and misleads the public.**

TASAC would like to inform its customers, stakeholders and the public at large that according to the provisions of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 the correct fine chargeable to any person who performs any exclusive function mandated to TASAC is **USD 10,000** compounded upon admission, or **USD 20,000** upon conviction in the court of law.

The exclusive functions mandated to TASAC in relation to shipping business are provided under section 7(1)(a) to (d), penalty is provided under section 7(3) and compounding is provided under section 58 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 accessed through TASAC website: [www.tasac.go.tz](http://www.tasac.go.tz).

Our customers, maritime transport stakeholders and the public can easily access information about TASAC through TASAC website: [www.tasac.go.tz](http://www.tasac.go.tz) or visit TASAC offices in Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Kigoma, Mara, Mtwara, Mwanza and Tanga, border posts, airports and mineral market centres.

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## Nala gets 4bn/-organic fertiliser plant project

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ion with the TIC for its quick response when it applied for the place to be made suitable for investment. He was impressed by efforts to connect the area with electricity and water services as they are the most essential for industries. "I'm amazed by the ongoing mobilization to ensure the area has access to water and electricity" he said. Msafiri noted that the massive effort by government authorities is a challenge for the firm to start the construction of the factory immediately, as of next week. He said the company has more than five years of experience in producing organic fertilizer in Burundi and it will provide a market for readily available animal wastes, especially cow dung. "Cow dung is one of our biggest raw materials reaching between 70 and 80 percent followed by other wastes like kitchen wastes and other garbage," he said, noting that other types of animal waste apply as well. Speaking at the construction site, TIC Central Zone Manager Abubakar Ndwata welcomed the investor, estimating that the investment will help to reduce importation of fertilizer and reduce its cost to farmers. He said Tanzania currently imports up to 700,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer, and thus production of up to 500,000 metric tonnes by the Burundi-an investor vastly reduces the supply deficit at present.

He also expressed his confidence that with government efforts to improve investment infrastructure throughout the country the results are evident, as once the needed infrastructure is in place, investors find it easier to set foot. Talking about the Nala investment area, he said with the installation of electricity and a source of water in place, the area is more conducive for investors. In the past, possible investors would visit and seek a portion of land in the industrial area, but the biggest challenge they raised was lack of water and electricity. "We now welcome more investors to Dodoma and specifically to the Nala investment area which now has the basic needs enabling an investor to start a factory" he said. Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) site project manager, Tumaini Chonga said power connectivity on the five kilometer line to the factory site had taken seven days and would be completed today. "We have been working here day and night to connect this area with electricity and hopefully, tomorrow there will be light here after fixing two transformers," he elaborated, noting that with the project, area residents not connected to electricity will be connected soon. Connecting every household is a vital objective, he emphasised. He lauded TIC for the spirit of cooperation with villagers. This allowed Tan



Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi talks with World Health Organisation resident representative to Tanzania Dr. Tigest Ketsela Mengestu who paid a courtesy call at the State House yesterday. Left is WHO Zanzibar office representative Dr. Ghirmay Redae Andemichael. Photo: State House

## Govt stops cashew levy after protests

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there is tension among farmers in cashew growing regions over the matter.

In his preliminary observation the MP said that they have received information that the government intends to lend farmers farm inputs which will be repaid later.

"There is tension after reports that the deduction will not consider the amount of cashew

nut which a farmer has, this is unfair because there are variations in the cashew nut that a farmer owns," he said.

In his response, Majaliwa said the directive has been now suspended and urged farmers to take the farm inputs which have been brought by the government in their respective areas, underlining that the amount of farm inputs distributed to various districts is sufficient for this growing season.

"There is a meeting set for June 6 which will show the way forward on how the money will be deducted," he said, elaborating that farmers with 10 kilogrammes and those with tonnes will not be deducted in the same manner.

The government was working on a better method to ensure that small farmers get inputs cheaply, he stated, highlighting a directive by the Ministry of Agriculture to improve market access for crops

that farmers harvest to ensure they get farm inputs timely.

"Cashewnuts is among crops which the government has been working on ensuring their proper management and that each eligible farmer participates fully," he stated.

After the June 6th meeting that will bring together all the various parties a directive will be issued on the way forward, he added.

## American investors gear for hospitality, real estate sectors

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visit.

The two were immediately led to the offices of the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) whose officials made a presentation on readily available opportunities, convincing Pilgram to start with manufacturing of industrial sugar.

"My intention was to invest in hospitality and affordable housing but after the TIC presentation, I have decided to start with industrial sugar," he said.

This change of mind came after TIC Senior Investment Officer Latifa Kigoda said that Tanzania has an over 70 per cent gap in industrial sugar which is imported annually.

The officer said the investment needed is \$500,000 which Pilgram said his firm can manage four times over.

"We seek to convince these investors to grab opportunities at the recently demarcated Burigi-Chato and Julius Nyerere national parks which have huge potentials for accommodation facilities," said Judge (rtd) Thomas Mihayo, the TTB board chairman.

Speaking to reporters, Parker said partnering with local firms will bring more tourists in the country and create employment opportunities, stimulate economic growth in various sectors related to tourism and hospitality.

"We are excited to be in partnership with our tourism partners especially the TTB, KITS. I know this partnership will be very fruitful and looking forward to bringing more tourists in the near future," she said.

For his part, the CEO of Pilgrim Group said that he has arrived in Tanzania for the first time, trying unsuccessfully for five years. The company was looking forward to partnership to invest in affordable real estate, he specified.

"Our target is investing in real estate to ensure that the majority of Tanzanians get

affordable and cheapest accommodation. I hope through partnership with Tanzanian companies it will be very fruitful," he declared.

KITS CEO, Vonnice Kiondo said that after the company moved to promote potential areas of investments in the US, many businesses and individuals have shown interest in investing in the country, especially in the tourism industry.

With the sixth phase government's stated mission of improving international diplomatic relations with other countries, this has generated investor confidence to wish to come and invest in Tanzania.

"The two US investors represent themselves and others in their circles. They are coming to find out whether and where they can invest in the tourism sector," she explained.

Furthermore, they will have investment meetings with private industry groups and individuals as well as with government officials, agencies and foreign service officials, tourism ministry and the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) before leaving back home, she stated.

Other groups slated for an exchange of views with the visiting investors are artists, woodcarvers, traditional and fashion clothing designers who will get tips on how they can promote their products in the US marketplace.

"The investors' visit is more beneficial to the country as we are leading a consortium of willing collaborators to construct four high-end accommodation facilities," the tour coordinator noted.

The firm shall also bring into Tanzania a major US hotel brand popular around the world to build affordable accommodation in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro, Dodoma and in national parks, she added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (R) in discussion with Energy minister Dr. Medard Kalema (L) and the ministry's deputy minister Stephen Byabato in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## 'TBS fuel marking work still in limbo'

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reported the matter to the police. What we want is to see our country benefit. If possible let TBS be equipped with the necessary resources to handle the matter because it is sensitive," he emphasised.

The MP said if well equipped, TBS may seek out and purchase the enzymes in countries where they are sold.

Gairo MP Ahmed Shabiby stood up to inform the fellow MP that there was nothing to worry even if TBS may carry the task at a high cost because the money remains in the

country.

Earlier, Speaker Job Ndugai urged the ministry responsible to immediately bring a bill to amend the TBS Act so that fuel marking tasks are included.

"When you come up with a law no one will ever remove the mandate from TBS and it is possible for this to be done during this budget session. Otherwise it is a matter of coming up with a miscellaneous amendment so that this matter comes to an end," the Speaker asserted.

Ukongga MP Jerry Slaa said the government should be

alert and open up on the matter because it is sensitive, as "otherwise TBS may be overwhelmed by foreign pressure."

Earlier this year, the government ordered that TBS take over the fuel marking exercise after Energy Minister Dr Medard Kalemani made an impromptu visit at Dar es Salaam Port fuel terminal and found tankers belonging to Camel Oil loading unmarked fuel destined for the local market.

Following the move, stakeholders have been calling

for a significant decline in price despite concerns on the ground that TBS may not have the technology needed to identify fuel which has been marked by fake enzymes, hence the need for foreign expertise.

The minister's visit followed debate in the House which was provoked by Shabiby, after he suggested that the government should assign the role to TBS to save consumers from paying hefty prices for the service currently undertaken by the GFI consortium, charging 14/- per liter for its work.

## TCCIA urges Mara business people to invest in tourism

By Guardian Correspondent, Bunda

BUSINESS people in Bunda District, Mara Region have been advised to grab opportunities to invest in the tourism sector, as at the moment the district will receive many tourists during the hosting of Tanzania National Park Authority (TANAPA) headquarters for western tourism circuit.

The call was given here on Wednesday by

the president of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Paul Koyi, during a joint meeting with business people at Bunda's Malaika Hall.

Koyi said as for now TANAPA headquarters are in Bunda District, Mara Region, hence it is a big opportunity for the business people to grab the opportunities and enhance themselves economically.

"This is your big opening for investments,

you can see how tourists' money built Arusha Region, and you Bunda business people should direct your investments towards tourism, using modern technology to attain success," he said.

He added that business people should understand that 72 per cent of the Serengeti National Park is in Mara Region, hence it is in their own interests to invest in the tourism sector, and not wait for Europeans to

come to invest in this district.

He also urged them to build the habit of paying government taxes as the government, under President Samia Suluhu Hassan was with them.

He also called on all business people to join TCCIA because through it they stand to attain great business benefits.

Earlier, Mara Region's TCCIA chairman Boniphace Ndengo, told the business peo-

ple in the region that the new Regional Commissioner for Mara, Robert Gabriel, likes them, and added that there is every reason that he will develop the region.

Bunda District Administrative Secretary, Salum Mtolela assured all business persons in the district that the doors were open and in case there were challenges facing them, they should not hesitate to consult district officials for solutions.



## Tanzania executes new development projects worth 3 trillion/- under PPP

By Marc Nkwame - Arusha

TANZANIA is on the verge of executing a total of 41 new development projects valued at 3.02 trillion/- under the Public-Private Partnership in line with the country's current five-year national development strategy plan.

That was stated by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Emmanuel Tutuba during the media sensitization workshop on public-private partnership, held at the Arusha Mini-Treasury Hall and attended by editors from various outlets across the nation.

"As of 31st of May this year, there were 41 projects write-up prepared under Public Private Partnership, these cover various sectors including water, health; education; infrastructure; communication; construction and commerce," said Tutuba, adding that 40 of the said projects have been hatched by state authorities while the private sector came up with one.

Addressing the media personnel, the Permanent Secretary recapped the government's stand in recognizing the important role of the private sector in helping to push the socio-economic development wheel through partnership in major investments.

"Tanzania needs to utilize all available options to attract increased private sector investments being important in achieving the National Development Vision 2025 and the

National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) goals," he maintained.

It was also stated during the Arusha training sessions that Public-Private Partnership (PPP) frameworks in Tanzania were also crucial tools that provide instruments for attracting foreign investments.

It was also learned that the Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have been identified as sustainable means to effectively address constraints of financing, managing and maintaining public goods and services as well as involving all sectors in building the nation.

Public-Private Partnerships involve the mutual agreement between public sector and private sector in which the private entities renovate, construct, operate, maintain, and manage projects in whole or in part but in accordance with output specifications.

Participation in PPPs covers both productive and socio-economic services sectors including, agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, education, health, natural resources, tourism, energy, mining, water, land development, environment and solid waste management.

The projects may also cover appropriate defence infrastructure, sports, communication, information and communication technology (ICT), trade, entertainment and recreation as well as agriculture but precisely irrigation.



Tigo northern zone manager Daniel Mainoya (L) receives one of the 7000 tree seedlings from the Helios Towers Tanzania managing director Ramsey Koola in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region yesterday which was donated by the firm to support tree planting initiative themed 'Tigo Green for Kil' project in a bid to conserve Mount Kilimanjaro. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TIC allocates big land for Dangote fertiliser factory

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

TANZANIA Investment Centre (TIC) has allocated land where business tycoon Aliko Dangote will build fertiliser factory.

TIC executive director Dr Maduhu Kazi disclosed yesterday

when speaking to reporters about different initiatives being taken by the centre to attract investors in the country.

Dangote who had constructed a big cement factory in Mtwara Region recently met President Samia Suluhu Hassan and promised to invest in fertiliser manufacturing plant. Dr Maduhu said the centre

in collaboration with other government agencies met several times to put in place all plans for the investment to take place as promised by Dangote.

He said they had identified enough land in Lindi and Mtwara regions where there are good infrastructure to transport products that will be

manufactured by the industry.

Dr Maduhu said Lindi and Mtwara is a strategic area for the investors because it will be very easy for them to connect with natural gas pipeline from Tanzania Petroleum Development Cooperation TPDC.

"Recently Dangote met our President Samia Suluhu Hassan and during their talks he

told the president his intention to invest in fertiliser production so we at TIC and other government agencies decided to create enabling environment for the dream to come true," said Dr Kazi

"We have already allocated enough land in Mtwara and Lindi where there are good infrastructure for any kind of in-

vestment because there is also natural gas which can easily be connected to support production," said Dr Maduhu

Speaking about natural gas availability, Dr Maduhu said they have talked to TPDC and assured the investor that they will collaborate and ensure gas is available all the time.

Dr. Maduhu said everything

is okay for them and they have written a letter to Dangote seeking for appointment to talk to him if there is any challenges that need government intervention.

He said there is no infrastructure challenges in Mtwara and Lind because there is enough water and electricity to support the production.



**BARRICK**  
NORTH MARA

### REQUEST FOR TENDER

#### FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM DESIGN, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND ACCEPTANCE TESTING

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following services:

#### Detailed Engineering Design, Supply, Commissioning, Installation Supervision and Acceptance Testing of Fire Detection and Suppression System as Per Recognized Fire Codes and Standards

##### Pre-qualification Criteria

- (1) Fire protection engineer should be a licensed professional engineer who has a degree in fire protection engineering or has passed the principles and practices examination in fire protection engineering.
- (2) Two years of experience in application and interpretation of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Codes and Standards
- (3) Two years of experience in the design/review of fire detection and suppression system including shop drawings and hydraulic calculations
- (4) Two years of experience in acceptance tests of fire protection systems

##### Expression of Interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com)

Applicants must quote reference "NM Fire Protection System" in the subject line of your email.

##### Key Dates

\* Last date to submit EOI

June 11, 2021

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



### Advertisement of Business Opportunities

Date: 4th June 2021

Reference no: 0002/NCA/2021

Subject: Supply of Goods and Services

Contracting Authority: Norwegian Church Aid - Tanzania Office

Deadline for submission of letter of interest: 13th June 2021

##### Background

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is a Norwegian Non-Governmental organization working with local Faith-based partners (FBOs) to promote Social and Economic Justice and Human Rights for poor communities. NCA has its foundations based in the congregations of Churches and Christian organizations in Norway, whose efforts are dedicated towards eradicating poverty, its causes and social deprivation.

Norwegian Church Aid invites qualified suppliers of one or several of the following goods and services to respond to this advertisement. Suppliers who have responded to this advertisement and provide the required information may be invited to participate in the procurement procedure for the relevant lot(s).

##### Goods and services needed:

- Hotel, conference, and accommodation services
- Stationery and office consumables
- Air ticket and car hire services
- IT support services (software and hardware).
- ICT Equipment (computers, phones,)
- Printing services
- Design services
- Agricultural Input and Irrigation Equipment (drip irrigation pipes, fertilizers, pesticides)
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Consultancy – to train Community water committees
- Insurance Services (Vehicle and Health, electronic equipment)
- Editorial and translation services
- Office furniture (chairs and tables)
- Vehicle service and maintenance
- Clearing and forwarding services
- Monitoring & Evaluation Consultancies (baseline survey, mid-term and end-line project evaluation)
- Visibility Items (T-shirts, sign boards, stickers)
- Other Consultancies (training beneficiaries or other stakeholders on issues related to Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Economic Empowerment, Climate Change, Food and Nutrition, Organisational Development, Communication, Advocacy, research, and publication)
- Visual (Photo, video) and Print documentation of development projects

The interested supplier shall provide the following information to the Contracting Authority using the contact details below:

- Indicate which supplies or service you are interested in supplying.
- Provide the following information preferably in **one page**:
- the company's name, registration documents (Brela and TRA) and contact details.
- contact person.
- brief description of the company's background and main line of work; and
- experience with this kind of supply/service with reference to previous customers.

This is purely information on business opportunities, and **does not** constitute a commitment to purchase or any other form of contractual commitment with the Contracting Authority.

Information should be provided to the following address by email:

Country Director,  
Norwegian Church Aid  
e-mail: [Procurement.Tanzania@nca.no](mailto:Procurement.Tanzania@nca.no)





CCBRT hospital head of orthopaedics and rehabilitation Dr Lujisyo Mwakalukwa (2nd L) shows to the hospital's chief executive officer Brenda Msangi (L) a clubfoot patient of a one year-old child during the World Clubfoot Day commemorations held at the hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Tanzania has lifted ban on mineral concentrates export'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

TANZANIA has lifted a ban on mineral concentrates exports after putting in place a new and transparent method in which the government gets all the legally entitled revenues, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa told the National Assembly yesterday.

PM Majaliwa said this during a question and answer session to the Prime Minister saying there was no container with mineral concentrates which was moving out of the country without being sold and with proper documentation.

Majaliwa was responding to a question from Msalala legislator Iddi Kassim Iddi who wanted to know how much was the government getting from mineral concentrates which are being seen transported from Bulyankulu to the port of Dar es Salaam despite the fact that there was a ban.

"This has raised eyebrows. People want to know what is going on, what is the government stance on the matter," queried the MP.

In response, the PM said the containers which are being transported out of the country have been sold and that the government has got all the entitled revenues.

"Let me assure Tanzanians that the containers they see have been sold and that it

is the buyer who is transporting them," he said.

The PM said the government had its team at the mining site which ensures that the mineral concentrates have been sold before they get out of the site.

"We are getting a lot of money only that I do not have the figures here, but the minister for minerals detailed during his speech on how the sector was benefiting the country," he said.

The PM agreed to have seen information on social media that there are containers being transported out of the country's borders.

"Let me remind Tanzanians that we banned exportation of mineral concentrates because there were some shortfalls and we came up with a new system to handle the matter," he said.

According to the PM, the new system includes identifying the transporters of the mineral concentrates.

The late President John Magufuli formed a team to advise him on forming a company which will be jointly owned by the government and investors.

Earlier, it was advised that there was one type of minerals in the containers but after investigations it was found that there were several samples of minerals.

## Envoy urges Indonesia, Tanzania cultural ties

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

INDONESIAN ambassador to Tanzania Prof Ratlan Pardede has underscored the need to strengthen cultural relations between his country and Tanzania for mutual benefits.

He was speaking in Dar es Salaam during the 2nd Indonesian Cultural Day. He said to cement relationship between the two countries; the Tanzania Indonesia Friendship Association (TAIFA) was established in 2012.

"Not only the two countries need to enhance economic and political cooperation, but the cultural relation is also an important aspect that needs to be enhanced", he said.

Since 2019, the Embassy has also opened up the Indonesian Language Course that up until the current running second batch, have been attended by more than 40 students.

He said stronger engagement in languages will result in Tanzanian youth to be interested to know more about

Indonesia.

"To boost closer cultural relations between Indonesia and Tanzania, we are of the view that through Indonesian Cultural Day is another way to introduce our culture, arts, and food to the Tanzanian society in particular and to all invitees from different countries attending this occasion in general," he said.

The main theme of Indonesian Cultural Day 2021 is to find a common ground of cultural aspects of Indonesian

and Tanzanian people.

He said, in musical aspects, the Taarab style which is quite popular in Swahili music can also be found in various Indonesian music styles, like in Dangdut (Indonesian popular folk music) and some part of western Indonesian region. Some of the swahilian musical instruments like ngoma and marimba are also akin to Eastern Indonesia musical instruments.

He said in cuisine, it is not hard for us Indonesians to get

to love Tanzanian cuisine, because of the striking similarity.

"From the use of spices, coconut milk, and other seasoning, we can find traces of similarity here and there. If we look back to history, there is a strong link regarding the origin of spices in Tanzania and Indonesia. And also, as palm oil is very popular in Indonesia, it is also interesting to point out the fact that the first seed of Palm oil in Indonesia in the 1900s was from Tanzania," the Ambassador added.

Ambassador Pardede said: "We want to show that both cultures are unique, yet have a lot of similarities and aspects that can resonate well with each other. We will have a pleasure to show to all Tanzanians and Indonesians, that Swahilian and Indonesian languages and culture can beautifully hybridize with each other."

By understanding that both countries are tied closely in terms of socio-cultural aspects, we hope that it will

further stimulate people to people connection and cooperation, boosting the friendship between the two countries to a new level.

Pardede said apart from that, there is a close relationship between culture and tourism. Therefore, Indonesia and Tanzania are able to work in the tourism sector so that in the future there will be more Indonesian tourists to visit Tanzania, vice versa.

The Serengeti National Park and mount of Kilimanjaro are



### INVITATION TO BID INSTALLATION OF WEATHER STATIONS

#### Introduction

WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF-TCO) is a Non-Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it is supporting the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects in different sectors namely Marine, Forest, Freshwater, Wildlife, Energy and Climate change. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF TCO secured funding from German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through WWF German for implementation of Climate change project in Partnership with Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) aimed at addressing climate change impacts in five districts in northern Tanzania including Longido District. Enduimet Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Lake Natron area have unique ecosystems of outstanding importance for the protection of global biodiversity.

#### Objective of the TOR

As part of a project supporting local communities in climate adaptation, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Tanzania planning to **install four (4) Weather Stations** at the WMA offices in Enduimet, Ikona and Makao and at the District Executive Director office in Longido. The weather stations will enable the local community to access climate change data and inform community decisions on type of crops varieties to be planted, livestock and rangeland management.

#### Qualification and Experiences

1. Registered firms with all business certificates required as per Tanzania legislations
2. Having five years experiences on delivering environmental related equipment
3. Understanding on weather station requirements and specifications on Tanzania Meteorological Agency standards and guidelines
4. Expertise on Climate Change data and Meteorological sciences

All interested qualified and reputable firm should visit WWF Tanzania website <https://tanzania.panda.org/news/> to obtain the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR). The proposal should be in English language and the currency shall be in **Tanzanian Shilling - TZS** and not any other.

#### Mode of application:

Interested applicants are required to direct their **soft copy applications** to the procurement e-mail at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org) Deadline for submission is 5pm, **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.

Address your applications to:

**Secretary,  
Procurement Committee,  
WWF Tanzania Country Office,  
Plot 252 Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni  
P.O. Box 63117 Dar Es Salaam.**

Evaluation of the tenders will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines. WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal submitted. Only successful applicant shall be contacted.

## Stakeholders anxious for transparency as Tigo, Zantel networks sale unfolds

By Nimi Mweta

WHEN President Samia Suluhu Hassan delivered her maiden speech to Parliament on April 22nd, she vowed that the sixth phase government will take serious measures to stimulate economic growth, which was adversely affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The growth dropped from an average of 6.6 percent to 4.7 percent last year, the president remarked.

President Samia emphasized, among various other issues, that offering incentives to investors while pursuing strategic projects, ensuring growth of investments and trade to spur economic activity and creating jobs.

Equally important is keen follow up on regulations governing investment, with a view to make them more attractive to local and foreign investors.

This leads to the need to expedite investment proposals from which the country could benefit, mindful of the need to create jobs and increase revenues.

Observers have taken note of the fact that a few days before that speech was delivered on the April 19th, the London business daily, the Financial Times announced an attractive investment deal in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar which relates to sale of MIC Tanzania PLC (Tigo) and Zanzibar Telecom PLC (Zantel).

No mention was made in the Financial Times article of an IPO of Tigo on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange, which is a legal requirement that is yet to be implemented, the consultant affirmed.

Millicom International Cellular S.A (Millicom), the parent company of MIC Tanzania PLC and Zanzibar Telecom PLC announced that it has signed an agreement for the sale of its entire operations - TIGO and Zantel - to a consortium led by Ax-

ian Group, a company based in the Malagasy capital of Antananarivo.

"Millicom is pleased to have found a strategic investor such as AXIAN Telecom, a firm committed to furthering Tigo and Zantel's long term commitment to provide accessible, affordable and innovative service to the people of Tanzania," the company stated.

City sources affirm that the sale of the Tanzania business was in line with Millicom's strategy to focus on fixed and mixed mobile services in Latin America, after investing in the development of the telecom industry in Africa for around 25 years.

Millicom, founded in 1990, is headquartered in Luxembourg. "Millicom is a Latin American-focused telecom company with 95 percent of its revenues coming from that region," the CEO of Millicom, Mauricio Ramos, told the Financial Times.

Ramos stressed that they are closing all business undertakings in Africa where revenues are much lower.

At this juncture, it is imperative to take note of the various concerns raised by potential local investors in emerging communication technologies, including mobile networks.

A media consultant familiar with the issue said that firstly, it is an old habit for foreign investors to call press conferences or distribute statements for media use in New York, London or other financial centre when they want to sign investment deals.

The local press is not invited and at times not even the local regulatory authorities are aware of sale plans, he said.

For instance, in this case the local media picked the Tigo story from the international media and sought to further its content from local sources, which shows that the trend has not changed.

"We believe it would have been prudent for Millicom to have distributed the press releases abroad and then unveil the plans in Dar es Salaam at another press conference to give room to local stakeholders and media to ask relevant questions on the deal," he affirmed.

Local stakeholders are scarcely aware of the Axian Group, the strength it has in its existing operations in Madagascar (whose population does not exceed eight million people, while Tigo (T) Ltd boasts of more than 13 million subscribers as of December 2020), he elaborated.

Secondly, local investors in the telecom sector aren't aware if the local regulatory authority and other state bodies like the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) are as yet in the picture about what has been signed.

"We believe however the regulators will have ample time to pick up the details as it will require regulatory clearance, thus cross examine the whole deal from Millicom to the Axian Group before issuing the necessary operational approvals," the consultant asserted.

The regulators will need to be convinced of the capacity of the Axian telecom firm and whether it has any concrete strategies for operating in a much larger country and can extend affordable digitalization nationwide, he emphasized.

The new investor must also tell us how the firm will operate safely in line with the global COVID-19 control measures, and inform existing staff and network partners on its plans on health issues, like taking up responsibility in educating the staff and clients on pandemic issues like vaccines, etc.

He similarly referred to unconfirmed reports that the Axian Group has already nominated a





World Wildlife Fund resident director Dr. Aman Ngusam (R), Vodacom Foundation director Rosalynn Mworira (C) and Tanzania Forest Services Agency, Chief Executive Prof. Dos Santos Silayo (L) participate in tree planting at Medeli area in Dodoma as part of the World Environment Day's events marked every year on June 5th. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

## Turkey vows to work with Tanzania to solve GBV and child abuse issues

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Turkish government has pledged to work with Tanzania in finding solutions to various challenges facing communities across the country including the issue of gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse.

This was revealed here early this week by Turkey's Ambassador to the country, Dr Mehmet Gulluoglu during his meeting with the Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary (Community Development Department), Dr John Jingu.

Dr Gulluoglu, among others, said his country, through its various sponsors were ready to participate in Tanzania's development, especially in the sectors of education, economic empowerment for women and the fight against GBV and child abuse.

Earlier, speaking on activities coordinated by his ministry, Dr Jingu said the government has begun to invest in women economic empowerment aimed at improving households' economies and ultimately national economic growth.

He said to make sure the plans' aims are achieved, his ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and various other stakeholders have begun to invest in the cultivation of avocado in Iringa, Njombe and Mbeya regions,

as well as sunflower growing in Singida and Dodoma regions, whilst Kigoma region was earmarked for oil palm cultivation.

In regard to strengthening social services to the country's elders, Dr Jingu said the issue was among government's priorities, saying the government runs 13 elders' homes in the country's various areas.

On children's development, he said it is the government responsibility through his ministry to ensure children's basic services and their rights are attained including the rights of children who have infringed various laws.

In regard to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Dr Jingu said the Ministry provides guidelines and monitor their operations to ensure they operate transparently and accountably. Among the international NGOs is Turkish Maarif Foundation that deals in education issues which currently runs schools in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Zanzibar.

The Foundation's Resident Director, Oguz Hamza said their aim is to provide quality education to Tanzania's students at low cost.

Elaborating on the cooperation among NGOs, the country's Registrar for MGOs Vickness Mayao said the issue needs collective coordination depending on the areas involved.

## Singida launches vehicles electronic parking fees collection

By Guardian Correspondent,

Singida

SINGIDA Region has officially launched the electronic system for collection of parking fees known as TeRMIS.

TeRMIS - the acronym for 'Tarura e-Revenue Management Information System' is

a new government revenue collection system as a way to supplement repair costs to road infrastructures.

Launching the system here on Wednesday, Singida Regional Commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge urged the residents to accept it as it has been introduced with good intentions.

He said its aim is to enhance government's revenue collection, but also to reduce users' inconveniences in the payment of parking fees.

It is explained that after registration, the user will on his own start paying the amount required on daily, weekly or monthly basis via mobile transaction or any NMB, CRDB

bank branches or their agents.

The RC said another relief on users is to assist them to pay the fees from wherever he is without having to go to TARURA offices.

However, he called on TARURA to make frequent inspections on all those contracted to collect the revenue as precautions against fraud.

Elaborating on the new system, a TARURA expert on revenue issues, Oswald Mobily said the customer can elect to pay parking fees on hourly, daily, weekly or monthly basis. He cited vehicles that will be subjected in payment of parking fees as including tri-motorcycles (Bajaj) that will be charged 300/- per day,

1500/- per day and 6,000/- per month.

Vehicles of not more than 2 tonnes carrying capacity will be charged 500/- per day, 2,500/- per week and 10,000/- per month, while vehicles of more than 2 tonnes but less than 3 tonnes carrying capacity will be charged 200/- per hour, 1,000/- per day, 5,000/-

per week and 20,000/- per month.

According to TARURA vehicles of more than three tonnes carrying capacity will be charged 400/- per hour, 2,000/- per day, 10,000/- per week and 40,000/- per month, while application fees for special parking will be 20,000/- per month.



### BODI YA USAJILI WA MAKANDARASI (CRB)

#### TAARIFA KWA UMMA

#### KUAHIRISHWA KWA MKUTANO

Bodi ya Usajili wa Makandarasi (CRB) inasikitika kuwatangazia Makandarasi na wadau wote wa sekta ya Ujenzi kwamba mkutano wa mashauriano wa mwaka 2021 uliokuwa ufanyike tarehe 10 hadi 11 Juni 2021 katika ukumbi wa Gold Crest Mwanza umeahirishwa, kutokana na sababu zilizo nje ya uwezo wa Bodi.

Mkutano huu sasa utafanyika tarehe 17 hadi 18 Juni 2021, katika ukumbi wa Gold Crest Mwanza kuanzia saa 2 asubuhi. Kauli mbiu ni: "Juhudi za Makusudi za Wadau Kuwezesha Ukuaji wa Makandarasi wa ndani"

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR PROCUREMENT OF BULK FERTILIZER

#### PRE-QUALIFICATION No. TFRA/PQ/2021-2023/F/01

1. Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) under Fertilizer Act, 2009 Cap 378 has a mandate to coordinate importation of fertilizer through the bulk procurement system as per Fertilizer (Bulk Procurement) Regulations GN. 49 of 2017.
2. TFRA advertised a call for pre-qualification of fertilizer dealers for importation of fertilizer for the cropping seasons 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 under the Bulk Procurement System (BPS), and the deadline for submission of applications was set to be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. Local Time.
3. For reasons beyond the Authority's control, TFRA has extended the deadline for submission of applications to Wednesday 9th June, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. Local Time. Other terms and conditions of the Applications remain the same.
4. Applications will be evaluated and results be announced before Monday June 21, 2021 for pre-qualified importers to participate in the tenders from JULY 1, 2021 to JUNE 30, 2023.
5. TFRA upholds its commitment of partnering with all stakeholders in ensuring timely availability of quality fertilizer and fertilizer supplements to all farmers in Tanzania at affordable prices and friendly payment terms.

  
Dr. Stephen E. Ngailo  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For more information

Visit our office located at Plot No. 15471, 1 Kilimo Street, Kilimo I complex,  
P.O. Box 46238, Dar es salaam, Tanzania or call +255 739 002 012





Tanzania Investment Centre managing director Dr. Maduhu Kazi talks with Aliko Dangote representatives in Dar es Salaam. The talks centred on the construction of a fertilizer factory in the country.

## Inflation rate will remain in single digit - Nchemba

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has affirmed that inflation rate will continue to be in the single digit at least between 3.0 and 5.0 percent, a rate that is within the East African Community (EAC) agreement.

Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said this in the National Assembly yesterday when responding to a question from Special Seats lawmaker, Cecilia Pareso (CHADEMA) who had inquired to know when will the government control inflation that has been in a surge since December last year.

Statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that the Annual Headline Inflation Rate had increased from 3.2 percent that was recorded in March, 2021 to 3.3 percent in April, 2021.

In the NBS website, it was stated that the increase of headline inflation rate means that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended April, 2021 had increased compared to the speed that was recorded for the year ended March, 2021.

The overall index went up from 100.63 recorded in April, 2020 to 103.95 in April, 2021.

Responding to the MP's question, Dr Nchemba (pictured) said that inflation went



up in January 2021 to an average of 3.5 percent from 3.2 percent that was recorded during the corresponding period in December 2020. "This was caused by scarcity of some of the products in the market, something that usually occur during the beginning of the year," he noted.

Dr Nchemba was also quick to point out that the annual headline inflation rate went down to 3.3 percent in February 2021, meaning that products had started to be obtained in the market at lower cost in the market compared to during the corresponding period in January 2021.

Dr Mwigulu told the House that the major aim of maintaining inflation rate at the single digit aimed at ensuring that different government strategies remained intact including distribution of food items to different destinations as well as strengthening of the budget policy.

## Foundation pledges \$50 million to increase access to affordable COVID-19 vaccines in poor countries

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has announced a \$50 million commitment to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to support Covid-19 vaccine purchasing through Gavi's COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) as well as delivery of the vaccines to 92 lower-income countries.

The pledge was announced at Gavi's COVAX AMC Summit, an event co-hosted by the government of Japan and Gavi that gathered world leaders, the

private sector, civil society, and technical partners to build support to procure Covid-19 vaccines and equitably distribute them to lower-income countries.

Mark Suzman, CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation said: "The world must urgently come together to expand equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines or we risk more deaths and the emergence of new variants that could prolong the pandemic for everyone."

Suzman added: "Thanks to today's contributions, especial-

ly Japan's generous pledge and its leadership in global health, we've taken an important step towards that goal. This summit is a powerful example of what can be achieved when we act collectively to control the pandemic and save lives."

The foundation also called on high-income countries to share at least 1 billion excess Covid-19 vaccines with lower-income countries as soon as possible.

High-income countries have reserved more Covid-19 vaccines than they need, and thus

can be part of a critical effort to accelerate global vaccine access by sharing excess doses, without compromising their own vaccination efforts.

This will allow lower-income countries to immunize hundreds of millions of health workers and at-risk people this year—saving lives, reducing the risk of new variants emerging, and helping control the pandemic.

The funding and dose sharing commitments from donors will accelerate equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines to fill an

immediate need for vaccine doses in lower-income countries. To increase overall supply, pharmaceutical companies must continue transferring technology to qualified manufacturers, and companies and countries should cooperate on supply chains for materials.

The world must also begin to build solutions that distribute manufacturing capacity more equitably, including on the African continent and in other low- and middle-income countries.

The new funding announcement builds on \$156 million in

previous commitments by the foundation to the COVAX AMC. The foundation's total commitment to the Covid-19 response is now more than \$1.8 billion.

This funding has supported the development of tests, treatments, and vaccines for Covid-19; the delivery of these tools to low- and middle-income countries; country-specific and regional responses in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia; and global efforts to design and implement testing, tracing, and other urgent public health actions.

The COVAX AMC is part of the vaccines pillar of the Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator and is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and the World Health Organisation.

The organisations are working with UNICEF, governments, and manufacturers to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available worldwide to both high-income and lower-income countries.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation work to help all people lead healthy, productive lives.

## TMDA cautions women against using tobacco products

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Arusha

THE Tanzania Medical Devices and Drugs (TMDA) has cautioned women to avoid using tobacco products as they expose themselves to a number of diseases including cancer of the uterus, impotency and miscarriage.

This was revealed yesterday in Arusha Region by TMDA Acting Director, Dr Yonah Hebron when speaking at a one day familiarisation seminar with editors and senior reporters.

He said the use of tobacco products like cigarette can result in women delivering weak babies, a situation which can expose the infant to various diseases and eventually early death.

Speaking about the consequences of tobacco products to men, Dr Hebron said researches show that it can cause men dysfunction, destroy sperm and sometimes have weak children who will be attacked by cancer in the future.

Dr Hebron said different researches show that half of infant deaths are caused by the effects of tobacco used by their parents.

He said tobacco use affect breathing systems which eventually results to children's poor mental growth.

Dr Hebron said cigarettes combine over 4,000 chemicals whereas 40 among them have been confirmed to cause cancer which kills over eight million annually.

He went on that researches have established that between seven and ten people who use tobacco products their life span

is reduced by 20 years.

"If you were to live 100 for example and you are tobacco user, according to the research you will reduce your life time to 80 years, and if you were to live 40 years it means you will cut your lifetime to 20 years and study also shows that over 80 percent of tobacco users come from poor and

developing countries," he said. He said the trend show that there is decrease of tobacco products use in many developed countries while there is increase of the products in developing and poor countries.

He said from May this year, TMDA was authorised to control tobacco products use adding that

the aim is to protect under 18 and other people who don't use tobacco products from the consequences that results from the use of tobacco products. TMDA aim is to educate the public on the danger of using tobacco products and the benefit they are going to get if they quit the smoking behaviors.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – RFP

### PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES TO WWF TANZANIA COUNTRY OFFICE

1. WWF Tanzania Country Office is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:
  - Conserving the world's biological diversity;
  - Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
  - Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
2. WWF TCO now wishes to engage a highly experienced Internet Service Provider (ISP) firm for Supply of dedicated internet Connection service. The overall objective of the assignment is to ensure a well-functioning of all activities through the provision of internet services to WWF offices, the services must provide full-time 24-hour internet access to the All offices.
3. **WWF TCO Structure.**  
WWF Tanzania has its headquarters at Dar es Salaam together with other 2 offices i.e., Masasi and Kilwa field offices. All these offices run a number of online platforms that require full time connectivity.
4. **Technical Requirements**
  - Supply and installation of dedicated internet service connection with speed of 45 Mbps for the WWF Tanzania HQ (Fiber Connectivity).
  - Supply and installation of dedicated internet service connection with speed of 15 Mbps for the WWF branch offices.
  - Backup link in case of any downtime of the fiber connectivity.
  - ISP shall provide 24x7x365 monitoring of the link.
5. All qualified and reputable Internet Service Provider (ISP) are invited to submit their proposal (**technical and financial**). The proposal should be in English language and the currency shall be in Tanzanian Shilling – TZS and not any other.
6. **Mode of application:**  
Interested applicants are required to direct their **soft copy applications** (as mostly staffs are still working from homes) to the procurement e-mail at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org) Deadline for submission is **10am, Friday 11th June 2021**. Address your applications to:
 

**Secretary,  
Procurement Committee,  
WWF Tanzania Country Office,  
Plot 252 Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni  
P.O. Box 63117 Dar Es Salaam.  
Email: [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)**
7. Evaluation of the tenders will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines
8. WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal submitted
9. Only successful applicant shall be contacted.





## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

### About us

UONGOZI Institute was established in 2010 by the Government of Tanzania to inspire and equip Tanzanian and African leaders to deliver inclusive and sustainable solutions. This is done through the provision of high-quality executive education programmes, facilitation of policy dialogues, action-oriented research and technical assistance for public institutions.

The Institute is currently seeking to fill the position of Capacity Development Specialist (CDS). Reporting to the CEO, the CDS will be responsible for the management of the department of Executive Education. The CDS will be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of our executive education programmes in line with the objectives established in the Institute's strategic plan. They will also be actively engaged in building and strengthening partnerships, as well as resource mobilisation. The CDS will lead a team of professionals and is a member of the Institute's senior management team.

### Duties and responsibilities

#### Manage Executive Education department

- Review and develop leadership development approach and methodologies to ensure high-quality programmes.
- Represent the Institute in the inter-ministerial, clients' meetings.
- Ensure timely, quality reporting of the department's activities in line with the Institute's reporting processes.
- Develop and monitor budget for the department

#### Provide advisory and technical support on the strategic direction of the Institute

- Contribute to the management and strategic direction of the Institute as a key member of the senior management team.
- Ensure that the department's activities are in line with and support the implementation of all other areas of work of the Institute.
- Provide guidance and support the CEO in his interactions with key stakeholders of the Institute.

#### Coordinate the department's activities whilst ensuring quality and relevance

- Facilitate executive education programmes offered by the Institute.
- Lead the coordination of training programmes, including Training-Needs Assessments, identification of instructors/facilitators and quality control of the programmes.
- Prepare training reports and concept notes for further studies and programmes improvement.
- Prepare presentations and speeches for various stakeholders, including specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Benchmark the training programmes offered by the Institute against those offered by similar institutions globally to examine quality and relevance.
- Apply recommendations and data from clients/stakeholders in refining training materials on an annual basis.

#### Networking with the Institute's stakeholders and resource mobilisation activities

- Nurture and build relationships with public sector institutions to identify current government priorities to strategic entry points for the Institute.
- Nurture and establish relationships with development partners and other relevant actors to achieve collaboration, cooperation and alliances on training programme development, implementation, and resource mobilisation.
- Support the development and implementation of the Institute's resource mobilisation strategy.
- Provide input to advocacy and public communication strategies.

#### Manage personnel under supervision

- Actively pursue opportunities for the department members to continue to learn best practices in providing leadership programmes through research, professional development and other learning and development opportunities.
- Supervise, coach and guide personnel.
- Ensure a common vision aligned with the Institute's strategic plan is shared among the team.
- Create an enabling work environment and promote team work.

### Required competencies

#### Core competencies

- Leadership – ability to persuade others to follow.
- People management – ability to improve performance and satisfaction.
- Team management – ability to create common vision and well-functioning teams.

#### Functional competencies

- Programme management – ability to formulate, implement and monitor leadership training programmes.
- Operational management – ability to develop plans, budgets and concept notes and deliver on them.
- Contract management – ability to manage and oversee outsourced trainers and facilitators.
- Stakeholders management – ability to manage multiple stakeholders and balance often contradictory expectations, building and maintaining relationships.
- Collaboration and partnerships – ability to develop, maintain, and strengthen partnerships.
- Analytical skills – ability to understand complex situations, good understanding of executive leadership programmes
- Results-based management – ability to link implementation of plans to achieving results.
- Networking skills – ability to network with public sector leaders in the highest levels, development partners and private sector representatives.
- Writing skills – capacity to tailor and deliver messages in writing in a concise manner.
- Communication – ability to effectively communicate intentions and requirements to internal and external stakeholders.
- Advisory skills – ability to facilitate advisory services.

### Qualifications

- Master's degree in social sciences or relevant field. PhD in social sciences or relevant field is an asset.
- Ten years of relevant experience with eight years in senior management role(s) related to executive education.
- Proven record of coordinating, facilitating and supervising executive education programmes.
- Solid communication skills and excellent networking skills.
- Fluency in English and Swahili.
- Proven track record of partnership building and resource mobilisation.

### How to apply

Interested candidates should submit their application, comprising of:

- Brief statement on the related or similar work as above.
- Detailed curriculum vitae with contact details for three referees.
- Copies of certificates.

Above to be submitted to the following address:

#### Chief Executive Officer

#### UONGOZI Institute

Plot no. 100, Magogoni street, Kivukoni  
P.O. Box 105753, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Phone: +255 (0) 22 211 0374

OR through Email [recruitment@uongozi.or.tz](mailto:recruitment@uongozi.or.tz), with subject line "CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST".

Deadline for Receiving Applications: June 24, 2020

*UONGOZI Institute is an equal opportunity employer, committed promote a diverse workforce. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.*



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY RESEARCH & POLICY SPECIALIST

### About us

UONGOZI Institute was established in 2010 by the Government of Tanzania to inspire and equip Tanzanian and African leaders to deliver inclusive and sustainable solutions. This is done through the provision of high-quality executive education programmes, facilitation of policy dialogues, action-oriented research and technical assistance for public institutions.

The Institute is currently seeking to fill the position of Research and Policy Specialist (RPS). Reporting to the CEO, the RPS will be responsible for the management of the department of Research and Policy. The RPS will be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of programmes with the department in line with the objectives established in the Institute's strategic plan. They will also be actively engaged in building and strengthening partnerships, as well as resource mobilisation. The RPS will lead a team of professionals and is a member of the Institute's senior management team.

### Duties and responsibilities

#### Manage Research and Policy department

- Oversee the development of the operational plans for the department as a part of the Institute's planning.
- Take strategic role in the design, management and delivery of research projects by conducting qualitative and quantitative research to the highest standards and develop appropriate policy ideas for the Institute's clientele.
- Develop new projects and policy ideas as part of the Institute's future research programmes.
- Lead the process of conceptualisation and implementation of the various activities of the department (policy forums/dialogues, action research, technical assistance, information sharing).
- Ensure timely quality reporting of the department's activities in line with the Institute's reporting processes.
- Develop and monitor budget for the department.

#### Provide advisory and technical support on the strategic direction of the Institute

- Contribute to the management and strategic direction of the Institute as a key member of the management team.
- Ensure that the department's activities are in line with and support the implementation of all other areas of work of the institute.
- Provide guidance and support the CEO in his interactions with key stakeholders of the Institute.

#### Coordinate the department's activities whilst ensuring quality and relevance

- Prepare concept notes for research studies and policy dialogues.
- Conduct studies and oversee the implementation of research activities, including conceptualisation, outsourcing and quality assurance.
- Identify existing and emerging global issues that impact on national and regional development to select topics/themes for policy dialogues, as well as advisory services for the Government.
- Identify potential candidates (eminent leaders, renowned experts) for the Institute's televised programmes, Meet the Leader and In Focus, and advise on efficient and innovative approaches to conduct the programmes.
- Prepare presentations and speeches for various stakeholders, including specialist and non-specialist audiences.

#### Networking with the Institute's stakeholders and resource mobilisation activities

- Nurture and build relationships with public sector institutions to identify current government priorities to strategic entry points for the Institute.
- Nurture and establish relationships with development partners and other relevant actors to achieve collaboration, cooperation and alliances on programme development, implementation, and resource mobilisation.
- Support the development and implementation of the Institute's resource mobilisation strategy.
- Provide input to advocacy and public communication strategies.

#### Manage personnel under supervision

- Actively pursue opportunities for the department members to continue to learn best practices in research, policies, and other learning and development opportunities for professional development.
- Create an enabling work environment and promote team work.
- Supervise, coach and guide personnel.
- Ensure a common vision aligned with the Institute's strategic plan is shared among the team.

### Required competencies

#### Core competencies

- Leadership – ability to persuade others to follow.
- People management – ability to improve performance and satisfaction.
- Team management – ability to create common vision and well-functioning teams.
- Communication – ability to listen, persuade and transform.
- Delivery – ability to get things done whilst exercising good judgement.

#### Functional competencies

- Knowledge of local Government structures and good understanding of political economy.
- Research management – capacity to identify, manage studies and research. Capacity to substantially contribute to undertaking research.
- Contract management – ability to manage and oversee outsourced research and other assignments.
- Advisory skills – ability to facilitate advisory services to the high-level bodies of public sectors.
- Operational management – ability to develop plans, budgets and concept notes and deliver on them.
- Networking and stakeholders management – ability to manage multiple stakeholders in the highest levels (including leaders from public sector, development partners and private sector) and balance often contradictory expectations, building and maintaining relationships.
- Collaboration and partnerships – ability to develop, maintain, and strengthen partnerships.
- Analytical Skills – ability to understand complex situations, and come up with ideas for programme development and improvement.
- Writing skills – capacity to tailor and deliver messages in writing in a concise manner.
- Results-based management – ability to link implementation of plans to achieving results.
- Communication – ability to effectively communicate intentions and requirements to internal and external stakeholders.
- Team building – ability to work effectively with diverse groups of professionals towards common goals.

### Qualifications

- Master's degree in social sciences or relevant field. PhD in social sciences or relevant field is an asset.
- Ten years of relevant experience with eight years in senior management role(s) related to research and policy.
- Solid research skills with proven experience in writing, coordinating studies, reports articles and research management
- Experience in linking research/studies, policy and programming.
- Excellent analytical and writing skills.
- Fluency in English and Swahili.
- Proven track record of partnership building and resource mobilisation.

### How to apply

Interested candidates should submit their application, comprising of:

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- Copies of certificates.

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## Coal can help solve energy issue locally

ONE area where business concerns at upper policy making levels of government clash with economic priorities of lesser potential for profit making is how to use the plenty of coal deposits for instance in the southern part of the country. Intuition in the Ministry of Energy and its institutions for electricity and petroleum or gas development respectively essentially mark out coal as one source of electricity but at no point has serious investment been made in that direction. That isn't an accident as coal is environmentally negative and can only be profitably used as a last resort mechanism, as markets often have other options.

Mixing coal or coal dust with other combustible material in order to reduce the burning rate of coal is something that has always been possible but never used as coal isn't a user friendly sort of energy. Experts at the World Health Organization do not recommend the use of unprocessed coal in households due to carcinogenic emissions and toxic elements such as fluorine, arsenic, lead, selenium and mercury, which are not destroyed by combustion.

This has affected the thinking of local engineers for decades, who assert that chemical processing of coal to remove the sulphur would be essential before its domestic use.

That however isn't the story one hears from further afield, where direct coal is used for energy generation for industrial purposes, though its emissions level raises concern, but mixed with cow dung (which isn't hard to source locally), crushed coal (also known as coal dust) can easily be domesticated for use. It is obviously not as handy as charcoal, but continuing to

make the country a desert isn't helpful, while prices of gas, despite being relatively low, are still on the higher side for most poor families. Coal dust can help.

The trouble with this aspect of things isn't that bureaucrats are too preoccupied with sulphur or mercury to pay attention, but rather that they may not make a profit out of it.

Making 'domesticated' coal out of crushed coal or coal dust for selling to poor households in replacement of charcoal isn't the sort of big money plan that TPDC or STAMICO executives think about, or even RUBADA. The latter however, as its area of concern has some of the most vital forested zones under threat, and its hydropower dreams were dashed by redrawing of the Rufiji basin hydropower plan, could pick up this assignment, at present.

As Dangote Cement in the southern regions has an interest in using coal, the two projects can be put together so that after the hard coal is used for industry power generation the coal dust that is available on site or in industry is mixed with cow dung at controlled quantities to obtain domestic burning material. It needs to be deliberately designed to cost much less than burnt wood (charcoal) fetches at present so as to discourage charcoal makers and bring users to the new briquette technology or suchlike. There was also a biogas idea in the past that looked exciting and requiring minimal capital layout, but culturally ill adapted.

It will take a while before each family in rural and poor urban areas can cough up 20,000/- to refill a small gas cylinder for the asking. So charcoal remains king, and 'good stoves' are useless to stop the impact.

## Africa's new innovations and investments promise growth

Africa has long been known for its resource abundance in both agriculture and mineral resources. To date, though, Africa has struggled to translate these resources into shared wealth and sustained economic development. New innovations and investments promise to change that picture and create exciting growth opportunities for business.

To invest is to allocate money with the expectation of a positive benefit/return in the future. In other words, to invest means owning an asset or an item with the goal of generating income from the investment or the appreciation of your investment which is an increase in the value of the asset over a period of time. When you invest it always requires a sacrifice of some present asset that you own today such as time, money, or effort.

In finance, the benefit from investing is when you receive a return on your investment. The return may consist of a gain or a loss realised from the sale of a property or an investment, unrealized capital appreciation (or depreciation), or investment income such as dividends, interest, rental income etc., or a combination of capital gain and income. The return may also include currency gains or losses due to changes in the foreign currency exchange rates.

Investors generally expect higher returns from riskier investments. When a low-risk investment is made, the return is also generally low. Similarly, high risk

comes with high returns.

Investors, particularly novices, are often advised to adopt a particular investment strategy and diversify their portfolio. Diversification has the statistical effect of reducing overall risk.

An investor may bear a risk of loss of some or all of their capital invested. Investment differs from arbitrage, in which profit is generated without investing capital or bearing risk.

Even investing in tangible assets like property has its risk. And just like with most risk, property buyers can seek to mitigate any potential risk by taking out mortgage insurance and by borrowing at a lower loan to security ratio.

In contrast with savings, investments tend to carry more risk, in the form of both a wider variety of risk factors and a greater level of uncertainty.

Industry to industry volatility is more or less of a risk depending. In biotechnology for example, investors look for big profits on companies that have small market capitalizations but can be worth hundreds of millions quite quickly.

The World Bank's private sector development investor has backed multiple projects in the SME sector across Africa.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, has made investments in a range of organisations across Africa, aiming to stimulate progress in the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) and start-up sectors.

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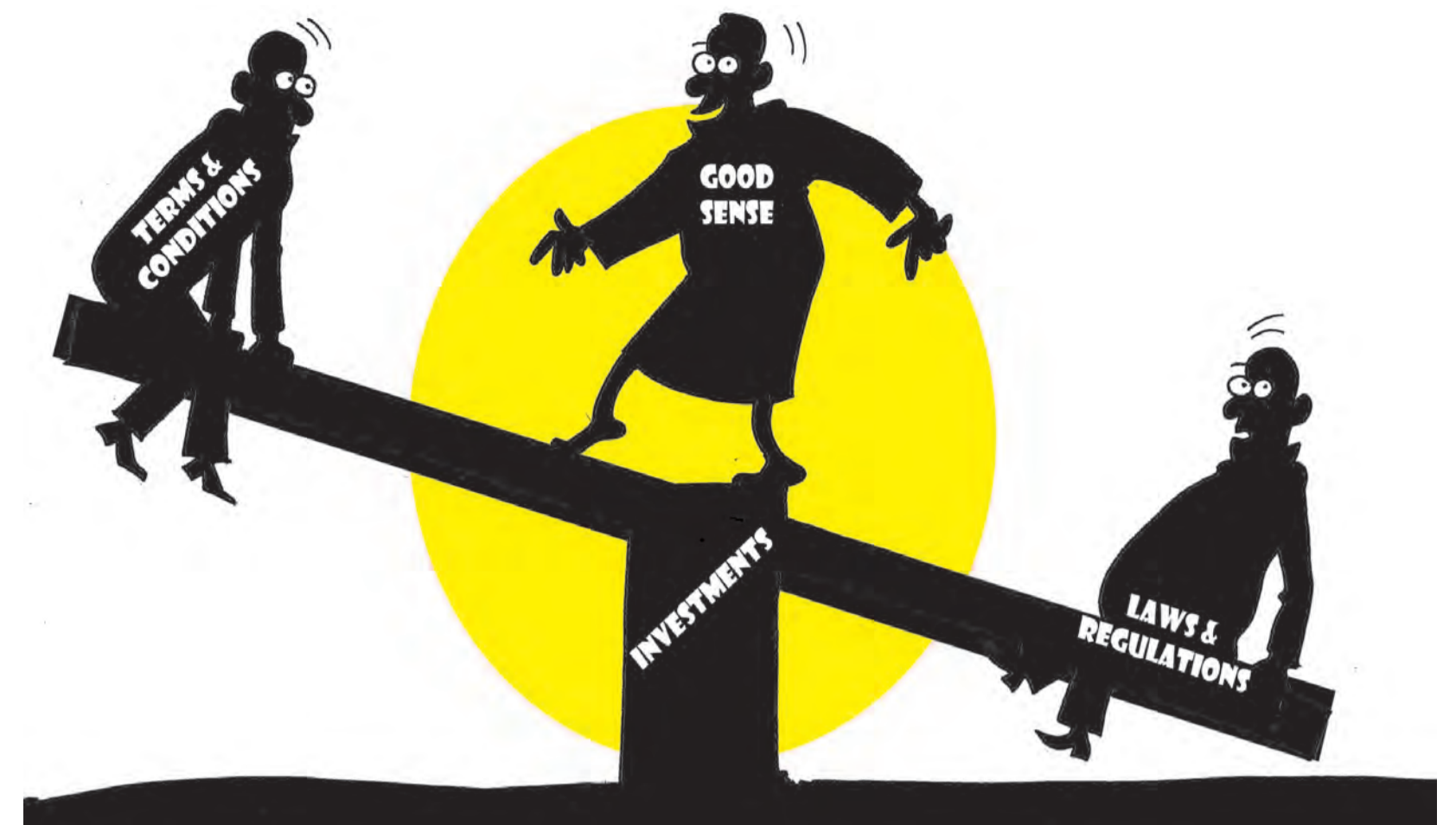
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## 40 years into AIDS epidemic: Africa must embody the spirit of Ubuntu if we are to end AIDS - report

By Aeneas Chuma

Forty years ago, on 5 June 1981, the Centers for Disease Control's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report described five cases of Pneumocystis pneumonia in gay men. The report foreshadowed the global AIDS epidemic, which has since resulted in over 75 million HIV infections and 32 million deaths worldwide.

Since the 1980s, we have witnessed remarkable moments in science and activism, and, in the last year of AIDS' 40th decade, a global pandemic so unexpected and fierce, it has made us rethink our preparedness for health emergencies past, present and future. A clear lesson from the colliding epidemics of HIV and COVID-19 is that if we do not put human rights and social justice at the centre of our response we are bound to fail.

With less than ten years to go to reach our common goal of Ending AIDS by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, the adoption of the new Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 - End Inequalities. End AIDS. by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board earlier this year has been a pivotal moment in the global AIDS response.

At a moment in history where the AIDS response is off track, the strategy provides pathways on how to correct and accelerate it. We must shift our focus and remove the factors that create vulnerability to HIV, impede access to HIV treatment and prevention services and perpetuate discrimination: inequalities, lack of social justice and human rights violations.

The eastern and southern African (ESA) region remains the most affected by HIV in the world. In 2019, there were approximately 16.9 million people living with HIV in ESA. Between 2010 and 2019 the number of people living with HIV grew by 25% and in 2019,



there were 630 000 new HIV infections.

In 2019 it was estimated that, in ESA, 28% of all new HIV infections occurred among key populations, that is, sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who use drugs and people in prisons. Legal and political barriers for key populations exist across the region, while funding is fickle and heavily donor dependent.

While this region remains one of the most affected by criminalization of sexual and gender identities, sex work and drug use, we see many instances in which key populations build and capitalize on their resilience and keep fighting for human rights.

Inequality and stigma and discrimination are major barriers to accessing health services. While the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women between the ages of 15 and 24 is at an all-time

low, 4500 acquire HIV every week in sub-Saharan Africa.

Laws continue to criminalize populations; social norms continue to hinder transformation towards gender equal societies and we continue to turn away from difference and diversity.

Sex and sexuality remain taboo to discuss, drug use is ignored and forgotten, people with disabilities remain invisible, and migrant populations are the first to be denied services as they "belong" to neither the country of origin nor the host country.

UNAIDS has shown how COVID-19 has had a detrimental effect on access to health care and how human rights, especially of key populations, have been violated.

The ESA region has contributed significantly to the new Global AIDS Strategy. We held more than 80 focus group discussions across the world with civil society in all its diversity. UN partners,

development partners, faith institutions, governments and the private sector. The voices of all communities in those dialogues were loud, were heard, and made a difference—they shaped the strategy we now have in front of us.

The commitments made in the 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS were not met. Five years later we have a new opportunity. The United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on AIDS will take place between 8 and 10 June 2021 in New York. The meeting will review the progress made in reducing the impact of HIV since 2016 and the General Assembly expects to adopt a new political declaration to guide the future direction of the response.

The 2021 high-level meeting will be the springboard for a decade of action to reduce inequalities and root out the social determinants that fuel the HIV epidemic. We are at a historic moment for the AIDS response, 40 years into the epidemic and 25 years since the creation of UNAIDS.

Last month, African Ministers of Health endorsed a Common Africa Position for the High-Level Meeting. The document articulates the continent's unified position and priorities for the next five years. I call on African Member States to use this position to negotiate the political declaration as a unified bloc.

As Africans, we must embody the spirit of Ubuntu—that is, that we are only people through other people. We must put people at the very centre of our deliberations. And this means all people, regardless of who they are, who they love or what work they do.

Aeneas Chuma is the interim Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa. Follow them on @UNAIDS\_ESA.



# Why investing in women is key to achieving the sustainable development goals

By Shewit Woldemichael

**T**HURSDAY 3 June marks the second anniversary of the massacre of protesters in front of Sudan's army headquarters. They paid the ultimate price for what they hoped would be a political transition that would usher in peace and democratic governance. Both have eluded the country since independence in 1956.

Two years into the political transition, progress is limited and the military continues to dominate over civilian leaders. Was the 2019 revolution just another Sudan uprising? Since independence, Sudan has had four coups. Only the October Revolution of 1964 and the April Intifada of 1985 led to democratically elected civilian governments.

An Institute for Security Studies report reveals that the current transition has followed a similar trajectory to the 1964-1965 and 1985-1986 power transfers. The opportunities and problems presented this time can be better understood by looking at lessons from the past.

Four similarities underpin the success of popular uprisings in 1964, 1985 and 2019 in toppling governments: mass civilian mobilisation; successful bargaining among political elites on how to overthrow the government; civilian leaders' ability to make deals with armed rebel groups; and political actors' success in convincing the military to support regime change once protests gained momentum.

While the 1964-65 and 1985-86 political transitions led to the election of democratic civilian governments, both were ousted in military coups within four years. Four major missteps defined their ultimate failure.

The first was an inadequate response to economic crises that the protesting masses regarded as urgent. The current transition faces a similar problem. Since August 2019, Sudan's economic situation has been deteriorating. The country continues to experience soaring inflation projected at 61.5% for 2020. While Sudan's removal from the United States' sponsors of terrorism list means it can access loans, debt relief and foreign direct investment, these have mostly been pledges rather than tangible financial support.

The second major failure of past transitions was to bring about sustained peace. Political parties and post-transition civilian governments didn't honour peace deals with armed groups. Two years into the latest process, agreements have been signed with numerous armed groups, but major provisions are yet to be implemented. One reason is that two main rebel groups with significant troops on the ground are yet to sign.

Negotiations are underway with one of these – the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North. But talks with the other, the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), haven't officially started. The current peace deal will be difficult to implement in the regions where these groups operate.

Negotiations were also concluded in different processes, and not all political actors agree with the Juba peace agreement's provisions. More talks are needed to resolve outstanding issues related to establishing the legislative council, demobilising and reintegrating armed groups, and security sector reform.

Other provisions of the Juba peace deal have not yet been implemented. These include the transitional justice process and setting up a special tribunal to prosecute those accused of war crimes in Darfur. People with outstanding arrest warrants have also not been handed over to the International Criminal Court, and those who participated in the 3 June



Sudanese people march on 13 July 2019 to mark the 40th day since scores of protesters were killed during a sit-in outside army headquarters in Khartoum, Sudan. (File photo)

massacre have yet to be held accountable.

Among other reasons, the delays relate to Sudan's penal law, which is yet to be revised to recognise human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity as punishable by law. The establishment of different commissions meant to oversee these processes is also pending.

The third reason for the failure of previous political transitions is the lack of a shared vision for Sudan among political elites. This has been a major cause of Sudan's inability to adopt a permanent constitution since independence.

The current deep-rooted ideological and political rifts in the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) alliance show that history is repeating itself. The FFC can't agree on Sudan's economic reform, foreign relations, legal reforms, the drafting of the constitution and other major transition issues. This has delayed these processes from advancing and significantly weakened the comparative power of civilian actors.

The fourth failure was that major concessions made with the military ultimately disempower civil-

ian actors. Sudan currently has a civilian-led transitional government. However, substantial power resides with the military, which heads the Sovereign Council for the first half of the transition period.

As council head, the military has led vital processes in which it has vested interests. These include peace negotiations with armed rebels, transitional justice provisions that require military council members to go after their own, and economic reform. The military also leads the process to dismantle the old regime and its patronage system, and security sector reform.

The Juba peace agreement has reset the time frame for the political transition. It's unclear when civilians are expected to take over leadership of the Sovereign Council and when democratic elections will be held.

The current transition mirrors all four of the key mistakes that derailed past efforts to establish civilian governments.

For Sudan's political transition to succeed, these problems must be addressed. Political actors need to balance the military's power, overcome discord

in the FFC and enable the transitional government to implement its goals.

The Constitutional Document provisions on the terms for the transition period must be adhered to. While the Juba peace process has revised some of these provisions, it hasn't set clear timeframes for the transition and related processes.

Sudan's democratic future requires a constitution based on inclusive national dialogue. For this to work, political actors from the FFC, armed groups and others excluded from the FFC must overcome their deep political divisions and find common ground. Only then will the country's transition succeed this time.

DM

## Boat dwellers in SE China's Fujian province move ashore, embrace better life

By Li Yan

**B**Y relocating local fishermen who lived on boats to a hospitable living environment on the shore, Xiaqi village in southeast China's Fujian province has ushered in opportunities for development and embarked upon a distinctive path of rural vitalization.

The once little-known village nestled near the sea in Xiabaishi township, Fu'an city of Fujian, is now famous for helping residents move ashore.

With well-arranged rows of houses and straight roads extending in all directions, residents in Xiaqi village who had long been plagued by poverty see great improvements in their life.

Over 20 years ago, however, Xiaqi village seemed nothing like an ordinary village. By tradition, villagers stayed on boats and fished for a living against the winds and waves all the year round.

For these boat dwellers, a small wooden boat could be the home of several generations of a local family.

"My family, which had six members, lived on a boat that was less than 14 square meters in area. The cargo hold was filled with fish we caught and daily necessities. At night, we would curl up on the deck," recalled Jiang Chengcai, a resident in Xiaqi village.

The interior of the boat was always wet in windy and rainy days, according to Jiang, who added that they were often faced with the risk of losing their lives as the boat could be turned over when typhoons came.

"I remember that my parents used to tie me to our boat with a rope when I was little for fear that I might accidentally fall into the sea, as they needed to go fishing and couldn't take care of me," said Zheng Yue'e, the Party chief and also a native of Xiaqi village.

All the fishermen in the village had eagerly wished that one day they could move into new houses on the shore, sleep well at night, gain access to electricity and have enough food.

Their dream for a new life became possible in 1997, when relocating local fishermen ashore was listed as an important task of the poverty alleviation policy in Fujian, and the first batch of resettlement projects were initiated in Xiaqi village.

"It felt strange when I first started to sleep on a stable bed board instead of a jolting boat. Seeing the bright lights and feeling the walls in my new house, I realized that my over 30 years of life on the boat was finally behind me," Jiang said. He was so excited that he lost sleep the first night he lived in his new house on the shore.

From 1997 to 1999, Xiaqi village built 339 houses and relocated 2,310 fishermen in batches. So far, all 3,571 local fishermen who lived on boats have settled on the shore, and bid farewell to their old life, while Xiaqi village has also started to glow with new vigor.

Fu'an city not only resettled local fishermen, but has taken efforts to increase their income. By rolling



Residents in Xiaqi village, Xiabaishi town, Fu'an city, southeast China's Fujian province, make fishing tools during the close season, May 8, 2021. (File Photo)

out 22 favorable policies, the local government has encouraged former boat dwellers to vigorously explore aquaculture, fishing, marine transportation, commerce, tourism, and other industries to shake off poverty and march toward prosperity.

After moving ashore, Jiang has participated in training organized by the village on razor clam raising, and later signed contracts with local government to use about 6.7 hectares of mudflats for the business together with over 20 fellow villagers. They earned an average annual income of 70,000 to 80,000 yuan (\$10,860 to 12,412) from raising razor clams.

Later, Jiang led more than 30 villagers to setting up a construction and engineering team, which un-

dertook pile foundation projects in Xiabaishi township and its neighboring areas. These efforts have made Jiang one of the front-runners in the village in pursuing a better life.

Zheng was elected the chief of Xiaqi village in 2012. Since then, she has made it an important task of her work to create wealth for villagers by developing sea-based industries.

Taking advantage of local resources, she guided villagers to large yellow croaker cage farming, seafood wholesale and processing, among other industries.

Meanwhile, Xiaqi village has continuously improved infrastructure and beautified the living environment. With its brand new look and distinctive

history, it has attracted many tourists who come for sightseeing and recreation.

In 2019, nine registered poverty-stricken households in Xiaqi village were lifted out of poverty. Today, the per capita income of the village has surged to over 23,000 yuan from less than 1,000 yuan in 1997.

With the implementation of projects, including those launched to build cold stores of a seafood distribution station and a street featuring seafood in the future, Xiaqi village is expected to take an even wider path of rural vitalization through developing marine industries, while local people will continue to take big steps toward a better life.

People's Daily



# Life below water : The UN calls for action on ocean protection

UNITED NATIONS

**P**RESIDENT of the United Nations General Assembly Volkan Bozkir has told a high-level debate on oceans that the world cannot afford to delay action on ocean protection. "There is simply no scenario wherein we live on a planet without an ocean," he said.

The debate, which focused on the ocean and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Life Below Water, took place on Jun. 1 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

It comes ahead of the Jun. 8 observance of World Oceans Day and against the backdrop of the pandemic-related postponement of the 2nd UN Ocean Conference - a major international gathering which seeks science-based solutions to sustainable ocean use.

The high-level debate was billed as a 'drumbeat' to maintain momentum ahead of the conference, now expected to take place in Lisbon next year.

The General Assembly President said the pandemic has revealed an "appetite for change" among people who do not want to live in a world of "one crisis after the next". He said this change is possible.

"As our understanding of the true benefit of a healthy planet grows, policymakers are increasingly aware of how central a healthy ocean is to a healthy economy," he said.

"We have seen this in countries and cities that prioritised coastal and marine areas over-tourism, we have seen this in protected wetlands, we have seen this in efforts to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and regulate shipping and resource extraction. Why then can we not combine and scale up our efforts?"

The UN has been at the forefront of efforts to mobilise financial, scientific, volunteer and community support for oceans, through initiatives such as the 2021-2030 Decade of Ocean Science.

The high-level debate builds on those ocean conservation and sustainable use measures.

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Oceans Peter Thomson told the forum that while there have been improvements on this front,



Beachfront hotels and yachts at Pigeon Point, Saint Lucia. The ocean supports a myriad of livelihoods on the small island states of the OECS - amounting to 30% of the labour force in some countries.

including increased marine protected area coverage and a better understanding of the issues that impact the ocean, progress has not been adequate to address the ocean crisis.

"How can we claim success when a third of assessed global fish stocks are being overfished? When with no tangible end in sight, we have dumped around 150 million metric tons of accumulating plastic waste, microplastics and discarded fishing gear into the ocean? And while the rates of ocean acidification, deoxygenation and warmth are all continuing to head in the wrong direction?"

With 97 percent of the water on the earth's surface, the ocean is vast. It serves as a source of food and en-

ergy, while facilitating commerce, transportation and communication. Sustainable Development Goal 14 lists specific targets to reduce pollution, protect marine ecosystems, tackle illegal and over-fishing and oversee sustainable resource use.

One region taking action to address ocean issues and achieve SDG 14 is the Eastern Caribbean.

In 2012, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) established an Oceans Governance Team, a regional body that oversees work on oceans governance. The team helped to develop the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) which articulates the countries' vision for the ocean and principles of ocean governance.

One of the major ECROP initiatives is the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project, known as CROP. Through a partnership with the World Bank, CROP, with its tagline 'championing resilient oceans for prosperity,' is helping the Caribbean transition to a blue economy.

"We focus on economic growth, but we also ensure that we are conserving the resources, so that we are not damaging them and impairing our future benefits. It's really the same sustainable development agenda, focusing on the economics, the environment and the social aspects relating to the oceans," Susanna Debeauville-Scott, Project Manager in the Ocean Governance and Fisheries Unit at the OECS Secretariat, based in Saint Lucia, told IPS.

For the Caribbean, the goal is to propel discussion on ocean issues and action for the protection and sustainable use of its resources. The Unit is overseeing initiatives like Building Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean through a Reduction in Marine Pollution (ReMLit) to tackle marine waste.

A 'tag an artiste' drive based on the theme 'more than just islands'

# Chinese vaccine experts share production know-how in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

**P**AKISTAN'S pandemic efforts have received a "booster shot" as the first batch of locally-produced COVID-19 vaccines is rolling off the line here at a national lab.

As many as 120,000 doses have recently been produced at Pakistan's National Institute of Health (NIH) under rigorous quality control with tech support from Chinese pharmaceutical firm CanSino.

Local health authorities welcomed the vaccines as a major landmark in Pakistan's efforts to attaining vaccine self-sufficiency, a much-needed, yet challenging task that Pakistan had fervently hoped to fulfil within months.

"The cooperation between the two countries also underscores the philosophy that the COVID-19 vaccine is a global good," said Special Assistant to the Pakistani Prime Minister on Health Faisal Sultan at the production ceremony.

## MAGIC IN AN EMPTY ROOM

CanSino Biologics Vice President Xin Chunlin admitted it initially came to him that the first batch of local production "wouldn't be a tough assignment," given the NIH's rich experience in vaccine manufacturing.

The reality proved the opposite -- making recombinant COVID-19 vaccines is a brand-new practice

for the South Asian country, key aspects of which, including facilities and quality control standards, had to start from scratch, said Xin, who also leads a taskforce with members from both countries.

The task was further challenged by the global supply shortage including key equipment for a lab, chemicals necessary for the production, and subsequent reliance on some manual work.

"It's like we were asked to start our experiments in an empty room," Xin recalled.

Despite all these challenges, the team created a facility that can conduct analyses such as western blotting essential to the production process.

Working alongside Chinese counterparts has enabled Pakistani members to gain hands-on experience in key quality control techniques such as virus particle testing, said Rafique Ahmed Channa, a Pakistani with more than 30 years of experience in the field.

The team also overcame ingredient shortages by finding best suited substitutes via rounds of trial-and-error.

"It's like wading the river by groping for stones. We shared our own experiences so as to find the best solution," said Xin. **MAKING KNOWLEDGE MORE INCLUSIVE**

In the eyes of Pakistani experts, each and every attempt will add up to upgrading the country's health infrastructure and final fulfilment of self-sufficiency.

The localization came as another first-time experience for the South Asian country in COVID-19 vaccine technology, after a successful phase III clinical trial of the vaccine under the cooperation between the NIH and CanSino.

So far, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan has approved three types of Chinese vaccines developed by pharmaceutical companies Sinovac, CanSino and Sinopharm, for emergency use.

Technology transfer enabled by bilateral cooperation has helped Pakistan to stride forward in achieving vaccine production capacity, said Ghazala Parveen, chief of the Biological Production Division at the NIH.

"The technology transfer is extremely crucial for the people of Pakistan. It helps us save money rather than buying vaccines from other countries," said Saba Haq, research official at the NIH.

New data from the Bloomberg Vaccine Tracker shows that the least wealthy 37 places worldwide covering more than a tenth of the world population have only received one percent of all doses.

Yet countries like China have been striving to expand the global supply of the life-saving shots, closing the widening gap between rich and poor nations.

From his experience, Xin said the most urgent task is to ensure the supply chain of vaccine production. "Take syringes as an example. It may not be the focal



A health worker shows a vial of locally produced Chinese CanSino COVID-19 vaccine in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

point when you talk about vaccine patents. But it can be the thing that slows down the delivery of the vaccines," he said.

More work needs to be done in making vaccine production tech-

nology transferable to developing countries, he added.

Seeing the upgraded infrastructure and better-trained manpower, Parveen said it gave her greater confidence that her country can

now better handle infectious diseases.

"If another pandemic in the future will arrive, we know how to control it," she said.

Xinhua

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## Doctors, healthcare workers sound alarm over health risks of the climate change

By Special Correspondent

A growing number of doctors and front-line healthcare workers are turning to climate activism to urge global leaders to declare climate change a public health emergency.

Doctors and health workers, some clad in white coats and brandishing placards, marched to the headquarters of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva on Saturday to demand that health authorities and governments prioritize climate change to avert a global health crisis.

Their demands for immediate action included a focus on preventative healthcare with education programmes in schools and the wider community, more equitable distribution and access to medical care, reducing the carbon impact of health care, and stricter control of industries to ensure clean water and air.

Underscoring the progressive nature of their platform, the protesters also called for the creation of citizen assemblies to steer strategic health decisions. Their demands were listed in a petition, signed by more than 1,200 prominent doctors and healthcare workers from around the world.

WHO Chief Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who welcomed the protesters, said that while “the pandemic will end, there is no vaccine for climate change”. He later tweeted that health and climate change were “inextricably intertwined” and that the WHO would be “standing in solidarity and urging global action” with the demonstrators.

Indeed, the WHO and the prestigious Lancet medical journal have declared climate change the biggest threat to global health in the 21st century - a declaration made even before the Covid-19 crisis.

Front-line health workers and researchers may have been sounding the alarm on climate change for years, but it is only recently that more voices have stepped up to lead rallies, sign petitions and publish studies with the same fierce urgency as grassroots activists.

Professor Valerie D'Acromont, an infectious diseases physician and global health specialist at Lausanne University Hospital, is among those speaking out.

D'Acromont, who mainly divides her work between Africa and Europe, said that frustration has driven her towards more health advocacy work because “governments and the public have failed to understand the strong links between climate change and biodiversity loss and health”.



“We want governments to take action,” she said. “Many of us feel it makes no more sense to do our job because we are fed up with being always behind, preparing for the next health catastrophe instead of acting on the root causes of the problems. Covid-19 is one illustration of this problem.”

A rise in cases of dehydration and heat stroke, and floods that spread cholera, are real consequences if countries continue on their current trajectories. Then there are the diseases not seen before in Europe, such as Dengue fever, that have reached France, Spain and Croatia. Cases of Zika have also been found in southern Europe.

Others - such as tick-borne encephalitis and the West Nile virus, which are already present in the United States - are also cause for concern.

“Some diseases like cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses will increase more strongly, but it's harder for people to make the link to climate change because they already exist,”

D'Acromont said.

D'Acromont is also a member of Doctors for Extinction Rebellion (Swiss chapter), the group behind Saturday's rally. It emerged as an offshoot of Extinction Rebellion; an environmental activism group that gained notoriety in the UK in April 2019 for hugely disruptive demonstrations that brought downtown London to a standstill and drew the ire of thousands of commuters caught up in the chaos.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was prompted to weigh in, dismissing the climate change protesters “crusties” who live in “hemp-smelling bivouacs”.

But the British prime minister's caricature of climate activists missed the mark: a core group of front-line health workers and doctors branched off to create Doctors for Extinction Rebellion, keeping the name and merging climate activism with public health.

Dr. Rita Issa, a London-based general practitioner, academic and co-founder of Doctors for Extinction Rebellion in the UK, says that

she felt a “moral duty” as a doctor to speak up about climate change. She said she is already seeing an alarming number of patients, including children, in her clinic who suffer from a variety of health problems linked to climate change.

“Patients come with a host of factors that impact their health, like the food they eat, the houses they live in and the air they breathe,” Dr. Issa said. “I'm seeing children with 10 percent reduced lung capacity. If we're truly to address their health we also have to tackle the air they breathe. If we don't want to have to treat kids with worsening lung capacity and heatstroke, then we need to take action now.”

Dr. Issa's findings in her clinical practice are backed up by scientific data.

Results from a study published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change showed that more than a third of heat-related deaths around the world from 1991 to 2018 were the result of human-induced global warming. More than 43 countries in the study recorded heat levels higher than the optimal temperature for human health.

Researchers also found that the health impacts of climate change were already being felt. Despite Covid-19 lockdowns, which saw a global fall in pollution levels last year, global temperatures still rose to 1.2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, edging close to the 1.5°C maximum benchmark set by the world's nations.

The shock of the Covid-19 pandemic illustrated that there is a public health issue that “doesn't respect national boundaries, or care if you're rich or poor”, said Dr. Issa, adding that she believed the crisis helped the health aspect of climate change break into the mainstream.

While she understands that activism is not for all doctors, Dr. Issa believes that “medicine is inherently political”.

“We have a responsibility to pick up signs of things early, as part of our work as doctors, and it extends beyond individual patients. Part of the reason we founded Doctors for Extinction Rebellion was to direct insight on how issues impact our patients and community, and to communicate scientific information into something digestible.”

## United Nations condemns deadly attacks targeting displaced people in DR Congo

KINSHASA

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has urged authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to investigate recent deadly attacks by insurgents in the east and bring the perpetrators to account.

At least 55 people were killed, and many others wounded, in the overnight assaults on Monday, which targeted camps hosting internally displaced people near the towns of Boga in Ituru ter-

ritory, Ituri province, and Tchabi, North Kivu province. They were carried out by suspected members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) armed group.

A Quick Reaction Force from the UN mission in the DRC, known as MONUSCO, was deployed to the area, and peacekeepers also assisted the wounded, including with medical evacuations.

The UN chief has strongly condemned the attacks, according to a statement issued on Tuesday by his Spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric.

“The Secretary-General expresses his deepest condolences to the families of the victims and wishes a swift recovery to the injured”, it said.

“He calls on the Congolese authorities to investigate these incidents and bring those responsible to justice.”

The Secretary-General also underlined the UN's continued support to the Congolese government and people in their efforts to achieve peace and stability in the east.

The two villages that were attacked

are located on the border between Ituri and North Kivu provinces in an area where the ADF are known to be active, according to media reports. Congolese forces have been battling the group for decades.

The UN's top humanitarian official in the country, David McLachlan-Karr, who also condemned the attacks, noted that houses were set on fire and civilians were abducted.

He said this “tragic situation” followed the looting last Friday of a facility be-

longing to a humanitarian partner in Djugu territory, Ituri province, causing the temporary suspension of their operations in the area.

“These attacks are unacceptable”, McLachlan-Karr said in a statement on Tuesday.

“Parties to the conflict must protect civilian populations and these crimes must not go unpunished. Communities, already very vulnerable, must be able to live in peace wherever they are and return to their homes in safety.”

## ‘Sex for a fare’ motorcycle drivers threaten Uganda’s fight against Aids

By Samuel Okiror, Kampala

UGANDA'S motorcycle taxis riders threaten to derail the country's fight against HIV because of risky sexual behaviours, including sex with clients in lieu of payment, according to a new study.

At least 12% of a sample of 281 commercial riders, a common informal job known as boda boda and dominated by young men, admitted to engaging in transactional sex with customers who failed to pay their fares; 65.7% reported having had sex with more than one partner in the past 12 months; and 23% had had multiple partners in the same period, with 57.1% reporting that they did not use a condom at all in the six months prior to the survey, conducted by Makerere University College of Education and External Studies (CEES).

“Engaging with multiple sexual partners is a high-risk sexual behaviour, especially in the absence of condom use. It leads to sexually transmitted diseases like HIV, and unwanted pregnancies,” said Lillian Mbabazi, a researcher at CEES, presenting the research findings at a workshop in the capital, Kampala, last week. “It shows a need to educate young Ugandans to understand unsafe and irresponsible sexual behaviour.”

The study was conducted in the districts of Wakiso and Namayingo.

“The revelation from this study, that customers who can't afford to pay their service freely offer sex and a high proportion are actually engaging in risky sexual behaviours with multiple partners without a condom, is concerning,” Daniel Byabakama, head of HIV prevention at the Uganda Aids Commission (UAC), said.

“The HIV infections will definitely go up. The boda bodas need to know that HIV is still real and people are still contracting the virus,” he said. Uganda has a 5.6% HIV prevalence rate.

“This study is a wake-up call that if we keep on scaling down the targeting of these boda bodas as a high priority, then we may end up in shock,” said Byabakama.

“We should continue prioritising them, helping them and offering HIV prevention services, such as free condoms, so that they don't contract or transmit the virus.”

Some of the boda boda riders in Wakiso told the Guardian that transactional sex and multiple sexual partners were occupational risks.

“What do you expect me to do with a client who can't afford to pay the fee and offers you sex instead,” said Patrick, a boda boda rider at Kyaliwajjala. “I can't just let her go free. Of course I will have sex with her in exchange.”

“Some of these clients are just stubborn and tempt us. The ladies intentionally refuse to pay and offer you a sex deal. If you are interested, you fall and go for it,” said Joseph adding “Of course, most of the time you might not be having a condom. You end up having live unprotected sex.”

Byabakama said it was a worrying picture: “We are seeing resurgence of bad sexual behaviours among this group, they are having sex with multiple sexual partners, they don't first test for HIV, and a good number of them don't use condoms. This is worrying.”

“They don't care about avoiding HIV because they think there are ARVs it's a misconception. We continue to encourage them to practice HIV prevention measures as we have always taught them. We need to rekindle and reinvigorate the campaign.”

Paul Birevu Muyinda, deputy principal at CEES, said the “nomadic” industry was booming and employed more than 50% of people aged 18-35 in the east African country, but riders face myriad health risks.

“The solution is to organise and bring order to the industry. Make it a safe



and gainful industry and provide continuous professional training aimed at bringing positive behavioural change,” said Muyinda.

“These project findings will go a long way in helping the government to develop scientifically proven evidence-based interventions aimed at influencing behavioural change of boda boda riders in Uganda,” said James Katunguka, road safety officer at the ministry of transport.

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## World Bank approves \$150m funding for a digital project

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank has approved the Digital Tanzania Project (DTP) with a financing of \$150 million from the International Development Association (IDA).

The project aims to increase access to high quality broadband internet services for the government, businesses and citizens, and improve the government's capacity to deliver digital public services.

The targets will be achieved through the following components, the digital ecosystem - strengthening the laws, policies, regulations, institutional capacity, and human capacity needed to promote information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure investment, market competitiveness, digital engagement, job creation, and innovation; digital connectivity - ensuring access to affordable, high quality internet services for all citizens, including in rural areas and for critical government institutions. Building the technical capacity, skills, institutions, and local digital infrastructure for the government to deliver services to citizens and conduct its own business digitally. By the end of the project implementation, more than 75 percent of Tanzania's population will be covered by a mobile broadband network signal (3G or higher); some 425 government ministries, departments and agencies will benefit from broadband internet service; and a minimum of 40 percent of citizens (aged 15 and above) will be able to use the internet.

The number of monthly transactions accessing a public service via the internet or a mobile phone will increase from 200,000 to at least 500,000.



# Child marriage and domestic violence: What we found in 16 African countries

NAIROBI

**T**HE number of girls who marry before their 15th birthday has remained unchanged for 20 years in most countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The region has the highest rate of child marriage, with nearly four in 10 girls married before age 18. In Niger, for example, over 77% of girls are married before the age of 18.

This is despite efforts by governments, developmental partners and civil society organisations to end the practice. There are many reasons why it continues.

These include inequitable gender norms, laws that permit children to be married in some settings in sub-Saharan Africa, inadequate investment in girls' education, poverty and unintended pregnancy. In addition, child marriage is backed and justified by culture and religion.

The effects of child marriage on the health and wellbeing of girls are far-reaching and lifelong. It harms their overall health and socioeconomic wellbeing, the survival of their children, and the prosperity of their family and community.

Because child marriage harms girls' physical health and socioeconomic wellbeing, it is considered a human right violation.

The health consequences of child marriage have received significant attention. But only a few studies have examined the relationship between child marriage and intimate partner violence. One study done in Vietnam in 2013 found that there was a link between the two.

Our study examined the relationship between child marriage and intimate violence in sub-Saharan Africa. We analysed the most recent demographic and health survey data of over 28,000 young women in 16 countries in the region.

The survey data encompasses several health and wellbeing indicators including domestic violence. We ex-



A young Sudanese girl holding a baby in the Al Salam internally displaced persons camp.

tracted relevant information about domestic violence as well as the background characteristics of the respondents.

We found that girls aged 20-24 years who married before they turned 18 were 20% more likely to experience intimate partner violence than those who married as adults.

Our principal aim was to assess the association between child marriage and intimate partner violence - physical, sexual or emotional - from a partner. We also compared the rate of intimate partner violence between those who married as adults and those who married as children in the past 12 months.

We analysed data of countries from all four sub-regions within sub-Saharan Africa. In Central Africa, we included Angola, Cameroon and Chad. From West Africa we included Benin, Mali and Nigeria and from the east Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Within Southern Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe were selected. Countries were selected on the basis of the availability of recent survey datasets. The demographic and health survey had questions to measure each of the indicators. These questions relate to the experience of: Physical violence: women had been asked whether their partners had ever pushed, shaken or thrown something at them, slapped or punched them, kicked or dragged them. Emotional violence: women had been asked if their partner ever humiliated them, threatened them with harm, insulted or made them feel bad. Sexual violence: questions had included whether the partner ever physically forced

the respondent into unwanted sexual acts. Our analysis of the demographic and health survey data showed that child marriage prevalence ranged from 13.5% in Rwanda to 77% in Chad. Intimate partner violence ranged from 17.5% in Mozambique to 42% in Uganda. Past year experience of intimate partner violence was higher among young women who married or began cohabiting before the age of 18 (36.9% than those who did at age 18 or more (32.5%). This result was consistent for all forms of violence: physical violence (22.7% vs 19.7%), emotional violence (25.3% vs 21.9%), and sexual violence (12% vs 10.4%). After accounting for the contributions of important socio-demographic characteristics such as educational level, place of residence, wealth status and exposure to mass media, we found that child marriage had a higher association with intimate partner violence than marriage at adulthood.

### Ways forward

Overall, our findings reaffirm the link between child marriage and intimate partner violence. We found that there was a higher likelihood of intimate partner violence in 14 of the 16 countries. Angola and Chad stood out as exceptions. As our results show, child marriage is associated with a higher likelihood of intimate partner violence in most sub-Saharan African countries. This suggests that ending child marriage would result in a substantial reduction. There is therefore a need to institute policies to support and protect women who marry as children from abusive relationship.

Fighting cultural norms that make men unaccountable is critical to ending both child marriage and intimate partner violence. And this can be done through the creation of strict laws. Currently, 43 of the 55 African Union member states have legal frameworks that put the minimum age of marriage at 18 years old or above for both boys and girls. However, 27 of these states allow child marriage with parental or guardian consent and the approval of a judge, court or state. Ten countries allow for the marriage of girls as young as 10. One, the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, has no law against child marriage.

All countries should have laws. And these should be strictly enforced. Community sensitisation on the damaging effects of both child marriage and intimate partner violence is equally critical. This could be implemented with the involvement of various stakeholders, including community and religious leaders. The Conversation **IPS**

**THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 160 00--**

**WORD-FIT**

3 Letters: ASS,  
4 Letters: YULE, MASS, OMEN, WASH, PASS, SPAN, REEF, HEED, TRAP,  
5 Letters: MONEY, SKILL, DAILY, MAYOR, HAMAS, WATER, SHADE  
6 Letters: MOSCOW, NOISES, UGANDA, SHARES, ASMARA, CAREER, REMAIN  
7 Letters: SANGOMA, ENGLISH,

**CROSSWORD**

**CLUES:** Across  
1. Tanzania's Capital  
6. Nation created in 1948  
7. Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Christ  
9. turn away  
10. Second largest city in Tanzania  
11. step in a process  
13. mischievous person  
16. skilful  
17. large round citrus fruit  
19. sell goods by going from place to place  
20. utter words

**Down:**  
1. images seen while you sleep  
2. a place far away  
3. the mixture of gases surrounding the earth  
4. personal, secret  
5. beloved  
8. consisting protein that is produced by a living organism  
12. an off break bowled with an apparent leg-break action  
13. a surface which is higher on one side than the other  
14. keep away from someone  
15. demonstrate by evidence  
18. a donkey

**SOLUTIONS**

**WORD-FIT**  
R E A D Y S C O P E  
E T L A A  
S A H A R A S A M E  
I E A Y A H P  
S N A K E I R A Q  
M A S T E R E A S T  
G T A R K I  
I A N A P A I P  
I C F R O S I  
M A S H E R H A Y  
E O W L N

**CROSSWORD**  
F A R M E R R A  
R A L E A S E  
I S L A N D P K  
D L O I L E R  
A N Y O N E A M  
Y M E D D L E A  
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L A G T A C E T G  
O I N E Y T S U I E

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

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MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01:00 - 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**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One**

**Radio One**



# HELIOS TOWERS BACK MOUNT KILIMANJARO TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN WITH 7K SEEDLINGS

By Property Watch Reporter

**T**IGO Green for Kili campaign which seeks to plant over 28,000 trees at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro to restore its virginity and help reclaim its thawing ice cap has received 7,000 tree seedlings from Helios Towers Tanzania Limited.

Helios Towers Tanzania which is the largest communications tower owner in the country donated the trees as part of celebrations to mark World Environment Day which will be commemorated on June 5 this year.

Tigo Tanzania Limited's Northern Zone Manager, Daniel Mainoya said the telco will mark this year's WED by planting thousands of trees at the foot of Africa's highest mountain whose snow cap is threatened by global warming.

"The campaign has been very successful because so far we have managed to collect over 31,446 tree seedlings from partners and likeminded people including Helios Towers," said Mainoya who thanked the donors for backing the campaign.

He pointed out that as sponsors of Kili Marathon for the past five years or so, Tigo's management felt obliged to launch the campaign that seeks to restore the iconic mountain's virginity because apart from being a source income for communities through tourism and other activities, it also helps tame global warming.



Mount Kilimanjaro's iconic ice cap is gradually melting due to rising global temperatures.

"As scientists have said, we hope that this tree planting campaign will ultimately help restore Mount Kilimanjaro snow cap which is its trade mark symbol," the Tigo Northern Zone Manager added while calling on more donors to follow Helios Towers Tanzania move.

Speaking after presenting the seedlings in Hai District, Helios Tanzania's Managing Director, Ramsey Koola said as a good corporate citizen, the company has a responsibility to invest in community social

projects which include environmental protection.

"We at Helios understand that environmental degradation caused by deforestation is not good for individuals, companies and the economy," Koola said noting that as the company focuses on increasing its communication towers investments countrywide, healthy people and improved environment are prerequisites.

"Our sustainable investments are aimed at helping economic growth of the country and

improvement of Tanzanians standards of living through better communication," he added saying that Helios is in the country for good.

Tigo launched the 'Tigo Green for Kili' campaign in February this year with the aim of plant 28,000 trees Kilimanjaro Region to protect the environment around Mount Kilimanjaro and to bring back the snow cap.

Towards the WED celebrations on June 5th, with the slogan 'Ecosystem Restoration,' Tigo Managing Director Simon Karikatri said, "I would like to inform our stakeholders that we are still receiving donations to achieve our goal of planting 28,000 trees this year. The cost of one tree is 5,000/- which includes the upkeep of the tree for 18 months," said Karikatri in a statement earlier this week.

According to United Nation Environment Programme, restoration and other natural solutions can deliver one third of the mitigation needed by 2030 to keep global warming below 2C while also helping societies and economies adapt to climate change.

Restoring 15 percent of converted lands in the right places could prevent 60 percent of projected species extinctions while ecosystem restoration contributes to the achievement of all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals by their 2030 target date, including the elimination of poverty and hunger, UNEP said.

## How BPR supported businesses negatively affected by pandemic

KIGALI

As a majority of business ground to a halt in much of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and measures to curb it, the transport sector emerged as one of most affected. This among other things affected transport sector businesses' ability to service loan obligations as well as pay suppliers and employees.

Among the businesses that experienced the challenges first hand were Matunda Express Ltd, a popular transport business with a fleet of over 25 buses plying between Kigali and Ngoma District, Kigali and Rusumo and Kigali-Mahama in the Eastern Province.

Eulade Bayingana the Founder and Managing Director of the firm said that before the pandemic, business was booming with operations running without any liquidity challenges. "I always paid my suppliers and employees on time and everything was going smoothly. When the pandemic came by, the government took measures to contain the spread of the virus including lockdowns and prohibiting movements of people between Kigali and other districts," he said.

Bayingana said that with the pandemic halting operations, he had challenges paying suppliers and honouring monthly loan instalments. "I started getting into arrears and this worried me so much because I had never experienced it before, things were not good at all," he said.

It is then when things were 'thick' that Bayingana said that he was approached by his bank, BPR, with insights on the Economic Recovery Fund, a fund set up by the government to support businesses affected by the pandemic. "I was not even aware of the fund's existence but the bank took me through the whole process and helped me secure funds that helped me revive my business,"

"As we speak, we resumed work; I am now in good books with all my suppliers and my bank, I also managed to reinstate into employment all staff that had lost their jobs.... I thank my bank, BPR in a very special way, because if it was not for them, I do not know where my business would be now," Bayingana said. This is one of many clients who have benefitted from the bank to access and utilize the economic recovery fund. Across the market, banks have disbursed up to Rwf13 billion.

The bank has also supported businesses by restructuring customer loans by granting repayment moratoriums to over 2,800 customers holding 25 per cent of all outstanding loans. Banque Populaire du Rwanda Plc recorded an after-tax profit of Rwf 3.8 B in 2020 amid the global pandemic that has slowed down local and international economic activity.

## Kenya urgently needs law on street-naming

NAIROBI

Apart from the drama surrounding her controversial nomination and subsequent appointment as Nairobi Deputy Governor, perhaps the most newsworthy official action taken by Ann Kananu Mwenda since assuming office as "acting" Nairobi Governor has been the equally confounding re-naming of Dik Dik Road in Kileleshwa, Nairobi, to Francis Atwoli Road.

For the benefit of our readers in Antarctica, Francis Atwoli is the ebullient trade unionist and maverick secretary-general of the ubiquitous Central Organisation of Trade Unions (Cotu) in Kenya. The acting governor's unilateral decision to honour the trade unionist with a road name, almost like a personal birthday gift, appears to have drawn the instant ire of many Kenyans if the raving and ranting on social media is anything to go by.

It would appear that some Kenyans were so irked by the idea of Francis Atwoli Road that they uprooted the signpost within 24 hours of its erection. The drama, however, heightened a notch higher when the signpost was re-installed on the same day. It took no less a personage than Mr Atwoli himself to announce that the signpost had not only been re-installed but CCTV cameras had also been deployed to guard it.

Granted, there is nothing particularly grandiose about naming a city road after a small wild animal especially if the name is in English instead of Kiswahili. A jaunt around some

of Nairobi's residential areas such as Kileleshwa provides a free geography lesson on the names of Kenya's small rural townships - Othaya, Siaya, Mugoi, Vihiga, Makeni, Migwani, Mwingi, among others. Other street/road names are just bland and hopelessly devoid of imagination such as Kenya Road, Njia Lane and Shilingi Road. There is even Panya Lane somewhere in Nairobi!

On the upside, we also have appropriately named streets and roads which have immense historical significance such as Kenyatta Avenue, Tom Mboya Street, Ronald Ngala Street, Prof Wangari Mathai Road, Haile Selassie Avenue, Nyerere Road, Waiyaki Way, Muindi Mbingu Street, James Gichuru Road, to name but a few. The unfolding Francis Atwoli Road saga invites us to reflect on the manner in which we name the streets and roads in our urban areas.

In more enlightened countries, street and road names are treated as a national resource, given as a badge of honour to preserve the memory of national or local community heroes whose lives are worthy of emulation by society in general and the young generation in particular. Those countries have clear laws and policies which define the eligibility criteria and prescribe the process of naming such monuments.

In contrast, a cursory look at the names of most of our roads reveals a haphazard and unimaginative exercise conducted in an opaque style based on the whims of the city or town



Francis Atwoli (c) at the unveiling of Francis Atwoli Road in Nairobi recently.

mandarins in power without any pretence at public participation or consideration of the value of the resource.

That is probably how we ended up with names like Cotton Avenue, Hendred Road, Kayahwe Road and Wood Avenue while we have no single lane named after

Paul Tergat, Tegla Loroupe, Catherine Ndereba, Nelson Mandela, Barrack Obama or Kofi Annan. In Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare posed the quintessential question, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name smells as sweet."

In the world of property and commerce, however, this aphorism may not hold. While it may not be empirically quantifiable what the name of a road or street does to the economic value and social prestige of a neighbourhood, it is equally arguable that certain names can

potentially lower the value of a property, dilute the pride of residents in their area or discourage potential buyers from buying a home in an area which is weighed down by an obnoxious or controversial name.

The letter and spirit of the 2010 Constitution envisage public participation in all matters that affect an individual. It is not fun to wake up one morning to find that your cherished and prestigiously named neighbourhood has suddenly acquired a new address - Mathogothanio Road - without any prior consultation with or concurrence of the residents.

Perhaps the best gift that the Francis Atwoli Road saga can bequeath to the country is the fast-tracking of the draft National Address Systems Policy developed in 2017 and an expeditious enactment of appropriate legislation to regulate the proper use of this valuable national resource.



One of Matunda Express Limited buses at a station in Kigali.



# BREWER'S ONLINE RESPONSIBLE DRINKING CAMPAIGN LURES DRIVERS, 'BODABODA' OPERATORS

By Property Watch Reporter

**A**n online responsible drinking campaign targeting motorists including motorcycle taxi operators popularly known as 'Bodabodas' is gathering momentum among road users hence contributing towards reduction of accidents.

Known as DRINKiQ quiz which is brainchild of London based Serengeti Breweries Limited's parent company Diageo Plc, the campaign seeks to sensitize road users especially popular means of transport such as 'rickshaws (Bajaj) and motorcycle taxis (Bodaboda).

Since 2019, SBL has been working with Tanzania Police Force traffic division to mobilise road users refrain from excessive alcohol consumption while driving. "What I also like about the quiz is that, it busts persistent myths around alcohol consumption, such as 'eating while drinking excessively is harmless,' and 'drinking coffee sobers people up faster,'" said Aziza Manzi who is a Dar es Salaam resident who has attended the campaign.

Manzi said the DRINKiQ quiz has provided her with information she needed most to make positive decisions about drinking or not drinking. "It's a good campaign that many young people will find useful to take part in and understand the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption," said Manzi who is a regular 'bodaboda' client and social drinker.

Her observations were backed by Arusha based 'Bajaj operator, Samson Jombi who added that people who drink alcohol but need to drive motor vehicles, then they need need to what DRINKiQ quiz promotes.

"For those of us who choose to drink alcohol, the DRINKiQ resource helps us understand the units and calories in all types of alcoholic drinks and shows how each drink compares with others," Jombi said as agreed by Moshi based 'Bodaboda' operator, Idrisa Mremi who added that the SBL platform is perfect for anyone who wants to better understand more about drunk driving.

"It also is a useful tool for those seeking advice on drinking responsibly so that they can make informed decisions on what to drink and when," Mremi said while noting that many drunk drivers don't know the



Motorcycle taxi operators popularly known as 'Bodaboda' pose for a souvenir photo after participating at Serengeti Breweries Limited organised 'Don't drink and drive' campaign held in Singida town recently. Photo courtesy of SBL.

risks of sitting behind the wheel while intoxicated.

Commenting on the initiative, SBL's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha said the campaign is the next stage of the brewer's commitment to help its consumers and the public make informed decision about drinking. "We have been providing face-to-face DRINKiQ training to groups across the country in the last few years but our approach has now changed due to the coronavirus outbreak," Wanyancha said.

He pointed out that SBL is happy with how the public has reacted to the campaign saying young people especially those operating 'Bodabodas and 'Bajajis.' "We're really proud of how well our DRINKiQ training has been received over the last few years because our audiences have clearly shown a genuine desire for this kind of information, which is why we wanted to make campaign available widely by putting it online," he said.

"This online platform is intended to raise collective knowledge about alcohol,

allow anyone, anywhere in Tanzania and even beyond, to quickly get informed on what entails healthy, responsible drinking and gives the tips they need to make the right choices when taking alcohol," the SBL Corporate Affairs Director added.

Various studies have indicated that drinking moderately can be useful to your health while excessive drinking is dangerous as it negatively affects one's health and wellbeing. Understanding some important facts about alcohol is important for consumers to make the right decisions regarding its consumption.

SBL as a subsidiary of Diageo Plc which is a British multinational beverage conglomerate, has a corporate responsibility to influence how its clients consume alcoholic beverages hence introduced the digital learning tool dubbed DRINKiQ.

DrinkiQ encompasses a global consumer campaign which began in London, the headquarters of Diageo, and has reached several markets including Tanzania, highlighting factors such as age and gender that determine how the body processes

alcohol.

DRINKiQ e-learning tool has been designed to provide consumers with the information they need to make positive decisions about drinking responsibly and tackle myths about drinking alcohol. The Corporate Relations Director further elaborates that for those who choose to drink alcohol, the new DRINKiQ resource will help them to understand the units and calories in all types of alcoholic drinks and shows how each drink compares with others.

"It is important for anyone who wants to better understand what they are drinking - and who seeks advice on drinking moderately and responsibly to make smarter choices about what to drink and when," Wanyancha added.

US based Institute for Health and Productivity Management has recommended DRINKiQ e-learning as an engaging and easy-to-use educational tool which provides essential knowledge about the effects of drinking in order to guide appropriate alcohol consumption.

## Senegal architects ditch concrete for earth in revival of old techniques

DAKAR

Construction is booming in Dakar, where unfinished apartment blocks tower over most streets, their exposed concrete bricks a dull uniform grey. In one site, however, a building stands out - the bricks the workers are laying are made of raw, red earth.

Concrete is inexpensive and used with abandon in Senegal's capital, but it is poorly suited to the West African heat. On summer days, when temperatures frequently reach 38°C, the buildings become furnaces, cooled only with blasts of air conditioning.

Earth naturally regulates heat and humidity, say the founders of Worofila, an architecture firm specialising in bioclimatic design. Since 2016, they have been pushing for the material to make a comeback. They say it could reduce pollution from cement factories and electricity production - and keep people cool.

"Before air conditioning, people paid attention to materials and orientation for the natural regulation of heat," said Worofila co-founder Nzinga Mboup, while workers laid bricks for the upper floors of what will be a family home with a pool. "The moment A/C arrived, these considerations went out the window."

Senegal's traditional dwellings were made of mud, but that has been abandoned. Dakar's sidewalks today are littered with piles of sand and stones that are mixed with cement to make cheap building blocks. To make modern earth bricks, workers mix soil with smaller amounts of cement and water to create a mixture that they cut into blocks, compress with a hand-operated machine and leave to dry for 21 days.

Unlike concrete, earth bricks require little energy to produce. Cement, the main ingredient in concrete, accounts for 8% of carbon dioxide emissions, according to British think tank Chatham House. Earth construction is niche. It costs more than concrete and many people are unaware of the option. Worofila has been longlisted for an Ashden Award, a British prize for climate solutions, which it hopes will raise visibility.

"At the start we were looking for clients. Today we don't look for them. We have a lot of demand," said Doudou Deme, who in 2010 founded Elementerre, which makes earth bricks in Senegal. Elementerre and Worofila have partnered on private homes, offices and part of a train station, but have barely made a dent in Dakar's construction scene. Still, when Mboup explains the concept it resonates, she said. People remember that their grandmother's mud house in the village was always the coolest.



Workers make bricks with manual press at the Elementerre factory in Mbour.

# Marriott Hotels debuts in Lagos, Nigeria

LAGOS

Marriott Hotels has announced its debut in Nigeria with the opening of Lagos Marriott Hotel Ikeja. Volker Heiden, area vice president - sub Saharan Africa, Marriott International, says: "We are excited to have opened the Lagos Marriott Hotel Ikeja, bringing Marriott Hotels' transformed vision to Nigeria.

"Lagos is a vibrant and bustling city with much to see and do for leisure and business travellers. What better place to debut the Marriott Hotels brand in Nigeria with its thoughtful service and intuitive spaces that enable guests to be inspired during their stay."

The hotel is located in the heart of Lagos, just 15 minutes from the Murtala Muhammed International airport and a short distance to the third mainland bridge providing easy access to the other side of the Ikeja. The hotel is in close proximity to the city's main attractions, leisure facilities and shopping malls including the Ikeja City Mall. The hotel also shares its area with The Shrine and Motherland - two globally acclaimed African music entertainment hubs.

The hotel offers 206 guestrooms and 44 suites each with expansive views of the city. The spacious guestrooms are designed with contemporary décor and intuitive in-room amenities. Natural colours, crisp lines, purposeful lighting and comfortable bedding create an intimate and peaceful space for guests to get into their best headspace for success. Walk-in showers and spa-like lighting complete the relaxed experience throughout the room.

The Greatroom at the heart of the hotel blends modern elements with local touches inspired by Nigeria's rich heritage and traditional crafts. The multi-use space is designed for guest to socialise, relax and work.



Lagos Marriott Hotel Ikeja.

Guests can relax in the hotel's tranquil spa offering rejuvenating and restorative treatments, steam rooms and saunas. Guests who seek to stay active during their stay can enjoy complimentary fitness classes at the fitness centre. The hotel caters to small and large-scale events with 1,380 square metres of event space - the hotel also

offers six breakout rooms and nine event rooms.

The hotel boasts a diverse selection of restaurants offering regional and international cuisine, including the Azure Grill Restaurant, with views of the pool terrace, which serves a variety of dishes cooked to perfection on an authentic charcoal grill; and the Wakame,

which specialises in Asian-Fusion cuisine originating from China, Japan, Thailand and Northern Indian.

There is also The Koriko & Co, an all-day dining buffet restaurant featuring international favourites and live cooking stations. "We are excited to welcome local residents and travellers to our inspiring space and

look forward to creating experiences that nurture their creativity," said Rudi Janse van Rensburg, general manager, Lagos Marriott Hotel Ikeja. "Guests at Lagos Marriott Hotel Ikeja will be able to free themselves of distractions when they step into our hotel, allowing them to focus solely on being the best they can be."



## CONSTRUCTION

# The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

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## BROOKFIELD BUYING PRADERA RETAIL ASIA MALLS FROM ADIA JV

## BEIJING

Canada's Brookfield Asset Management has made China's biggest retail real estate acquisition since the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic by purchasing a set of five mainland malls from joint ventures invested by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for \$1.4 billion.

Brookfield last week signed sale and purchase agreements for the Mosaic-branded malls in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Xi'an and Qingdao, according to multiple sources who spoke with Mingtiandi, which when completed will give it possession of a portfolio that measures 260,000 square metres (2.8 million square feet) of gross leasable area.

The Mosaic acquisitions, which were first reported yesterday by PERE and confirmed to Mingtiandi by multiple sources, come three years after Brookfield bet on community retail in Shanghai with its investment in CCH Asset Management, and is part of a series of deals predicated on the rising affluence of China's growing middle class.

Four of the five malls are managed by Pradera Retail Asia, a joint



Mosaic Shanghai has been repositioned to offer experiences along East Nanjing Road.

venture between the UK's Pradera and Australia's Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets, with the JV having co-invested in acquiring, developing and repositioning the Shanghai, Chongqing, Xi'an and Qingdao prop-

erties with ADIA. The Beijing property is operated under a separate joint venture with China Vanke.

The sale of the Mosaic portfolio mirrors China's struggle with the novel coronavirus, with initial efforts

to market the portfolio by Cushman & Wakefield together with JLL having just kicked off in December 2019 and January 2020 before getting stuck in lockdown with much of mainland retail during the first quarter of last

year.

Discussions with interested investors regarding the portfolio, which continued throughout last year, went into the execution phase during the third quarter of 2020, before finally culminating in last week's agreements. Representatives of Brookfield, Pradera Retail Asia, ADIA, Cushman & Wakefield and JLL all declined to comment for this story.

Brookfield has continued to show confidence in retail globally, seeing caution by other investors as creating opportunities for yield. In April, the Canadian firm agreed to pay \$459 million to buy a portfolio of seven UK shopping centres from Hammerson, as Great Britain continued to suffer from a lockdown which was only relaxed last month.

In 2019, Brookfield's Shanghai-based head of Asia real estate Stuart Mercier made big waves in the office market with the \$1.7 billion acquisition of the 154,500 square metre

Greenland Huangpu Center in China's commercial capital. The firm has since renamed the property as One East after completing the deal with Shanghai-based developer Greenland Group.

Pradera Retail Asia had first acquired what is now Mosaic Shanghai in 2017, with a team led by Pradera veteran Alison Rehill-Erguven and former Swire executive Rhys Evans rapidly converting what was once one of Shanghai's earliest department stores into a youth-oriented retail destination along the East Nanjing Road pedestrian mall.

The joint venture later went on to acquire a former Tesco centre in Qingdao and a 102,000 square metre (GLA) regional mall in Chongqing, before upgrading those properties. The 47,000 square metre Xi'an property was developed by Pradera Retail Asia and opened to a crowd of around 60,000 people in late 2018.

## S&P affirms Abu Dhabi's ratings on robust economic fundamentals and fiscal buffers

## ABU DHABI

S&P Global Ratings has affirmed the investment grade rating of Abu Dhabi, citing the resilience of its economic fundamentals and large fiscal buffers supported by revenue from the hydrocarbon sector.

The emirate's "AA/Stable/A-1" rating and stable outlook reflect the credit rating agency's expectation that its fiscal position will remain robust over the next two years despite oil price fluctuations. S&P said yesterday that Abu Dhabi is in a very strong position to meet its financial commitments.

"The exceptional strength of the government's balance sheet provides a buffer to counteract the effect of oil price swings and the effect of Covid-19 on economic growth, government revenue and external accounts, as well as the effect of high geopolitical uncertainty in the Gulf region," the credit rating agency said on Tuesday.

Abu Dhabi's economy is expected to recover this year on the back of higher oil prices and an improvement in economic activity

as the effects of the pandemic abate. The emirate's real gross domestic product is expected to recover to 2019 levels by 2023, according to S&P estimates.

International benchmark Brent, under which two thirds of the world's oil is traded, rose by 2.76 per cent to trade at \$71.23 a barrel at 6.32pm UAE time while West Texas Intermediate, which tracks US crude grades, was up 3.57 per cent at \$68.69.

S&P also expects that Abu Dhabi's oil production - which it said declined to an average of 2.8 million barrels per day in 2020, from 3.1 million bpd a year earlier - will return to 2019 levels by 2024. "As a result, we project hydrocarbon sector growth of about 2.7 per cent annually over the forecast period," said S&P.

"The non-oil sector should increase by about 1.7 per cent annually, an acceleration in the pace of growth relative to the years prior to the pandemic, fuelled by government and GRE [government-related entities] investment programmes."

Abu Dhabi's economy is poised to grow by 6 per cent to 8 per cent over the next two years, driven by government spending, financial services and foreign direct investment, Mohammed Al Shorafa, chairman of the emirate's



An aerial view of Abu Dhabi.

Department of Economic Development said last month.

Structural measures introduced by the UAE and Abu Dhabi to improve the business environment should enhance labour market flexibility, attract foreign workers and boost investment inflows as the emirate's economy continues to recover, S&P said.

The measures include a new Foreign Direct Investment Law that permits foreign investors to fully own businesses in various sectors and the liberalisation of personal and

family law. In May, the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development revealed a list of 1,105 registered commercial and industrial activities that are open to partial or full foreign ownership in the emirate from June 1.

S&P expects Abu Dhabi's fiscal and external net asset positions to remain strong from this year up to 2024. "To act as a buffer against oil price volatility, the government has accumulated one of the largest net asset positions of all sovereigns we rate," the credit rating agency said.

## Luxury home sales in US outpace those of cheaper properties

## NEW YORK

Luxury home sales in the US are soaring faster than lower-cost segments as remote work, brimming stock portfolios and rising listings give wealthy buyers an edge.

In the three months through April, purchases of high-end homes increased 26 per cent from a year earlier, according to a report by the brokerage Redfin. Sales of the most-affordable properties - in high demand by first-time buyers, downsizers and property investors alike - rose 18 per cent. Mid-priced homes gained 15 per cent.

The rich are best-positioned to buy real estate, now that vaccines bring the pandemic's end into view and the inventory crunch begins to ease. Listings of high-end homes in the three-month period rose 19 per cent from a year earlier, outpacing a 14 per cent gain for affordable properties and a 9 per cent increase for mid-priced listings, Redfin said.

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"So far, the economic recovery from the pandemic has disproportionately benefited Americans with bigger bank accounts," Redfin chief economist Daryl Fairweather said in the report. "This means a lot of the demand for homes is coming from folks who are well-off, while many lower-income Americans sit on the sidelines because they've been priced out of the housing market due to surging prices."

Redfin divided US residential properties into three equal-sized buckets based on the homes' market values. The year-over-year changes for prices and inventory were somewhat exaggerated because pandemic lockdowns froze transactions for a couple months starting in April 2020.

## UK mortgage lending slumps in April amid stamp duty uncertainty

## LONDON

British mortgage lending slumped in April, falling £8.2 billion (\$11.59bn) from a record high a month earlier, reflecting the uncertainty in the market over the stamp duty holiday that was due to expire on March 30.

Despite the drop in mortgage borrowing to £3.3bn in April from the £11.5bn recorded in March, British lenders approved 86,900 home loans in April, up from 83,400 month-on-month. "The recent variability is likely to reflect the reduction in the stamp duty tax, which was initially expected to end in March but has now been extended to the end of June," the Bank of England said on



A mortgaged property on sale in London.

Wednesday.

Britain's housing market soared last year after the first coronavirus lockdown created pent-up demand and Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak's stamp duty break, unveiled last July, boosted activity in the

sector even more. In his March budget statement, Mr Sunak extended the tax break until June, with the first £500,000 of any property purchase in England or Northern Ireland remaining exempt from the levy. There is also a £250,000 tax-free

allowance in place until the end of September.

British house prices jumped by an annual 10.9 per cent in May, the most in nearly seven years, and they look set to accelerate as buyers seek new homes after the pandemic, mortgage

lender Nationwide said. May's average house prices hit a new record high of £242,832, up 1.8 per cent on April as the country's housing boom continues. While April's mortgage approval level was below the November peak of 103,400, it was still

above pre-pandemic rates, with 73,000 mortgages approved in February last year.

Bank of England deputy governor Dave Ramsden said the institution was carefully monitoring Britain's booming housing market because there was a "risk that demand gets ahead of supply and that will lead to a more generalised pick-up in inflationary pressure." Another deputy governor Sir Jon Cunliffe said the heightened activity in the property market was "driven mainly by the tax holiday."

"We've seen very fast rises in house prices and transactions before tax holidays in the past. There are some signs that people are making different housing choices that may affect the future," he said. Meanwhile, Britons continued to pay down their debts in April, clearing a further £0.4bn in April, but this figure was less than the average over the past 12 months as the UK economy started to reopen allowing consumers to spend once again.



## WORLD

# Israeli opposition announces new govt, set to unseat Ben Netanyahu

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday fought back against an agreement by his political opponents for a government of left-wing, centrist and right-wing parties aimed at unseating him.

Netanyahu (pictured), facing the prospect of an end to his 12-year run as premier, said on Twitter "all legislators elected by votes from the right must oppose this dangerous left-wing government".

It was the first public pushback by Netanyahu, who heads the right-wing Likud party, against centrist politician Yair Lapid's announcement about 35 minutes before a Wednesday night deadline that he had succeeded in forming a governing coalition.

Under the deal, nationalist Naftali Bennett, 49, a former defence minister and a high-tech millionaire, would become prime minister and hand over the post to Lapid, 57, a former TV host and finance minister, in about two years.

The agreement capped a March 23 election in which neither Likud nor its allies nor their opponents won a majority in the legislature. It was Israel's fourth national ballot in two years.

The coalition comprises a patchwork of small and medium parties from across the political spectrum, including for the first time in Israel's history one that represents its 21 percent Arab minority - the United Arab List.

They have little in common other than



a desire to oust Netanyahu, whose is also on trial on corruption charges. He denies any wrongdoing.

The lineup includes Bennett's Yamina (Rightward), centre-left Blue and White, headed by Defence Minister Benny Gantz, the left-wing Meretz and Labour parties, former defence minister Avigdor Lieberman's nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party and New Hope, a right-wing party headed by former education minister Gideon Saar, who broke away from Likud.

Political analysts have widely expected Netanyahu to try to pick off what one described as "low-hanging fruit", seizing upon Yamina members who are unhappy about joining forces with Arab and leftist lawmakers.

Tamar Zandberg, a Meretz legislator, acknowledged the difficulties in getting the alliance that her party joined off the ground.

"The coalition's test...is to be sworn in - that won't be without rough patches and problems," she said on Army Radio on Thursday.

Netanyahu controls 30 seats in the 120-member Knesset, almost twice as many as Lapid's Yesh Atid party, and he is allied with at least three other religious

and nationalist parties.

## Stability

A source involved in the coalition talks said the proposed new government would try to retain consensus by avoiding hot-button ideological issues such as whether to annex or cede occupied West Bank territory that Palestinians want for a state.

Bennett has said that the creation of an independent Palestine would be suicide for Israel. He made annexation of parts of territory that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war a major feature of his political platform but following through on that with the broad new coalition looked to be politically unfeasible.

But any new flareup along Israel's volatile border with Gaza, nearly two weeks after a ceasefire ended 11 days of fighting with the Palestinian enclave's ruling Hamas group, could challenge the stability of the broad alliance.

During his tenure as prime minister, Netanyahu has been an often polarising figure at home and abroad.

Agencies

## WHO grateful to Russia for promoting healthcare to agenda foreground – Kluge

ST. PETERSBURG

WHO Europe Regional Director Hans Kluge expressed his gratitude to Russian authorities for prioritizing healthcare in Russia's political agenda.

According to the WHO official, the Covid pandemic has one positive consequence: "health has never been so high."

"And that's why I'm sitting here in this chair talking to you," Kluge (pictured) said in an interview for TASS. "And I am very grateful to the administration of the president of Russia for inviting me, and for putting health - with the minister and other partners - at the top of the political agenda."

He also praised the contribution of Russian medics to the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, relaying a "low bow" of gratitude to them. "I want to thank all the health workers in the Russian Federation."

I would like to say: 'nizkiy poklon', Kluge said, using a Russian expression for deep gratitude. He pointed out that the work of medical workers remains in very high demand, noting that they have to deal with heavy load.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, some 171.2 million people have contracted the coronavirus infection, over 3.5 million of them died.

According to the federal statistics, 5,090,249 cases have been registered in Russia, with 4,702,599 recoveries and 122,267 deaths. Russia was the first country in the world to register its coronavirus vaccine - the Sputnik V - on August 11, 2020.

This vaccine is currently registered by regulators of about 60 countries with total population of over 1.5 billion.

Agencies

## UN tribunal scraps new trial of Hariri assassin due to funding crunch

THE HAGUE

JUDGES at a UN tribunal for Lebanon have scrapped a new trial against the man convicted of the 2005 assassination of Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, because they expect the court to run out of money and be forced to shut down before it can finish.

Last year the tribunal, located near The Hague, convicted Salim Jamil Ayyash, a former member of the Shi'ite movement Hezbollah, in absentia for the bombing that killed veteran Sunni Muslim politician Hariri (pictured) and 21 others. That ruling is being appealed.

A second case was meant to begin on June 16, prosecuting Ayyash for another assassination and other attacks on other Lebanese politicians in 2004-2005.

But in a decision published yesterday on the court's website, the judges wrote they had canceled the case, "considering it is futile to start a trial in June which is highly likely to be terminated in July due to lack of funds".

Earlier this week, the Lebanon tribunal announced it will have to close after July if it is unable to resolve its funding shortage.

An exclusive report by Reuters last week revealed the tribunal, which is funded 51 percent by voluntary contributions and 49 percent by the Lebanese government, had run out of money.

Lebanon is experiencing an economic crisis which the World Bank describes as one of the worst depressions recorded anywhere in modern times. Rafik Hariri's son, Saad Hariri, is now Lebanon's prime minister designate, but he has been unable to agree a cabinet with President Michel Aoun, leaving the country in a state of political paralysis since last year.

The tribunal was created by a 2007 UN Security Council resolution. Its 2020 budget was 55 million euros (US\$67 million).

The court said the 2021 budget was cut by nearly 40 percent but it still struggled to get contributions.



## Former Syrian diplomat says CPC represents mixture of principles, flexibility

DAMASCUS

The Communist Party of China (CPC) represents "a mixture of principles and flexibility," former Syrian Ambassador to China Khalaf al-Jarad told Xinhua here in a recent interview.

The CPC sticks to the fundamental principles and at the same time has great flexibility in implementing such principles in accordance with social-

ism with Chinese characteristics, said al-Jarad, who is now a researcher and writer.

The former diplomat praised the CPC members as "the most tender, most credible, and most sacrificial group."

The secret of the CPC's success lies in its commitment to the Chinese people and its willingness to be the first to make sacrifices, he said.

Led by the CPC's policies,



"China is rising in all fields," he said, adding that the CPC is already a model for every liberation party in the Arab countries and in developing countries as

a whole.

Syria can benefit from the experience of China as a friendly country, he said. "We can take a lot from the experience of the Communist Party of China, especially in the field of implementing socialism with national characteristics," he said.

Noting that the CPC has been very successful in laying out and implementing successive five-year plans for economic re-

form and social development, al-Jarad said he is confident in the recently published 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

"We can be absolutely certain that the People's Republic of China will follow the lead of this plan and implement it completely, because all the past plans have been implemented with great precision, and have often exceeded them for the better," he added. Xinhua

## Xi highlights vital role of BRI solidarity

CHINA and Kazakhstan should foster new growth engines in bilateral cooperation in fields such as green energy, artificial intelligence, e-commerce and digital finance to jointly promote the high-quality building of the Belt and Road, President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday.

Xi (pictured) made the remark in a phone conversation with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. He also spoke on the phone on Wednesday with Ilham Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, and Luis Abinader, the president of the Dominican Republic.

The friendship between China and Kazakhstan, as permanent comprehensive strategic partners, is built on a deep foundation and powered with strong impetus, Xi said.

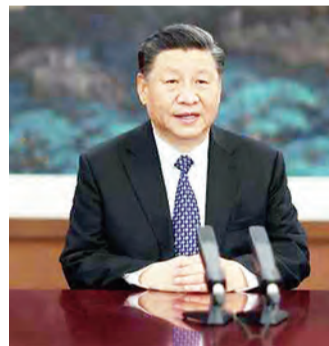
In promoting the high-quality building of the Belt and Road, Xi said the two sides

should scale up cooperation in production capacity, trade, agriculture and infrastructure and keep improving their level of connectivity.

The two nations should jointly build a green Silk Road, a health Silk Road and a digital Silk Road, adding that Beijing is willing to deepen cooperation in areas such as telemedicine and traditional medicine, he said.

China will continue to offer help and support to Kazakhstan in its fight against COVID-19, and the two sides should work more closely in law enforcement, security and defense affairs to jointly safeguard regional peace and security, he said.

Tokayev hailed China's historic achievements under Xi's leadership, saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has further exemplified the importance and necessity of China's proposal to build a community



with a shared future for mankind.

The two nations are genuine permanent comprehensive strategic partners, and Kazakhstan would never do anything that harms China's interests under any circumstances, he said.

In his talks with Aliyev, Xi said China and Azerbaijan have supported each other in the face of the raging pandemic, which truly embodies their friendship.

The two sides should amplify their traditional friendship,

deepen win-win cooperation, enhance mutual support and use the 30th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties next year to work toward greater progress in bilateral relations and more benefits for the two peoples, he said.

China sees Azerbaijan as an important partner in the joint building of the Belt and Road, and the two sides should share opportunities, jointly plan development and ensure the sound planning and progress of Belt and Road cooperation, he said.

China will import more high-quality produce from Azerbaijan and support more of its businesses to invest and start new businesses in the nation, Xi said.

He highlighted the need for the two nations to step up cooperation in international transportation and logistics, promote the building of a Eur-

asian transportation corridor and improve regional connectivity, adding that China will continue to offer aid to help the nation fight COVID-19.

Aliyev said Azerbaijan welcomes investment by more Chinese businesses, and the nation stands ready to step up communication and cooperation with China on regional affairs.

China is a true partner of Azerbaijan, and the nation has supported China's position, and will continue to do so, on issues regarding Taiwan, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

While speaking with Abinader, Xi said China highly appreciates the Dominican Republic's firm adherence to the one-China policy and its regarding ties with China as a priority in its foreign relations.

Agencies

## China accelerates building of modern energy system

ATTACHING great importance to low-carbon energy development, China is actively promoting energy consumption, energy supply, technology and innovation, and institution upgrading.

The country is making multi-faceted efforts to push forward energy revolution for the purpose of building a clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient energy system and improving the capacity to guarantee energy supply, just as projected in China's new national development blueprint, the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

In March, Taihu electric No. 001, an electric workboat, was launched in Wuxi, east China's Jiangsu province.

It was the first of its kind in the basin of Taihu Lake, China's third largest freshwater lake. The lithium batteries of the workboat can store as much electricity as the combined amount of electricity of five electric vehicles.

According to preliminary estimates, when all the 1,100 workboats in the Taihu Lake basin become electrified, the transformation from fuel oil-powered boats to electric ones will reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 75,000 tonnes a year, which is equivalent to the amount of CO2 discharged by more than 27,000 private cars.

"In the past, the fuel oil-powered workboat would leave an oily track on the surface of the water and the

smell of greasy dirt on the shoreside. Now the electric workboat is more powerful and faster, yet it doesn't leave any pollutants," said Li Fenglei, a driver of the workboats in the Taihu Lake basin.

Since the beginning of this year, non-fossil energy has been developing more rapidly in China, while the country's power generation has also seen a relatively fast year-on-year growth.

Based on corresponding data of the same period in 2019, China's output of electricity generated by wind, solar, and nuclear power plants rose by 17.6 percent, 12.5 percent, and 9.6 percent respectively on average in the first quarter this year from two

years ago.

Meanwhile, power supply projects in the country received a total of 79.5 billion yuan (about \$12.37 billion) of investment, which represented a 31.3-percent year-on-year growth rate and an average growth rate of 39.9 percent from two years ago. In particular, about 91 percent of the investment was channeled to power generation projects using non-fossil energy.

"Our dining hall and kitchen have stopped using coal or natural gas, and switched to induction cookers, which are safer, produce less lamp-black and smoke, and cut our energy consumption cost by half," said Lai Yong, an executive of a hot pot restaur-

ant in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan province. Lai is very satisfied with the decision to replace the cooking stoves of the restaurant with induction cookers.

More than 10,000 hot pot restaurants in Chengdu are using electric cooking appliances, accounting for about 70 percent of the total number of hot pot restaurants in the city.

These hot pot restaurants with electric cookers have effectively advanced the development of clean and low-carbon energy of the city, as they consume approximately 837 million kWh of electricity a year, which means they reduce over 710,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions for the city every year.

In fact, many cities in China have taken active measures to promote the replacement of traditional energy with electricity in key sectors and industries, comprehensively improve resource use efficiency and facilitate the country's energy revolution.

South China's Guangdong province has come up with the idea of establishing a budget-management system for energy consumption to strictly regulate the launch of energy-intensive projects.

The southern island province of Hainan plans to add 25,000 new energy vehicles (NEVs) to the city, start building a world NEV experience center, and make sure the combined floor area of prefabricated buildings in the province reach 17 million square meters this year.

People's Daily



## Denmark agrees law to deport asylum seekers outside Europe

COPENHAGEN

DENMARK'S parliament yesterday passed a law enabling the Nordic country to relocate asylum seekers to countries outside Europe, defying calls to abandon the plans from NGOs and the United Nations, which fear an erosion of refugees' rights.

The move to pass the bill, with 70 lawmakers voting in favor and 24 against, is an apparent break with the European Union's efforts to overhaul Europe's broken migration and asylum rules, an extremely divisive subject within the bloc.

The bill would allow Denmark to move refugees arriving on Danish soil to asylum centres in a partner country, potentially outside Europe, where asylum seekers would have their asylum cases reviewed and possibly obtain protection in that country.

"If you apply for asylum in Denmark, you know that you will be sent back to a country outside Europe, and therefore we hope that people will stop seeking asylum in Denmark," the government party's immigration speaker Rasmus Stoklund told broadcaster DR earlier yesterday.

The wealthy Scandinavian nation, which has gained notoriety for its hardline immigration policies over the last decade, has a declared goal of receiving zero asylum seekers, and instead aims to only accept refugees under the UN's quota system.

Denmark has yet to reach an agreement with a partner country, but Stoklund said it was negotiating with several candidate countries.

Critics worry the plan will undermine the safety and welfare of refugees and compromise their human rights as well as allow Denmark to duck its obligations within the EU.

"The idea to externalize the responsibility of processing asylum seekers' asylum claims is both irresponsible and lacking in solidarity," Charlotte Slente, general secretary of the Danish Refugee Council, an NGO, said in an emailed statement to Reuters.

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) last month called on Denmark not to pass the bill, which it says could catalyze a "race to the bottom" if other European countries begin mimicking Denmark's policy.

"UNHCR remains firmly opposed to externalization initiatives that forcibly transfer asylum seekers to other countries," UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner Gillian Triggs said in May.

"Such practices undermine the rights of those seeking safety and protection, demonize and punish them and may put their lives at risk," Triggs said. **Agencies**

## Nigerian gov't accuses Twitter of double standards, supporting secessionists

ABUJA

THE Nigerian government on Wednesday expressed doubts about Twitter's mission in the country, accusing the U.S. technology company of double standards and supporting the secessionists in the west African country.

Information and Culture Minister Lai Mohammed took a swipe at Twitter after it deleted a tweet by President Muhammadu Buhari who issued a warning to troublemakers in Nigeria.

"We have a country to rule, and we will do so to the best of our ability. Twitter's mission in Nigeria is very suspect, they have an agenda.

The mission of Twitter in Nigeria is very suspicious," Mohammed said. In the deleted tweet, Buhari had made a reference to the country's 30-month civil war in 1967-1970, warning "those who wanted the government to fail" to desist from fomenting trouble.

"Many of those misbehaving today are too young to be aware of the destruction and loss of lives that occurred during the Nigeria civil war.

Those of us in the fields for 30 months, who went through the war, will treat them in the language they understand," the president tweeted on Tuesday night.

Twitter deleted the president's post on Wednesday, following criticisms from some netizens. However, Mohammed questioned the rule of Twitter.

"Twitter may have its own rules, it's not the universal rule. If Mr. President, anywhere in the world feels very bad and concerned about a situation, he is free to express such views," he said.

The social networking service, he said, had overlooked the tweets of leading secessionists in Nigeria. "When people were burning police stations and killing policemen in Nigeria during End SARS, a decentralised social movement, for Twitter, it was about the right to protest.

But when a similar thing happened in the United States, it became insurrection," Mohammed said.

**Xinhua**

## UK and Australia bid to strike trade deal by mid-June

CANBERRA/LONDON

BRITAIN and Australia held another round of talks to progress a free trade deal, the British envoy said yesterday, as both countries seek to strike an agreement in mid-June.

Britain is pursuing a deal with Australia as one of the pillars of its post-Brexit strategy to build stronger commercial and diplomatic links in the Indo-Pacific region.

Both countries in June said they have agreed on the vast majority of issues for a deal, which official estimates say could add 500 million pounds (US\$708.4 million) to British economic output over the long term.

But with some sticking points remaining, British Trade Minister Liz Truss and her Australian counterpart Dan Tehan held talks late on Thursday, the British High Commissioner to Australia Vicki Treadell said.

"We are working hard to have an agreement in principle at the bilateral between Prime Ministers Johnson and Morrison on June 15," Treadell told reporters in Canberra. **Agencies**

# Violent crime on surge in US amid COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON

VIOLENT crime in U.S. cities surged to record levels as the nation was struggling in the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts said deteriorating security could affect midterm elections next year.

Statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation show the murder rate surged by 25 percent in 2020 -- the first time the United States has seen over 20,000 annual murders since 1995 -- up from 16,000 the previous year.

This occurred in the nation's major cities, and is showing no signs of abating.

The New York Police Department reported early in May that shootings were up 166 percent in April, compared to the same period last year. In Chicago, murders surged 50 percent from 2019 to 2020, most of the victims being people of color, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office.

Homicides surged in the U.S. state of California by 27 percent from 2019 to 2020 -- the largest one-year rise in 30 years, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Carjackings -- when an assailant forces a driver out of a car with a gun and steals the automobile -- have suddenly become a major problem in Washington DC, the nation's capital. The most recent DC police data shows that over 200 carjackings were reported in DC and the counties around it between January and April this year. That's a massive surge from the 60 carjackings reported in 2020 in the same period.

Linda Scott, a housewife outside the DC area, told Xinhua: "I tell friends who are visiting not to drive through DC," she said.

Rhonda Kim, in business management outside DC, told Xinhua that she "refuses" to drive into DC at night.

Asian hate crimes have surged 146 percent in 26 of the largest jurisdictions in the United States in 2020, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. Experts said they are accelerating.

Mayors of many of the most violent cities are Democrats, and experts said that could hurt the party in the lead up to next year's midterm elections.

"The surge in violent crimes is not helping the Democratic mayors," said Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West.

"It highlights a breakdown in the law that has occurred during COVID and the financial challenges people have had. Republicans are starting to use this issue against (U.S. President Joe) Biden and will continue to do so as long as the numbers remain high," West said.

Republican Strategist and TV news personality Ford O'Connell said: "This is a real problem for the Demo-



People holding a bilingual banner take part in a Stop Asian Hate rally in Oakland, San Francisco Bay Area, the United States, May 15, 2021. (Xinhua)

crats headed into the midterms," which are slated for next year.

Indeed, midterm elections are historically won by the party not in the White House, and surging crime in America's cities adds to Democrats' woes, experts said.

Republican lawmakers in major U.S. cities, such as Atlanta, in the U.S. state of Georgia, are already capitalizing on the surge in murders. Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr last month vowed to "fill the void created by Atlanta officials' failure to lead."

While U.S. President Joe Biden, during the 1990s, was known as tough on crime, some Democrats fear that voters may no longer make this association. Rather, they fret that voters may believe Republicans' narrative that the entire party, not just its left wing, wants to de-fund the police.

"Can Republican candidates exploit the issue? Yes, they will. Can they make it the top, election-winning issue? In some mayoral races they may be able to. Will it work as a national issue?"

They and (former U.S. President Donald) Trump got some mileage out of it in 2020, but not enough. They would need for the problem to keep rising," said Clay

Ramsay, a researcher at the center for international and security studies at the University of Maryland.

### WHAT'S BEHIND THE VIOLENCE?

Republicans and law enforcement said the surge in violence is due to de-fund the police movements nationwide, which have demoralized law enforcement. The movement began to pick up steam last year after George Floyd, an unarmed black man, was killed by police.

John, a police officer in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania, told Xinhua that criminals have become emboldened, as police are now less motivated to react to every instance of violence unless it's something major. The officer did not provide his last name, as he is not cleared to speak with media.

In an opinion article in USA on Tuesday, Jason Johnson, former deputy police commissioner for the U.S. city of Baltimore and the president of the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund, argued that public officials' "growing hostility toward policing left law enforcement demoralized, debilitated and, in some cases, de-funded."

"Even the most dedicated officers, who

now face a greater risk of being sued, fired or prosecuted for doing their job, feel pressure to pull back," Johnson said.

"To mitigate that risk, police take a more passive approach," Johnson argued.

Patrick Sharkey, a sociologist at Princeton University and expert on crime, told the Atlantic Monthly in a recent interview that in areas where institutions break down, people feel like they're on their own, and that creates conditions where violence becomes more likely.

"Last year, everyday patterns of life broke down... Schools shut down. Young people were on their own.

There was a widespread sense of a crisis... That type of destabilization is what creates the conditions for violence to emerge," Sharkey argued.

## First female train driver in Nigeria pursuing dream on China-constructed rail line

In Abuja, capital of Nigeria, there is a large train station - Idu station. It is where the Abuja-Kaduna rail line starts, and also an important stop of Abuja light rail.

On 7:00 am, passengers would line up in front of the ticket office of Idu station, and that's when engine driver Issa Fatimoh Abiola boards her train, which is scheduled to depart at 8:30 am, to make preparations.

The Abuja-Kaduna rail line and Abuja light rail were constructed by the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) under the Belt and Road Initiative. They have turned the site of Idu station from a barren land in the past into a bustling transportation hub.

Many young Nigerians like Abiola have secured jobs thanks to the rail tracks, and witnessed the development and changes in the capital.

Abiola is the first woman in Nigeria that is licensed to drive a train. In 2006, the CCECC was recruiting kitchen helpers in her hometown Ilorin, Kwara State. Learning that Chinese companies were reputable and offered decent salaries, Abiola, who had just graduated from high school, applied for a position and became an employee of the Chinese construction company.

"Chinese experiences suit the development demand of Nigeria. China is sincerely helping us, and if you can speak Chinese you will have a bright future," Abiola told People's Daily.

As she gradually had a better understanding of Chinese companies, she became more determined to develop in a Chinese firm. She spent almost all of her spare time learning Chinese.

In 2013, tracks began to be laid for the Abuja light rail, which was built in accordance with Chinese specifications and standards. Abiola, by her outstanding job performance, earned herself an opportunity to receive locomotive driving training, as the only female trainee.

Five years later, when Abuja light rail was officially put into service, Abiola became the only woman among the first batch of all locomotive drivers.

Transport is a lifeline for cities, said Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari when declaring the full operation of Abuja light rail on July 12, 2018. Hailing the light rail as a high-quality project, he expressed



Nigerian female train driver Issa Fatimoh Abiola.

his gratefulness to the Chinese government and people for their support for Nigeria's development.

As an employee representative, Abiola handed a signal flag to Buhari who later ordered the departure of the first train on Abuja light rail.

"This moment was of historic significance," Abiola said, adding that the company's decision to have her drive the first train indicated its trust in not only herself, but also all local employees.

Most of the residents in Abuja live in the four suburban satellite towns of the city, so there are four major commute routes. The roads were always jammed during peak hours, and the traffic could stay stagnant for even half an hour.

As the first light rail in West Africa, Abuja light rail has brought conspicuous changes to local transportation and the livelihood of local residents. Abiola told People's Daily that the light rail is punctual, and is favored by more and more people. "It plays an important role in alleviating urban traffic pressure, and also reduces traffic accidents," she added.

The construction of the light rail created nearly 5,000 jobs at most for local community. And more job opportunities have been created to local residents since the project started operation, from frontier workers to key management and technical staffs.

"When I drive the train through the city, I can literally feel the benefits it brings," Abiola said. According to her, more and more stores have been opened along the route. With increasing passenger traffic, commercial areas and communities are taking shape, she added.

"I feel very happy about the life of us, which is getting better and better," she said.

Paschal Arinze Nnorli, regional chief of Nigerian Railways Corporation Abuja, said the light rail not only has created economic benefits and jobs, but also is generating long-term and incalculable value with its safe and stable performance.

Due to COVID-19 control, Abuja light rail's five-storey comprehensive maintenance center was transformed into a makeshift hospital in just 40 some days. The hospital, with 506 beds and covering 12,500 square meters, played an important role in Nigeria's fight against the virus.

"Our Chinese friends are helping not only us, but also the entire Africa. I want to contribute my own strength to my company, and to the common development of Nigeria and Africa," said Abiola, adding that she will still strive for a position on the driver's seat of a bullet train once high speed rails are paved in her country.

"I want to become the first female driver of a bullet train in Nigeria, and contribute to the 'Nigerian speed,'" she noted.

**People's Daily**

## Russian-Chinese partnership more extensive than military-political alliance, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE comprehensive partnership between Russia and China is more than a traditional military-political alliance, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday in a video address to the participants of the international conference "Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era".

Lavrov noted that the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, signed in 2001, is based on the generally recognized norms of international law, first and foremost the goals and the principles of the UN Charter.

"The document enshrines agreements on mutual support when it comes to protecting state unity and territorial integrity, refusing to use nuclear weapons first and refusing to target strategic weapons against each other. It formulated a principle, which says that the parties should 'respect each other's choice for the course of political, economic, social and cultural development'."

"The parties must immediately contact each other if there is a threat of aggression against one of the parties. Third countries are not allowed on our territories in detriment to the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of each other," the minister stressed.

"Thus, without creating a formal military-political alliance, we formed a legal basis for the closest coordination on strategically important issues that concern the key interests of our states. Essentially, the Russian-Chinese comprehensive partnership is more than a traditional military-political alliance," the Russian top diplomat concluded.

According to him, the article of the treaty about the lack of mutual territorial claims, which says that both parties "are resolved to make active efforts in building the border between the two countries into one where ever-lasting peace and friendship prevail" are of key importance. "Its inclusion in the text helped fully regulate the so-called border problem, radically improving mutual trust," Lavrov noted.

### Russian-Chinese treaty

The Russian-Chinese Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation remains an effective document which makes it possible to adjust strategic cooperation between Moscow and Beijing to changing realities, Russian Foreign Minister said.

"The basic treaty, whose 20th anniversary will be celebrated this July, is a firm foundation of Russian-Chinese relations. We are confident that it will remain an effective, functioning document that makes it possible to develop and fine-tune our strategic cooperation to the changing realities of this new era.

An era, which demands from all of us - experts, diplomats and politicians, - constant attention to the new challenges and opportunities, and trends and forecasts," the Russian top diplomat said. **Agencies**







Ambwene Yessaya.

## Musician Ambwene appointed as ambassador for artists' village

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PROMINENT Bongo Flava artiste, Ambwene Yessaya, has been appointed as an ambassador for Coast Region-based village hosting musicians and remaining artists, located in Mkuranga.

Yessaya, popularly known as 'AY', has pledged to get his fellow artists to stay at the Mwazenga Village after his appointment which was done by Mkuranga District Commissioner, Filbert Sanga.

'AY' noted: "My fellow artistes were the founders of this village 10 years ago, we thereafter stay out of it but we will come back more energized and see to it we fulfill all activities we were taking care of."

He mentioned artists responsible for founding the area as Joseph Haule 'Professor J', Fareed Kubanda 'Fid Q', and Hamisi Mwinjuma 'Mwana FA'.

Sanga pledged to improve the Mwazenga Village infrastructure which includes roads, and electricity and back the musicians and other people living in the area as much as he can.

Tanzania Artists' Federation's Chairman, Deo Kway, noted the federation is allotting land for artists who will set up a variety of development initiatives.

He pointed out the artists that are as well the federation's members have completed constructing more than 250 residential structures and a modern venue that will accommodate 2,000 people.

Prominent actor, Ahmed Olotu 'Chilo', called on artists that are the federation's members that are financially stable to invest in the village.

According to Sanga, the investment should include building hostels to be used by young artists who will get training.

## Simba SC Disciplinary Committee set to discuss midfielder Mkude

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER reports of the suspension of Simba SC's midfielder, Jonas Mkude, due to misconduct, the longest-serving club player's file is has been sent to the outfit's Ethics and Disciplinary Committee.

The committee is under Suleiman Kova who is the former Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commissioner, and Mkude's case was referred to the committee's members and they have started the proceedings.

The 28-year-old whose contract expires at the end of the season, may also not play in the remaining Premier League matches and will still be donning the side's kits next season if Simba decides to extend his contract.

But Kova disclosed his committee would meet again on June 5 (Saturday) to continue hearing the case and if possible they would finalize and rule on it.

Kova briefed Simba members and fans who were hearing rumors about the suspension.

He noted: "The matter is indeed on our table and we have started working on it, on Saturday, June 5, his verdict will come out."

Mkude, who as well plays for national football side 'Taifa Stars, is yet to report to his club's training since May 18.

He has now been asked by the club to stay away after he decided to abscond duty.

A source within the club, who opt for anonymity, stated the decision by the club is final and the player will have to explain himself before regaining his place back in the team.

"The club has reached a decision to suspend midfielder Jonas [Mkude], who is not and has never reported to camp since the team returned from South Africa where they played Kaizer Chiefs in the quarterfinals of the CAF

Champions League," the source said.

"Two days after the team arrived from South Africa, all the players were asked to report to camp to start preparations for the return leg having lost 4-0 in the first leg but Mkude did not show up, and he never sent either an apology or reason as to why he was missing."

"But when he came to camp, he issued his reason for his absence to the team's head coach Didier Gomes Da Rosa and team manager Patrick Rweyemamu but both did not agree with his reason, they felt he was lying and asked him to leave.

"Since then, Mkude was asked not to report to camp but stay away from the team and he thus missed the return leg against Chiefs which Simba won 3-0 but failed to qualify for the semi-finals."

The source stated: "But even after the Chiefs game, the club is yet to allow him to return to camp or join the rest of the squad, but what I know is he has been stopped from attending anything to do with the club because of disciplinary issues, and the case is now with the team's disciplinary committee for discussion."

In January, Mkude was fined 2,000,000/- by Simba after he pleaded for forgiveness after he was found culpable for three offenses.

The first offense was his decision to skip the club's seminar which was held to discuss the team's targets for the season, his second mistake was reporting late to training ahead of their Vodacom Premier League match against Coastal Union with his third mistake being failure to report to camp on December 26, 2020, without permission.

This is not the first time Mkude has been suspended by his club for misconduct, he has missed out on the 'Simba Super Cup' and the Mapinduzi Cup competitions.

# Swimmers, Power Lifters miss out on 2021 Tokyo Paralympics

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will not be represented by Para Swimmers and Power Lifting athletes to the coming Tokyo Paralympics, Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) announced.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC Secretary General, said the TPC has failed to raise money for Para athletes' trips to qualifying and classification events.

Tokyo Paralympics are slated for August 24 to September 5 this year.

He said the country was to send Para athletes to classification which is slated for June 14 in Berlin, Germany, and a qualifying event slated for three days later.

The TPC official said they needed \$7046 for a coach and Para swimmer's trip to Germany for the two events.

He said TPC's efforts to secure funding for the trip of the Para swimmer Amos Boniface and his coach to travel to Germany proved futile.

He thanked one Dar es Salaam-based company, which was ready to pay part of the money.

"We needed \$7046 for the World Berlin Para Swimming and classification, the money would have catered for air tickets for the coach and swimmer, participation fee, and Covid-19 tests, but we have failed to get the funds."

"We thank a Dar es Salaam-based company which was ready to pay part of the money, but we have failed to secure the remaining money," he said.

He said the country's Para Lifting contingent, made up of athlete Yohana Mwila and coach Nemes Chiwala, needed \$5,432 to compete at the 11th



Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) Secretary General, Ramadhan Namkoveka.

Fazza Dubai Grand Prix 2021 World Para Powerlifting World Cup in Dubai on June 16 and classification.

Namkoveka said TPC again failed to secure the money.

He said it is painful that Para Power Lifters have been training hard preparing for the Tokyo Paralympics for more than a year now, but TPC's economic status has made the athletes fail to realize their dreams.

He revealed: "We did all we could to raise the money for our Paralympic athletes, but we have failed, the dream of

our athletes to compete in Tokyo Paralympics on qualifying ticket is over."

He said: "We had high expectations that our Para athletes will bring medals from Tokyo Paralympics, but that is over, maybe we should wait for the Paris 2024 Paralympics," a disappointed Namkoveka disclosed.

The only hope for the country rests on Para athletes Sauda Njopeka and Ignas Mtwewe who will travel to Japan for Tokyo Paralympics on the wildcard.

Recently TPC disclosed it is happy that for the first time in its history, the committee is sending a female athlete, Sauda, to the Paralympics.

The two, Sauda and Mtwewe attended qualifying events in Tunisia and Dubai but did not earn automatic qualification for Tokyo Paralympics.

However, due to their exceptional performance at the qualifying event, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) offered them the opportunity to compete on the wildcard.



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia.

## TFF hardly perpetuates favouritism, says Karia

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia has dismissed allegations he has been favouring Simba SC over their age-old rivals Yanga.

Karia said he only has an affiliation with Coastal Union - now placed 16th in Vodacom Premier League with 33 points.

He was adamant that there is nothing he can help Coastal Union with to salvage the situation despite his TFF position.

"If it is about loving a team, maybe Coastal Union but it is something that you can openly say 'yes, this is the team I support. But the allegations

that I always stand with Simba or that I hate Yanga are just baseless," Karia said.

He disclosed: "If I wanted to support Coastal Union in any way, for example, it would not be in the current position with 29 games played."

"I have no reason to hate Yanga, this is just cheap talk from people but when one is in a leadership position, it is always very hard to please everyone."

"It is also known that my work will not please everyone because I will hurt some in the course of duty."

"Where have I shown favour towards Simba and when did I show that I hate Yanga? I love

Coastal Union but you can see they are likely going down."

"Since I was young, I have supported Coastal Union but I found the rest of the clubs there and I have never been attached to them."

"If I had the behaviour of trying to help teams, don't you think it would have been easier to help the team that I am a registered member for?"

The TFF has recently come under fire, particularly from Yanga fans who believe the current administration is favouring Simba, the Vodacom Premier League defending champions.

The most prominent case that pitted TFF against Yanga is the case that involved Bernard

Morrison's move to Simba in 2020.

The Ghanaian joined Simba even though Yanga claimed he had signed a contract extension with the outfit before TFF's Players' Status Committee ruled the winger was a free agent and was allowed to make the move.

Recently, controversy ensued when the Premier League Board rescheduled the May 8 top-flight game pitting Yanga against Simba.

Yanga protested and did not take part citing regulations that govern such instances.

The new date for the match has been given as July 3 but Yanga has indicated they will not avail themselves for the game.



## Brazil, Argentina must put Copa row aside as World Cup qualifying resumes

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

AMID all the fuss about the upcoming Copa America and where it will be hosted, it is easy to forget that there are two rounds of 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers to be played in South America. These, though, are the more important games.

Originally these dates were set aside for pre-Copa friendlies. But because of the pandemic, South America is way behind. Only four rounds of fixtures have been played. Another 14 have to be squeezed in before the end of March next year. And so there is one round this Thursday and Friday, and another next Tuesday, before the teams head to Brazil for the Copa.

This puts South American international football in a curious position. There have been no competitive matches since last November. Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador managed to play friendlies in March. Everyone else is getting together for the first time in seven months. And now the warm-up matches are more important than the tournament that follows. The Copa America is clearly secondary. Everyone's priority is to make it to Qatar at the end of next year.

South American confederation CONMEBOL has four automatic slots in the 2022 World Cup, which begins on Nov. 21 next year, with the team finishing fifth having to go through a playoff. So far, three teams have pulled away from the pack at the top of the standings, and two of them face each other in the only match being played on Friday when Brazil host Ecuador in Porto Alegre.

With four wins out of four, Brazil found a blend last year that was better than anything they had done since the end of the previous set of World Cup qualifiers. The 2018 quarterfinal defeat to Belgium in Russia left coach Tite confused. His side had been too open down the left flank. He responded with a more cautious approach from his full-backs, but it never looked entirely convincing even though Brazil won the 2019 Copa on home soil. Since then he has tried something new, freeing attacking left-back Renan Lodi to push forward with midfielder Douglas Luiz covering the space behind him.

But Douglas Luiz is suspended for this game -- which could offer a glimmer of hope to Ecuador, who are strong on the counter-attack. Under Argentine coach Gustavo Alfaro, Ecuador opened up with a very defensive display and a 1-0 defeat away to Argentina, followed by three thrilling victories. They will be very wary of Brazil's attacking threat, and can be expected to be cautious once more. Realistically, they will feel that anything they pick up from this match will be a bonus, and their aim will be to move on with confidence intact. Then again, Brazil have never lost a World Cup qualifier at home, a record that has to fall one day, and after so long out of action they could be more vulnerable. But a Brazil defeat would be an even bigger shock than the surprise news last Monday that the country would be hosting the Copa America.

The other team doing well are Argentina, who under Lionel Scaloni have made great strides since the 2019 Copa, when they lost to Brazil in the semi-finals. Looking more like a team than at any time since they reached the final of the Centenary Copa in the United States five years ago, they have put together three wins and a draw, and are firm favourites to chalk up another victory at home to Chile on Thursday night.

Not all of their problems have disappeared, though. There is still a dearth of talent in central defence. But will Chile be able to test the weakness? New coach Martin Lasarte is handicapped by the loss of midfield powerhouse Arturo Vidal, who has been hospitalised after testing positive for COVID-19. And the big problem is the one that previous coach Reinaldo Rueda wrestled with for two years before choosing to resign: Chile have not developed players with the quality of the generation that won back-to-back Copas in 2015-16, and are still dependent on the old guard.

Rueda jumped ship to take charge of his native Colombia. He goes straight in at the deep end with a crunch match first up away to Peru, the game that closes Thursday's action. Colombia have four points, and suffered a disastrous two rounds of heavy defeats in November. Peru have only one point, and desperately need a win to stay in touch.

Another high-pressure clash comes earlier that same day, between Uruguay and Paraguay. Both sides are in midtable with six points. The winners will join the leading pack, while the losers will slip back amongst the trailers. It will be interesting to see Uruguay's approach. Edinson Cavani is suspended, and a number of other strikers are out injured. This could be a chance, then, for coach Oscar Washington Tabarez to come off his usual 4-4-2 system. Uruguay could field more of their talented young central midfielders, and have the option to use wingers either side of Luis Suarez. It should have been an opportunity for playmaker Giorgian De Arrascaeta to be used in his favourite position, through the middle. But he, too, has gone down with COVID-19.

The other game, the first of the round, is between Bolivia and Venezuela. Bottom-of-the-table Bolivia have just one point, and all their hopes are pinned on winning this game. Venezuela, the only South American side never to have made it to a World Cup, are disappointed to have just three points thus far. And they will find things very difficult in the prevailing conditions.

# Why N'Golo Kante deserves the Ballon d'Or in 2021

PARIS

WHEN N'Golo Kante walked into the France national team camp in Nice on Tuesday alongside Olivier Giroud and Kurt Zouma, his Chelsea teammates, he was greeted by huge cheers and applause. On Saturday evening, the French squad and manager Didier Deschamps and his staff watched the Champions League final together, once again in total awe of their No. 13's performance.

Even after all these years -- 45 national team caps and counting since 2016 -- Kante still manages to surprise even his closest friends and teammates with the performances he turns in from week to week.

When Kante arrived, completing Les Bleus' 26-man squad for the Euros, some of the squad welcomed him with the Ballon d'Or treatment. It was half-joking, half-serious, but some teammates told him he was on the golden path to get the golden ball. Others wondered if he'd run the entire way from London to southern France ahead of their friendly with Wales (which the world champions won 3-0) while Deschamps, as always, had choice banter. But deep down, the coach and this team know how lucky they are to have such a player in his squad. As Olivier Giroud told ESPN: "N'Golo is just extraordinary. It's not just the running and the effort, or the balls re-



N'Golo Kante is never one to seize the spotlight, but football's biggest individual honors would be a deserved reward for the Chelsea and France midfielder. (Agencies)

covered. It is everything he does. You really feel that you are playing with 12 players when he is there on the pitch."

The Chelsea striker thinks, like a lot of people, that Kante could and should win the Ballon d'Or at the end of the year. The feeling within the French football world is that if Les Bleus have a really good Euros, the former Caen and Leicester man will be right at the top of the list.

Robert Lewandowski will also be a contender after he won Bundesliga title with Bayern Munich, setting a new domestic record for most goals in a season (41) along the way; Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are always in the mix, domestic disappointments with Barcelona and Juventus aside, as well as Kylian Mbappe or Karim Benzema if they also perform this summer. But Kante, who turned 30 at the end of March, has to be the favourite.

Since the arrival of Thomas Tuchel at Stamford Bridge at the end of January, Kante has taken his game to the next

level. The German manager has always been a big fan of Kante's skills and tried to recruit him at PSG. Together at Chelsea, they've worked a lot on the Frenchman's positioning, his ball retention and his ball progression; Tuchel also gave him the confidence and the freedom to allow him to roam and play like he did against Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid, Liverpool, Manchester City and other elite opponents.

Like the Chelsea boss said to RMC Sport after their 1-0 win at Anfield back in March: "[Kante] is a gift. With my staff, we can't believe what he does. We get his data after his games and even after his training sessions and we can't believe his figures. He really is a gift."

Paul Pogba has been a close friend of Kante for years, but he too is flabbergasted. He told French TV two weeks ago: "Kante's got everything. He's good technically, with a good passing quality, and he's everywhere on the pitch. He runs for 11 players. I even say he appears out

of the ground! You don't see him, and 'poof': he's there! He gets the ball, he can finish. He's everywhere. To have a player like that by your side, what more can you ask for?"

There's another thing that appeals when it comes to Kante, and that's how he would represent victory for "regular" players with a Ballon d'Or instead of the typical superstars. He has helped redefine how we watch football; it's not just about strikers and goal scorers, but more about the players who fight for the team and sacrifice themselves for the greater mission. Kante also represents those who had to fight for everything: after all, he only made his professional debut at 22 years of age, and in France's third division. He would be a perfect post-pandemic winner, a refreshing winner, a humble and modest winner. He would be a very popular winner, too.

Looking through the archives, no real defensive midfielder has ever won the Ballon d'Or. Just one defensive player, Fa-

bio Cannavaro in 2006, has claimed the prize in the modern era; the closest to Kante's position and profile would maybe be Lothar Matthaus, who won it in 1990, but the Germany great had a very different style as a deep-lying playmaker or "sweeper."

Luka Modric, winner in 2018, was more of a playmaker too. But if he got it in the World Cup year -- he guided Croatia to the final, where they lost to Les Bleus, and won his fourth Champions League title with Real Madrid in 2018 -- there is no reason why Kante would not get it this year if France do well at the Euros. Other comparisons for Kante, Franz Beckenbauer and Mathias Sammer, played as the "No. 6" at times in their careers, but both men won the Ballon d'Or after dominant seasons as converted centre-backs. As much as Kante would love to win the most prestigious individual award in world football, he would probably hate it too. He seems to shy away from anything that makes him the centre of attention.

When France won the 2018 World Cup and celebrated a few weeks later with the fans at the Stade de France, he was asking Benjamin Mendy to not sing the Kante song too much. When he was made man of the match after Chelsea's Champions League semifinal, second leg against Real Madrid (he claimed the award in three of Chelsea's six knockout games on the road to the title, and in the final itself)

he said to a pitchside reporter that he didn't feel comfortable doing an interview because it was a team's win, not just his. And then he drove out of Stamford Bridge in his Mini...

That's Kante for you. He's so shy that you never hear him speak on the pitch, or very rarely. With a huge smile, Riyad Mahrez remembers one of the rare times he did: "When we were at Leicester together, I knew I didn't have to defend for two. And you know how shy he is so he didn't use to say anything. But one day, during a game, I heard his little voice saying 'hey Riyad, do you mind just defending a little bit, please?'"

Off the field, it's quite different though, as Pogba explains: "He cheats a lot. A lot. At card games, board games. Honestly, I'm telling the truth. He cheats. He says he doesn't cheat, but he does. He uses cunning. He's a smart kid, N'Golo. But it's okay. You have to love him. He's the most beloved player in the history of football. You've got to love him; you cannot hate him, it is not possible. He is humble, kind, professional. He will never complain. He will work."

Trying to win a card came at all costs should not prevent you from winning the Ballon d'Or. So far, 2021 belongs to Kante and if the second part of the year is like the first, it will be impossible not to give him the trophy.

## Ancelotti had 'zero doubts' about Madrid return

MADRID

CARLO Ancelotti has said he had "zero doubts" about returning to Real Madrid but hinted that he may have to accept the departure of captain Sergio Ramos, saying "I never imagined a Real Madrid without Ancelotti, and it happened."

Ancelotti, who previously coached the club from 2013 to 2015, was presented at the Real Madrid City training complex on Wednesday.

The 61-year-old Italian has signed a three-year contract and replaces his former assistant Zinedine Zidane, who resigned last week.

Ancelotti said he hadn't yet had time to discuss summer signings or his coaching staff with president Florentino Perez, and backed the current squad -- including Gareth Bale and Eden Hazard -- to compete for trophies.

"I saw the president earlier, we spoke for a little while, it was all very fast," Ancelotti said. "We haven't had time to talk. We'll start to work in the next few days. I just thanked the president, being here is very important for me."

He added: "I think the squad is very good. There's a mix of players with experience -- [Toni] Kroos, [Luka Modric, Ramos, Bale, [Karim] Benzema -- and young players with quality: Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo, [Federi-

co] Valverde... the squad is big, we'll have to reduce it a bit.

"I think with this squad [we can compete]," Ancelotti added. "With this squad and without the players out on loan like Bale, [Martin] Odegaard, [Dani] Ceballos, Madrid got to the Champions League semifinals and fought for the league."

Ancelotti said that he needed to get up to speed on the state of contract negotiations with Ramos before commenting on his situation.

"I've just arrived, I have to talk with the club about all that," he said. "I never imagined a Real Madrid without Ancelotti, and it happened. We all have to accept it... I know all the players well, it's good to return and work with them and Sergio Ramos is one of them."

"He's been fundamental to all the successes the club has had. He's talking about his renewal but as I say, until yesterday I was in Liverpool. When I know the details we can talk more openly."

The futures of a number of veteran players -- who Ancelotti knows well -- have been in doubt after they lost their first-team places under Zidane.

"I have a lot of affection for Gareth, Isco, Marcelo," Ancelotti said. "They're Real Madrid players and I'll try to motivate them, but there's a judge who isn't me, it's the pitch... Gareth hasn't



Carlo Ancelotti

had a lot of time in the Premier League but he's scored a lot of goals. He returns, I know him well, and I think if he has the motivation to try to play

at his best he could have a great season."

He also backed Hazard to overcome the fitness problems that have seen him struggle to make an

impact in two injury-hit seasons in Spain.

"He's a top player," Ancelotti said. "He's had problems, he still hasn't reached his potential but I think he will. This could be the year for him."

In his first spell as Real Madrid coach, Ancelotti won the Champions League and Copa del Rey, as well as a UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup, before being sacked in 2015.

He joked that he recognised many of the journalists at his first news conference, saying "the only thing that changes at Real Madrid is the coaches," and promised to play "offensive, spectacular, intense football."

After he was fired in 2015, Ancelotti coached Bayern Munich, Napoli and Everton, taking the Premier League club to twelfth and tenth-placed finishes before agreeing

a return to Madrid.

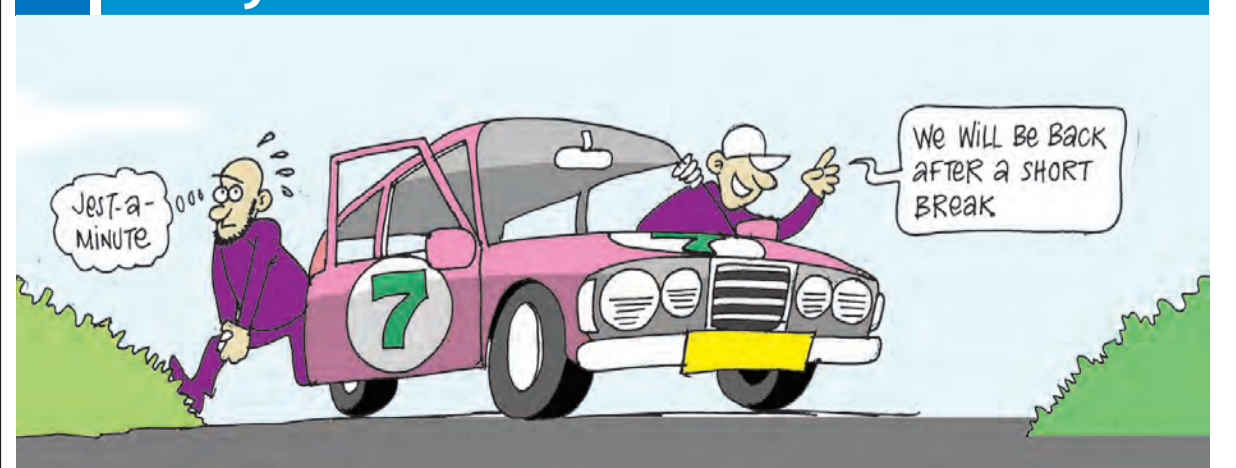
His predecessor Zidane -- who he called "a friend" -- quit last week alleging a lack of support from the club and president, complaining that he had been undermined by leaks to the press.

"What can I say about Zizou? He won three European Cups and did a fantastic job," Ancelotti said. "That's football, one coach comes, another goes... I haven't spoken with him, it's all been very fast, but I'll talk to him for sure."

He added: "I've been in football for 40 years. I know this world well. We have to accept what happens and have respect for everyone, players, coaches, journalists... I don't know the personal relationship Zidane had with the president. When Madrid called asking if I wanted to come back, I had zero doubts."

ESPN

## Gwiji by David Chikoko





## SPORT

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Francis Kahata

## Midfielder now delays extending contract with Simba SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KENYAN midfielder Francis Kahata is back in his home country after efforts to renew his contract with Tanzanian club Simba SC hit a snag.

Kahata former Gor Mahia midfielder, who joined Simba in the 2019/20 season as a free agent, has already returned to the country amid reports he may not return to the club.

The midfielder is among the five players whose contracts at the reigning Premier League champions come to an end at the end of the season, but he has been in talks to extend his stay, which reached an impasse, forcing him to return home.

"Francis [Kahata] is among five players running down contracts at Simba and his efforts to extend the same may have failed and it is the reason he decided to go home," a source at Simba, who did not want to be named, stated.

"Simba's leadership gave him the contract he was required to sign for free while improving his monthly salary only, an act which he has denied and instead, decided to take a break."

Kahata was recently omitted from the squad registered for the Mainland Premier League and he was replaced by Zimbabwean Perfect Chikwende, who joined Simba during the mini-transfer window this season.

When contacted for comment, Simba SC official Ally Shatry said there is no harm in Kahata returning home as he is not being used by the club in the league and was only registered to play in CAF Champions League.

"If he has returned home, then it means there will be an agreement between him and coach Gomes [Didier], because as you know the player's name was removed from the league list and instead placed in Champions League campaign," Shatry said.

"So, the coach may allow him to return home for a break as we are currently not participating in the Champions League, and we are left with the league and the Federation Cup alone and he is not serving us, but about contract issues, I have not received official information from my senior officials."

Efforts by The Guardian to reach out to Kahata, who is among two Kenyans in Simba SC squad alongside defender Joash Onyango, for a comment, bore no fruits as our calls went unanswered.

## Yanga will not take on Simba SC on July 3, says official



Yanga's players attend training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's information officer Hassan Bumbuli insists the club is not aware of the Vodacom Premier League's clash pitting the club against age-old rivals Simba SC scheduled for July 3.

The match had been initially planned for May 8, but late changes made Yanga walk away citing failure to follow the set rules of the organizers.

Tanzania Football Federation ordered the Tanzania Premier League Board to set a new date for the game and the latter settled for the aforementioned date.

However, Yanga, the 27-time Premier League champions, insists they are not aware of the plan and as far as they are concerned, four matches are remaining for them.

"The team is back in training and on Sunday we will play a friendly match against African Lyon at the Azam Complex, Chamazi, Dar es Salaam," Bumbuli said on Thursday.

He revealed: "It will be one of our preparations for the remaining four league matches. We have games against Ruwu Shooting, Mwadui FC, Ihefu FC, and Dodoma Jiji FC."

"We already played against

Simba on May 8 and we are done with that. I am talking about the remaining four league matches that are on the fixture timetable."

"As far as we are concerned, we also have two Federation Cup matches. One will be in the semis against Biashara Mara United and the final since I am confident we will qualify for the stage."

"We don't know there is a league match against Simba, we have not received any confirmation on the same and I cannot

talk about what is not there."

Meanwhile, Yanga's manager, Hafidh Saleh, noted that the outfit's head coach has requested they should play friendly games to improve fitness for his players.

Saleh has said that, at any time, they will announce the teams they will play against in friendly matches immediately after the technical bench meeting.

He added that Yanga's U-20 team is one of the teams they will be playing

against.

The tie will take place at Yanga's training camp at Avic Town Stadium, Kigamboni in the city to see to it the tactician has a chance to see the youths side.

"It is difficult for a team to stay two weeks without playing friendly matches while we are in Premier League and Federation Cup competition, so the coach has suggested we play friendly games at a time we do not have league matches."

"The goal is to create

fitness so that when the league resumes for us, the players will be ready for the fight."

"There are some teams with which we will play friendly matches but to begin with we may play with our U20 youth team here at Avic Town Stadium," the team manager noted.

Already the first game has been made clear which is against African Lyon which is expected to be played at Azam Complex this weekend.

## Company donates equipment to Tanzania Police clubs

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Police Force has hailed Silent Ocean firm for the donation of sports equipment to the institution, saying the backing will help to keep servicemen healthy.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam when he received the equipment on behalf of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro, Kinondoni Specia Zone Police Commander, Ramadhan Kingai, said the equipment has come at a good time when the force is preparing for National Military Games slated for later this month in Dodoma.

He stated: "Tanzania Police Force values sports as a tool of keeping our officers fit and healthy, as well as bringing together security services institutions' members."

"We thank Silent Ocean firm for this timely donation," he said.

He extended IGP Sirro's gratitude to the company for the gesture.

Kingai extended gratitude to the company from IGP Sirro.

The sports equipment which is worth 11m/- includes jerseys, tracksuits, socks, and other kits.



Kinondoni Specia Zone Police Commander, Ramadhan Kingai (C), is presented with footballs by Silent Ocean Company's representative, Mohamed Kamilagwa, to be used by the Police Force sports sides in this year's National Military Games. Looking on is Police Force's Sports Department's leader, ACP Jonas Mahanga (L), and Mr. UK Marathon coordinator, Nelson Mrashani. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKI

In his remarks, Director of Sports at Tanzania Police, Jonas Mahanga, also thanked Silent Ocean firm for the

donation, saying it has come at the right time.

Mahanga asked other companies and organizations

to emulate good gestures from Silent Ocean and reach out to other security services organizations in the country.

Mohamed Kamilagwa who is head of marketing at Silent Ocean promised his company support to sports in the country.

He said they received a request from the police to help them with equipment to be used at this year's National Military Games.

He assured other security organs that Silent Ocean will help them in future events.

Former athlete Nelson Mrashani who was present at the event also thanked Silent Ocean for presenting the equipment.

Silent Ocean firm recently also helped local athletes to compete at international events which were used as Tokyo Olympics qualifiers and this year's edition of Tulia Marathon in Mbeya.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

