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# Excitement as Samia restructures cabinet

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday made a major shake-up of the cabinet by appointing veteran envoy Liberata Mulamula as minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.

The president also appointed Dr Mwigulu Nchemba to the Treasury, replacing Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, and shifted fifth-phase international agreements negotiator Prof Palamagamba Kabudi to the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

In remarks after swearing in the Vice President at the Chamwino State House, President Samia underlined to the new cabinet that they must embrace nothing but work hard to meet public expectations.

"I did not see the need for a complete overhaul of the ministries because it has been a short while since you were sworn in," she said.

In the changes, Umyy Mwalimu comes in as Minister in the Office of the President (Regional Administration and Local Governments), exchanging positions with Selemani Jafo who shifts to the Vice President's Office (Environment and Union Matters).

Prof KitilaMkumbo leaves Investments to take over at Trade and Industry, changing places with Godfrey Mwambe, while downgrading the Ministry of Investments to the Prime Minister's Office as it was previously.

Mohammed Mchengerwa makes his first appearance in the cabinet as Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), while George Mkuchika remains in the cabinet as Minister without Portfolio in the President's Office, after the new minister was named to the public service portfolio.

The reshuffle left a number of ministerial portfolios untouched, while nonetheless the president noted that more changes will

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Umyy Mwalimu



Selemani Jafo



Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma (R) swears in newly appointed Vice President Dr Philip Isidor Mpango at State House at Chamwino in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House



Amb Liberata Mulamula



Prof Palamagamba Kabudi



Mwigulu Nchemba



Mohammed Mchengerwa



George Mkuchika

## Feasibility study, design of southern SGR section ready

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

PRELIMINARY works such as feasibility study and design of the southern section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) covering Mtwara-Songea-Mbamba Bay is ready, the legislature was informed yesterday.

The Deputy Minister for Works and Transports, Godfrey Kaseke, told MPs that the government is currently looking for an investor to finance the project.

Responding to a supplementary question

from Kalambo MP Josephat Kandege, he said that the government will implement the project under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

In his basic question, the lawmaker wanted to know the government's plans to construct a railway line from Tunduma to Kasanga and Lake Nyasa so as to open up the surrounding regions of Rukwa and Katavi economically.

The deputy minister affirmed that the government will continue implementing various railway projects as per priority and availability of budgets, citing the Dar es Salaam-Mwanza SGR line and the construction of the Mtwara-Mbambabay railway line.

The railway line will serve Mtwara to Mbamba Bay corridor, complementing coal and iron ore mines at Mchuchuma and Liganga, making Tanzanian coal and iron exports more attractive internationally.

The projected railway line will span 1000 km from Mtwara port to Mbamba Bay through

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## Bashiru exits State House, Ambassador Katanga is CS

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S Ambassador to Japan, Hussein Katanga, was yesterday appointed new Chief Secretary, replacing Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced this change when unveiling the revamped cabinet, cutting short the former political science lecturer's position at the State House to slightly over one month.

Dr Kakurwa left the post of CCM Secretary General upon being appointed to the State House position by former president Dr John Magufuli on February 27, holding the post for 32 days.

He was appointed to replace Ambassador John Kijazi, who died

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Dr Bashiru Ally



Hussein Katanga



9 770856 542009 >





Communication and Information Technology minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile presents his ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2021/22 to the Parliamentary Infrastructure Committee in Dodoma city yesterday. With him are his deputy, Andrea Mathew (to his right) and permanent secretary Dr Zainab Chaula (L, foreground). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Feasibility study, design of southern SGR section ready

FROM PAGE 1

Mchuchuma and Liganga areas, likely to be of great benefit to residents and traders in the southern corridor.

"All these efforts are meant to facilitate regional integration and reduce poverty by stimulating broad economic

growth through expanding industrial production and enhancing exports from the corridor," he explained.

The government has finalized the feasibility study for the construction of the Mpanda-Kalema railway, to strengthen transport in the northern and southern regions of the western

lakes zone.

"These projects need a lot of money, and the current government's priority is to construct the Standard Railway Gauge (SGR) and others will come later," he stated.

Asa Makanika, Kigoma North MP posed a supplementary question seeking out government plans to

construct the Mwandiga-Kagunga road through Gombe National Park, to improve transportation in the Kagunga area.

"I know that this is a very important road to reach Kasanga port, so we will continue working to ensure that we set aside funds to facilitate its construction," he added.

## Excitement as Samia restructures cabinet

FROM PAGE 1

be done in the future.

A for deputy ministers, the president appointed Abdallah Ulega to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries where he had ably served earlier, on the basis of the president's remarks. Pauline Gekul shifts to the Ministry of Information, Sports and Culture.

Other appointed deputies are Mwanaidi Ally to the Ministry of Health (Social Welfare and Children), Mbarouk Mbarouk (Foreign Affairs), Geoffrey Pinda (Justice and Constitutional Affairs), Hamad Said Chande (Vice President's Office -Environment and Union Matters), Hamad

Masauni (Ministry of Finance and Planning) and William ole Nasha (Investments).

Ambassador Mulumula is a long serving diplomat presently serving as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation since May 2015. Earlier she served as Ambassador to the United States and Mexico, as well as the first Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), spending a short while at the State House as special advisor to President Jakaya Kikwete on diplomatic matters from 2012 to 2013.

## Bashiru exits State House, Ambassador Katanga is CS

FROM PAGE 1

earlier last month. His shifting from the CCM Secretariat to the State House was a high mark of the militant posture of the fifth phase government, and his exiting the post brought a flourish of optimism in social media reactions.

Ambassador Kitanga was noticeably Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) from 2011 to 2012.

He was on July 2012 - October 2019 - served as Registrar of the High Court before he was appointed ambassador to Japan.

He earlier served as District Executive Director in Kinondoni and Mbinga districts, Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) in Morogoro and Singida regions.

Dr Bashiru was born on January 1, 1968 in Bukoba Rural District, Kagera Region and received his

primary education from 1980 to 1986 at Katerero Primary School, attended secondary school at Kilosa Secondary School from 1987 to 1990 and advanced secondary education at Ihungo High School, 1991 to 1993.

He joined the University of Dar es Salaam for a Bachelor's degree in political science and graduated in 2000, then obtained a Master's degree in 2002.

He briefly worked with HakiElimu, Mzumbe University and returned to UDSM as assistant lecturer and pursued his doctorate qualification from 2011 to 2015.

He also served as Academic Staff Assembly (Udasa) vice chairman and acting chairman before his appointment as CCM Secretary General in 2018.

He is a researcher and features contributor marked for his socialist militancy, and is married to Zulaika Hashim, with the couple having two daughters; Halima and Hasanat.

## AU peace, security council undertake three-day field mission in Khartoum

KHARTOUM

THE African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) under the chairmanship of the permanent representative of the Republic of Kenya, ambassador Jean Njeri Kamau, is in this Sudanese capital for a three-day field mission from March 29 to today.

The delegation comprises representatives of the following PSC member states, namely, Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Senegal.

The field mission is taking place in line with the Council's mandate to promote and enhance peace, security and stability in the continent, in particular, as it relates to the implementation of its various decisions on the situation in Sudan.

This is the fifth field mission of the PSC to the Republic of Sudan since March 2013.

It is also taking place following the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement on 3 October 2020; the removal of Sudan from the United States of America list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST), leading to the lifting of sanctions on the country; and the establishment of a new Cabinet based on the peace agreement, which includes most of the former armed movements; as well as the recent signing of the 'Declaration of Principles' that calls for freedom of religion and cultural identity in Sudan.

During its mission, the council will gather first-hand information regarding the political, security, economic and humanitarian developments in the country, including the state of progress in the implementation of the Juba Agreement, challenges being faced and to ascertain the

next steps required in order to facilitate a successful transition in the country.

The delegation will reaffirm the AU solidarity with the Government and people of Sudan, as well as the unwavering commitment of the AU to support the ongoing transition and to encourage the Transition Government to continue implementing the signed agreements with a view to build a peaceful Sudan.

The delegation will hold consultations with a number of stakeholders, among others, the high officials of the Transitional Government, political parties, civil society organizations, African Diplomatic Community, representatives of the United Nations Integrated Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), European Union and the Five Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council.

It will also travel to El Fasher, North Darfur, where it will visit the Abushuk Internally Displaced Persons Camp and consult with UNAMID officials.

AGENCIES



**It will also travel to El Fasher, North Darfur, where it will visit the Abushuk Internally Displaced Persons Camp and consult with UNAMID officials**



Nkasi North legislator Aida Kenani asks a supplementary question in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Police hold Chinese national for beating up 2 Tanzanians

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region have detained a Chinese national, Xiao Yong for beating up two Tanzanians who are drivers of the lottery company named Bonanza after claiming that they stole 240,000/- from the company.

Addressing reporters in his office yesterday, Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei

said the police arrested Xiao Yong after they received reports of humiliation on company workers.

He said the report started making rounds in the social media showing the suspect harshly beating up them hence the police moved in and arrested him.

He added that Xiao Yong engages himself in lottery business at Mabatini area, Meta Ward in Mbeya City.

Matei warned foreign investors to stop humiliating and harassing locals by taking the law into their own hands, saying they should abide by the country's laws, regulations and procedures.

Meanwhile RPC Matei claimed that the Police have detained five people, all Congo DRC citizens for entering the country illegally.

He said the five were arrested as they were travelling in Sassebosa

bus that ply between Mbeya, Chunya and Tabora.

He said after investigations are completed the suspects would appear in court.

"This is the fifth time for the Sassebosa bus to be found carrying illegal immigrants, I call upon to the bus owners to stop that practice before stern steps are taken against them," warned RPC Matei,





IPP director Joyce Luhanga (2nd-L) and ITV/Radio One managing director Joyce Mhaviile (3rd-L) lead mourners in paying their last respects to ITV presenter Blandina Sembu at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The body was expected to be transported later in the day to the deceased's home place at Kamunyonge in Musoma municipality for burial. Police sources have been quoted as saying they are following up clues on her "murder". Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

## Basic education cost 1.26trn/- since 2015

THE government spent a total of 1.26trillion/- to finance free basic education in the past five years, the legislature was told yesterday.

The Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), David Silinde, made this observation yesterday when responding to a question from Mtama MP Nape Nnauye.

The funds were disbursed from December 2015 to February 2021, he said, elaborating that the funds involved covering operational costs for schools including by replacing the school fees component.

This included payment of allowances to heads of schools and ward education officers, along with funding food supplies in boarding schools, he specified.

In the 2021/22 financial year the government was proposing an

expenditure ceiling of 312.09bn/- for free basic education, a programme that has accelerated school enrolment to highest levels countrywide.

The government will continue to allocate more funds for the implementation of the program depending on the availability of funds, he said, noting that the free education programme has enabled children from vulnerable families to access quality education and set on their dreams.

In his supplementary question Nnauye

wanted the government to change the funding system and direct the funds to school administrations so as to ensure that the

programme is well implemented.

Responding, Silinde said the government has its criteria in disbursing the funds to schools, including prioritising schools with bigger requirements.

On November 27, 2015 the government issued Circular No 5 to implement the Education and Training Policy 2014, directing that primary and secondary education is free for all children. This included the removal of fees and compulsory contributions.

This touched off a three-fold increase in the numbers of children attending school all over the country, subsequent data affirmed.

## Dar couple sentenced to life for drug trafficking

By guardian Reporter

ECONOMIC crimes division of the High Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday sentenced a city couple to life in prison after finding the duo guilty of drug possession and trafficking.

Handing down the sentence, Judge Elinaza Luvanda said that the prosecution had proved that businessman Abdu Nsembo and his blogger wife Shamim Mwasha pedaled heroin.

The well-known youthful city couple was found guilty of two counts of drug possession and trade.

In the economic crimes case

number 4 of 2020, the court also ordered that the couple's valuable possessions, including a Landrover Discovery 4 vehicle be confiscated by the state.

Prosecution convinced the court that on May 1 2019, the husband and wife were found in possession of heroin weighing more than 400 grammes within their residence at Mbezi Beach suburb in the commercial capital of Dar es Salaam in contravention of Tanzanian laws.

During the trial, the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) alleged that its officers raided the

couple's home after receiving information and conducted a search and found the bag containing the drugs and others were found in the back seat of the car.

The drug buster said that detectives conducted a search from in their house and found the drugs hidden. Tests conducted by the Chief Government Chemist proved that the seized exhibits were heroin.

Other items that we found during the raid were five phones, bank cards, passports and various documents.

Mwasha propelled the

couple's life to the limelight on social media in recent years with posts on her blog which portrayed her as businesswoman with a wealthy husband but hustled on her own and did very well.

She won many followers on social media especially women for her saving schemes which encouraged many to do the same. She encouraged daily savings of any amount.

The blogger would post her daily savings to her followers—growing from as little a few thousands per day to as much as 100,000/- per day and counting.

Her arrest also generated a

lot of debate online.

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### BODI YA USAJILI WA MAKANDARASI (CRB)



#### MIKUTANO YA MASHAURIANO NA WADAU WA SEKTA YA UJENZI KWA MWAKA 2021 "Juhudi za Makusudi za Wadau Kuwezesha Ukuaji wa Makandarasi wa ndani".

Mbeya; Tarehe 22 - 23 Aprili 2021, Ukumbi wa Tugimbe  
Arusha; Tarehe 6 - 7 Mei 2021, Ukumbi wa Corridor Springs  
Dar es Salaam; Tarehe 27 - 28 Mei 2021, Ukumbi wa Diamond Jubilee

Bodi ya Usajili wa Makandarasi (CRB) inapenda kuwataarifu Makandarasi na wadau wote wa Sekta ya Ujenzi wakiwemo Waajiri, Wataalam Washauri (Wahandisi, Wabunifu Majengo na Wakadiraji Majenzi) na wataalam mbalimbali katika sekta ya ujenzi kuwa imeandaa mikutano ya kikanda ya mashaauriano na wadau wa sekta ya ujenzi katika mikoa ya Mbeya (Tarehe 22 - 23 Aprili 2021, Ukumbi wa Tugimbe), Arusha (Tarehe 6 - 7 Mei 2021, Ukumbi wa Corridor Springs) na Dar es Salaam (Tarehe 27 - 28 Mei 2021, Ukumbi wa Diamond Jubilee). Katika vituo vyote, mikutano itaanza saa 2.00 asubuhi. Kaulimbiu ya mikutano ni: "Juhudi za Makusudi za Wadau Kuwezesha Ukuaji wa Makandarasi wa ndani"; na mada zifuatazo zitajadiliwa:-

- Uzoefu wa CRB kuhusu changamoto zinazoathiri ukuaji wa makandarasi nchini
- Mtazamo wa Makandarasi kuhusu changamoto zinazoathiri ukuaji wao
- Tathmini ya Utekelezaji wa vifungu wezeshi vya sheria ya manunuzi ya umma kwa ukuaji wa makandarasi
- Mtazamo wa Waajiri kuhusu changamoto zinazoathiri ukuaji wa makandarasi
- Uzoefu wa wataalam washauri kuhusu changamoto zinazoathiri ukuaji wa makandarasi
- Uzoefu wa Makandarasi wa kigeni kuhusu changamoto zinazowakabili makandarasi wa ndani

Katika kituo cha Dar es Salaam, mikutano pia utaambatana na maonesho ya Teknolojia, huduma na vifaa vya ujenzi.

**Walengwa** Makandarasi, Wataalam washauri; Wabunifu Majengo, Wakadiraji Majenzi, Wahandisi, Wataalam wanaoshabihiana nao, Waajiri, Watunga sera za uwezesaji wananchi kiuchumi, watumishi wa taasisi za Serikali zenye dhamana ya manunuzi ya umma katika shughuli za ujenzi na wadau wote wa Sekta ya Ujenzi wanaalikwa kushiriki.

**Ada ya Ushiriki** Ada ya ushiriki ni TZS 50,000/= kwa Makandarasi na TZS 100,000/= kwa Wadau wengine. Ada itagharimia mahitaji ya mkutano kama ukumbi, chakula cha mchana na vinywaji.

Ada ya ushiriki italipwa kwa utaratibu ufuatao:-

Malipo ya ada ya ushiriki yafanywe benki ya CRB Plc au NBC Ltd., au NMB Plc kwa jina la CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION BOARD pia kwa kupitia mitandao ya simu kwa kutumia "Control Numbers katika vituo husika" kama ifuatavyo:-

#### Makandarasi

Mbeya: "Control Number" 995740029796  
Arusha: "Control Number" 995740029798  
Dar es Salaam: "Control Number" 995740029791

#### Wadau wengine

Mbeya: "Control Number" 995740029797  
Arusha: "Control Number" 995740029799  
Dar es Salaam: "Control Number" 995740029792

Hakikisha namba ya simu ya mshiriki imeoneshwa katika karatasi ya malipo ya benki.

**Maonesho (Exhibitions)** Bodi inayaitaka makampuni na watu binafisi kushiriki kwa kuonesha teknolojia, huduma, bidhaa, vifaa na zana za Ujenzi kwa lengo la kuzitangaza kwa wadau wa sekta ya ujenzi katika mikutano wa kituo cha Dar es Salaam. Watakapenda kushiriki maonesho hayo wawasiliane na Ndugu Alois Manamba kwa simu namba 0715809473 au kwa barua pepe kwa anwani [almanamba@gmail.com](mailto:almanamba@gmail.com) au [crbhq@crbz.org](mailto:crbhq@crbz.org)

**Jinsi ya Kujisajili** Washiriki wathibitishie kuhudhuria mkutano kwa kulipa ada ya ushiriki angalau siku kumi (10) kabla ya tarehe ya mikutano katika kituo husika na kutuma majina na mawasiliano yao katika ofisi yoyote ya CRB nchini. Washiriki wanahimizwa kujisajili mapema ili kuepuka usumbufu unaoweza kujitokeza.

**Mafunzo endelevu (PDU)** Washiriki ambao ni wataalam kama Wabunifu majengo, Wakadiraji majenzi na Wahandisi watakoashiriki mikutano huu watatuzwa alama 16 za mafunzo endelevu zitatolewa zitakapombwa katika Bodi zao za usajili.

Kwa taarifa zaidi fanya mawasiliano kama ifuatavyo:-

CRB Makao makuu, S.L.P 13374 Dar es Salaam Simu 022 213 1169, Tovuti: [www.crb.go.tz](http://www.crb.go.tz), Barua pepe: [crbhq@crbz.org](mailto:crbhq@crbz.org)  
CRB Kanda ya Mashariki, S.L.P 33621 Dar es Salaam Simu 022 271877, Barua pepe: [crbez@crbz.org](mailto:crbez@crbz.org)  
Kanda ya Ziwa, S.L.P 2815 Mwanza Simu 028 2500218, Barua pepe: [crbz@crbz.org](mailto:crbz@crbz.org)  
CRB Kanda ya Kusini, S.L.P 1690 Mbeya Simu 025 2502480, Barua pepe: [crbsz@crbz.org](mailto:crbsz@crbz.org)  
CRB Kanda ya Kaskazini, S.L.P 16795 Arusha Simu 027 2547107, Barua pepe: [crbnz@crbz.org](mailto:crbnz@crbz.org)  
CRB Kanda ya Kati, S.L.P 2618 Simu 026 2966040, Barua pepe: [crbcz@crbz.org](mailto:crbcz@crbz.org)



## CONGRATULATIONS H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan

The ESAMI Governing Board, Management and Staff offer our heartfelt congratulations to H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan for being sworn in as first female President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

*We wish you good health as you lead the nation.*



# Govt sets aside acres of land for construction of modern hospital

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has set aside 100 acres of land for the construction of modern hospital in Morogoro Region, something which will strengthen provision of quality health services, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister, the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (Health) Festo Dugange said yesterday that the government in collaboration with Morogoro Regional Commissioner's office is finalising procedures to possess the land before the commencement of the project.

He was responding to a question from CCM-Special Seat MP Christine Ishengoma who sought to know when the government would commence the construction of the state-of-the-art hospital in Morogoro Region.

In her basic question, Ishengoma urged that the government has been promising that it will construct the hospital so as to improve health service provision in the region but has failed to fulfill it.

Responding, the deputy minister said processes to compensate the residents and owners of the area were on final stages.

He said that implementation of the project will increase the overall well-being of the residents by serving thousands of people but also enabling pregnant women to have safer births, providing preventative interventions and health education.

Ndugange further said the

government is also planning to rehabilitate and expand Morogoro regional referral hospital.

"The expansion project involves construction of a maternity ward, radiation and laboratory, operating theatre, Out Patient Department (OPD), emergency building, radiation and laboratory tests, orthopedics, pharmacy services, administration as well as private wards," he said.

He said that the completion of the buildings will transform and enhance efficiency of health service provision while serving more people from inside and outside the region.

The deputy minister said that in improving primary health care services in Morogoro Region, the government had built and renovated eight health centres at the tune of 3bn/- as well as construction of five district hospitals in the councils of Malinyi, Gairo, Morogoro, Mvomero and Kilombero at a cost of 7.5bn/-

"In the 2020/21 financial year the government had allocated 2bn/- for the construction of district hospitals in Mlimba and Mvomero district councils.

According to him, the government's major aim is to improve the overall health in the district thus reduce and eradicate maternal deaths.

He further added investing in the constructing of more health hospitals and health centres contributes to the growth of the national economy by keeping people healthier enough to engage in income generating activities.



A nurse with Babati's Mrara Hospital attends to Abubakari Ally, one of survivors of an accident involving a Machame Investment bus which occurred on Monday at Kiongozi village in Babati District. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

# Govt assures Meru Bank claimants compensation

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government yesterday assured clients of Meru Community Bank which had been closed they will be paid their monies after the completion of liquidation processes.

Finance and Planning deputy minister Mwanaidi Ali Khamis said yesterday in the National Assembly when responding to Arumeru East MP (CCM) John Pallangyo who sought to know when the government would finalise the payment process to all clients of the Meru Bank.

The deputy minister informed that so far a total of 1.47bn/- had

been paid to clients who had deposits in the bank. "A total of 4,679 clients 13,138 had been paid which is 35.61 per cent of all clients who had met criteria to be paid the compensation," Mwanaidi told the MPs.

Mwanaidi said that the payment was taking too long because Deposit Insurance Board (DIB) is still working on the liquidation process so as to ensure that all the eligible customers get their money.

According to her, DIB is now auctioning the assets through auction companies so as to ultimately finalise the payment of depositors.

The lender, whose licence was revoked by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in 2018 on the basis of their undercapitalisation.

In his basic question MP Pallangyo said; "What stage has the government reached in following up on people's money deposited in the bank."

Responding, Mwanaidi said the Deposit Insurance Board was still liquidating the bank's assets and paying the depositors.

She said the insurance board pays up to 1.5m/- and those with more deposits have to wait until all bank's assets are recovered and sold.

She said customers with

deposits exceeding 1.5m/- would get paid under the liquidation exercise, but this depends on the acquisition of money obtained from the sales of property of the liquidated bank.

Between 2017 and 2018, the Bank of Tanzania cancelled business licences of seven banking institutions including the Meru Community Bank.

Other banks whose business licence were revoked in the country were: Mbinga Community Bank Plc, Njombe Community Bank, Kagera Farmers' Cooperative Bank, Efatha Bank and the Covenant Bank for Women (T) Limited.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE  
EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY



In reply please quote:

Ref. No. NO EC.71/162/01

Date: 1st April, 2021

## UPCOMING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY AT KURASINI SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

The Export Processing Zones Authority owns a parcel of land measuring about 56 acres (239,000 square meters) in a prime area at Kurasini, Temeke District - Dar es Salaam

- The Export Processing Zones Authority wishes to team up with a competent Investor/Developer to construct an Industrial Park at Kurasini land. The Industrial Park will feature Warehousing; Light assembly and Processing Factory Buildings; Banking halls; Agro processing facilities (storage and value addition platform); Administration and office buildings; Hotel and Restaurants and Parking facilities. The Competent Partner(s) will be required to design, Finance, Construct onsite infrastructure and Industrial Sheds and thereafter invite operators in various sectors such as; garments, leather products, agro processing etc. on the basis of revenue/profit sharing with Government of Tanzania.
- The Land is located at Kurasini Ward, Temeke District in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The area is situated about 1.5 km from the Port and 10km from Julius Nyerere International Airport and about 2.5km from Dar es salaam City Centre.
- The area can be easily reached from both Kilwa road and Nelson Mandela road. The area is surrounded by a number of ICD's and Logistics companies. Kurasini Industrial Park will operate as Special Economic Zone in accordance with the laws of the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Public Notice for Expression of Interest will be announced locally and Internationally.
- Interested Investors who wish to visit the site and/or obtain further information should contact the Director General, Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) Plot No. 1081 off Nelson Mandela Road, Ubungo-Mabibo External, P.O. Box 12112 Dar es Salaam from 8:00am. to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday except on public Holidays. Telephone + 255 22 2925058-60; E-mail address [info@epza.go.tz](mailto:info@epza.go.tz)

Export Processing Zones Authority



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY



## NOTICE TO ALL EPZA DEBTORS

- The Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) hereby issues **A THIRD NOTICE TO ALL ITS DEBTORS** indicated herein below, to pay their **OUTSTANDING ARREARS and OVERDUE PAYMENTS** such as **RENT, FEES and CHARGES** within a period of **FOURTEEN (14) WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE** of issuance of this **NOTICE**, without **FAIL**;
- The Authority reminds its **DEBTORS** that, failure to pay their debts, which is Government money, amounts to **BREACH** of the provisions of the **LEASE AGREEMENTS** signed between their respective Companies and **EPZA** as well as **VIOLATION** of the terms and conditions of the **LICENCES** issued to the Companies to undertake their projects;
- The Authority further urges its **DEBTORS** to clear their outstanding balances within the period stipulated in this **NOTICE**, failure of which the Authority shall **FORTHWITH** invoke ALL available **REMEDIES** under the **LAW**, including but not limited to **SUSPENSION** of facilitation services, **TERMINATION** of the Lease Agreements, **REVOCAION** of the Licences and **INSTITUTION** of Court cases, where **COSTS, DAMAGES** and **DEFAULT INTEREST RATES** shall be applicable.
- The following **DEBTORS** are **URGED** to come to the Office immediately to settle their outstanding debts;

1.	Rehmat Beverege and Foods (TZ) Ltd
2.	Hua Teng Metallurgical Company Ltd (Jinlin Jimin
3.	Industrial Ltd )
4.	Ming kong Ltd (Chang Long Ltd
5.	Jambo Food Products Ltd
6.	Phiss Tannery Ltd
7.	Wegmar Packaging Ltd
8.	Tembo Agro Ltd
9.	Afya Distributors
10.	Amstrad Global Inc. Ltd
11.	Azan Logistics
12.	Bbn (Prc) Security Tanzania Ttd
13.	Design Team Archtects (Meleki Slaa Architects)
14.	Fjs African Starch Development
15.	Gleam Co Ltd
16.	Net Solutions Ltd
17.	Sustainable Environmental & Livelihood Ltd
18.	Shebrila& Co. Ltd
19.	Ngogo Engineering Ltd
20.	Haak Neel Production Ltd

ISSUED BY ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

1 April, 2021

EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY  
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## **CONGRATULATIONS !**

**The Management and Staff of IPP Group of Companies congratulate Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango for being appointed the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania.**

**We wish you all the best as you take on your new responsibilities.**





## Govt assures ample availability of drugs at health centres

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government said yesterday that it will continue to ensure an ample availability of drugs, medical equipment and reagents at health centres in the country.

The pledge was given by Minister of Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy when submitting her ministry's implementation reports for the period of between July 2020 and February this year to the Health Services and Community Development Parliamentary Committee in Dodoma.

Dr Gwajima said to ensure quality drugs were available all the time the government set aside 200bn/- in the 2020/2021 financial year for the procurement of drugs, medical equipment and reagents.

She said the availability of 312 kinds of drugs at health centres had reached 74 per cent.

However, she said the ministry has improved the country's maternity services for the period of July 2020 to February 2021 this year whereby a total of 1,165,526 pregnant women or 103 per cent of the expectants attended clinics.

"Out of these women 36.5 per cent begun clinic before 12 weeks, compared to 36.4 per cent during the same period in 2019," she said.

She added that 90.4 per cent made four or more clinic attendances compared to 84.1 per cent in 2019.

In regard to those who delivered at health centres, Dr Gwajima said

920,126 pregnant women, or 82 percent did so, the same as for 2019.

She said in order to improve preventive services particularly in regard to vaccines, a total of 1,030,617 children under one year of age were expected to be vaccinated against various diseases and up to February 2021 a total of 1,010,005 children or 98 per cent received vaccination under PENTA-3 criterion according to World Health Organisation (WHO).



**Out of these women 36.5 per cent begun clinic before 12 weeks, compared to 36.4 per cent during the same period in 2019**



Dr Jacqueline Nlula (L) of Kambi ya Simba health centre in Mbulumbulu ward, Karatu District, briefs district commissioner Abbas Kayanda on Monday on medical equipment and supplies available in health facilities in the area. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## UAE firm to invest in drugs factory in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Government says it was ready to welcome investors to invest in the Isles in various sectors to spur economic growth.

The remarks were given by the Minister for Health, Community Development, Elderly, Gender and Children Ahmed Nassor

Mazrui when he welcomed the Afriamco Co. delegation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that plans to build a factory for human medicines.

He said the government through the Health ministry will make sure to provide opportunities for investors needing to invest in the sector in order to improve health

services in the country.

He explained that such kind of investment stands to benefit the people of Zanzibar including job creation and for students to get practical training in drugs manufacturing.

Afriamco's Manager Eng Khalid Mohamed Abubakar said they are longing to invest in Zanzibar

in the manufacture of drugs as it will assist in reducing the cost of importing drugs from foreign countries. He said the drugs to be manufactured will be for home use as well as for export.

UAE based Afriamco has been having close relations with China and India and was operating in 17 African countries.



A resident of Peramiho in Ruvuma Region (L) sells mushrooms, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) has finalised a study on the revival of millet crop which is on the verge of extinction following decrease in production in the country.

Despite low production, millet is a whole grain that's packed with protein, antioxidants, and nutrients. It may have numerous health benefits, such as helping lower blood sugar and cholesterol levels.

Researchers at TARI Uyole in Mbeya region decided to conduct a study to preserve the crop by increasing production.

## TARI to revive millet farming

Speaking during an interview, a senior researcher for cereal and grain at TARI Dr Denis Tippe said in reviving production of the crop, the institute has come up with three kind of seeds which will be grown in various regions in the country.

"Millet has a lot of advantages to the human body compared to other cereal crops because it has nutrients which are not available in other grains," he said.

He said Tanzanians have had the tendency of eating millet porridge and other foods made from the crop.

The Director for TARI Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said the centre has already finalized the research and come up with three kinds of seeds which will be beneficial to farmers.

He said the seeds are already for distribution in various areas countrywide saying they will be planted depending on the kind of soil

to increase production.

Sorghum and millets are among the most important cereals grown in the semi-arid areas of Tanzania. Potential role of these crops has been pointed out. Production trends and current farming practices are discussed.

Technology Production officer for TARI Uyole Rehema Ole-Seenga said apart from millet seeds, the centre is also conducting studies for other crops which are on the same situation.

## Bukoba residents called on to stop using banned plastic bags

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

RESIDENTS, particularly traders in Bukoba municipality, Kagera Region have been called on to immediately stop using plastic carrier bags before they are arrested to face the wrath of the law.

The head of environment department in the municipality Tambuko Joseph said the May 17, 2019 banning order issued via Government Notice No. 394 against use of plastic bags for carrying goods is still valid but some people in the municipality have been violating the order.

"The government decided to ban the use of the plastic bags and introduced alternative bags, but since then the bags were being smuggled in from Uganda through unauthorized routes," he said.

He said the order by the ministry dealing with environment issues given in January this year set March 31 as deadline for use of these bags, therefore starting today, April 1 the will start arresting people using the banned bags.

Joseph said according to the law on environment preservation importers of the banned plastic bags face a fine of between 20m/- and 1bn/- and or two years in prison.

He said for those storing or distributing the bags they will face 59m/- fine and or two years in prison, and those who sell the bags face a fine of not less than 100,000/- and not exceeding 500,000/-.

He further said for those storing or using the banned bags the penalty was between 30,000/- and 200,000/- and or seven days' imprisonment.

In regard to alternative plastic bags, Joseph said not all those brought in after the banning order were legal as there were some that did not meet the criteria.

He said those allowed must have the name of the manufacturer printed thereon as well as their carrying capacity in weight and must have also the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) mark.

He called upon Bukoba municipal residents, especially traders to cooperate in fighting the use of the banned plastic bags for safe environment.



**he government decided to ban the use of the plastic bags and introduced alternative bags, but since then the bags were being smuggled in from Uganda through unauthorized routes**



# SADC to continue virtual meetings until pandemic situation improves

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) committee of Ministers of Health has recommended that modern technology such as video-conferences, webinars and Skype calls will continue to be used when conducting meetings until the COVID-19 situation is contained in the region. Ministers endorsed the

position during their March 12th 2021 meeting whereas they directed the Expanded Technical Committee for Coordinating and Monitoring the Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Health to continue monitoring the COVID-19 situation and provide timely advice.

They also tasked the committee to analyse the current COVID-19 situation in the African context and provide home-grown

solutions.

The virtual meeting discussed policies, strategies and programmes geared towards consolidating the SADC regional integration in fulfillment of council's mandate as spelt out in Article II of the SADC Treaty.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique, Verónica Nataniel Macamo Dlhovo, chaired the meeting in her capacity as the

chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers.

SADC put on hold the hosting of regional face-to-face meetings in March 2020 due to the outbreak of the coronavirus and instead recommended convening of virtual meetings.

The council of ministers observed during its meeting that the COVID-19 situation in the SADC region has been gradually deteriorating since September 2020 and that number of cases and deaths have exponentially increased in all member states.

Across the region, the case per 100,000 populations has

doubled since September 2020, while some countries have reported four to five-fold increases in cases.

The council of ministers noted that in the third quarter of 2020, the epidemic curve had started to flatten in many countries, following which some social measures were eased and others completely lifted. This phase did not last long before the second wave of the outbreak occurred.

Despite all the public health and social measures implemented by member states to fight the pandemic, a strong resurgence of cases that emerged at the

beginning of the fourth quarter of 2020 has continued to spread relentlessly in all Member States.

In January 2021 most SADC member states reported a sustained increase in new cases of more than 10 percent and there was concern among public health experts that the surge of infections was being driven, in part, by new strains of the corona virus, which are reported to be transmitted more easily than the previous ones.

These variants are rapidly becoming dominant in many parts of the world, replacing other versions of the virus.



Members of the CCM parents organisation in Elerai division, Arusha District, participate in the construction of classrooms for Osunyai Primary School on self-help basis yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya



for a living planet®

## VACANCY: PROJECT EXECUTANT – CORAL REEF RESCUE INITIATIVES (CRR) & FISHERIES

WWF is seeking to hire a competent and motivated Project Executant – Coral Reef Rescue Initiatives (CRR) & Fisheries for its office in Tanzania, based in Dar es salaam.

### Main Tasks

Under the technical guidance of Marine Programme Coordinator, The Project Executant-Coral Reef Initiative will be responsible for leading the implementation of the Coral Reef Rescue Initiative (CRR) in Tanzania, providing strategic leadership to WWF Tanzania for ensuring the conservation and sustainable development in the CRR implementation sites. He/she will be responsible for the implementation of WWF-led Coral Reef Initiative for Tanzania and will be the lead in the implementation and expansion of an existing programme thematic area, Plan, manage and oversee project implementation in accordance with contractual agreements, WWF field operations policies and procedures. Manage projects and the project team and partners using participatory and adaptive management approaches and ensure that management systems are established and maintained. Prepare and oversee the preparation of fundraising strategies and project proposals. Provide technical leadership in major project components, including: coastal marine/fisheries policy development, community-based natural resource planning, eco-forestry, conservation area establishment, community capacity building; training, and project monitoring and evaluation. Support development of project Monitoring and Evaluation baseline as well as M&E plan for coral reef to contribute to the programme;

### Duties & Responsibilities

- Support TPW with the implementation of the thematic activities such as Human-Wildlife-Conflict (HWC) mitigation, participatory land use planning, sustainable rangeland management, eco-friendly business development, community-based natural resource management, wildlife and habitat conservation and according to already established implementation protocols and strategies.
- Provide strategic leadership to WWF Tanzania on strategies for ensuring the conservation and sustainable development in the CRR implementation sites;
- Capitalize on emerging funding opportunities by developing proposal components related to the CRR implementation sites in Tanzania
- Develop notes and briefings for potential partners based on emerging discussions and evolving partnerships
- Prepare and oversee the preparation of fundraising strategies and project proposals
- Provide technical leadership in major project components, including; coastal and marine/fisheries policy development, community-based natural resource planning, eco-forestry, conservation area establishment, community capacity building, training, and project monitoring and evaluation;
- Plan and oversee project development in accordance with contractual agreements, WWF field operations, policies and procedures;
- Coordinate the conduct of regular conference calls with the internal team, partners and stakeholders (include preparation of agenda, hosting the meetings, drafting the meetings reports, distribute reports and documents,

### Required Knowledge and Skills:

- University degree, preferably at Master's level in Marine Ecology, natural resource conservation and management, Environmental science and other related discipline;
- Minimum of 4 years working experience in government, intergovernmental organizations, local and/or international conservation NGOs;
- Experience in coastal conservation initiatives (programmes or projects), particularly on ecology and marine science as well as policy advocacy experience are advantageous;
- Energetic and strategic individual to ensure match-making partnerships and advocacy at national level are facilitated to generate national commitments and catalyse implementation arrangements;

**Additional information**, including Terms of Reference, can be obtained through web address: [http://wwf.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/jobs/](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/jobs/). Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the People & Culture Manager, via email to: [hresources@wwftz.org](mailto:hresources@wwftz.org) by Friday, 16th April 2021 at 4:30 pm. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam or via zoom video conferencing. WWF is an equal opportunity organization.



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## Invitation for Tenders IFT

### Supply VGS working gears and ICT equipment & supplies

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:
  - i. conserving the world's biological diversity;
  - ii. ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
  - iii. promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
2. WWF Tanzania secured funds from KfW, under the Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD). The major objective of SECAD is to effectively protect and manage the natural resources of Selous Game Reserve, Nyerere NP and selected co-management zones in adjacent Districts while contributing to the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor and the entire Selous Ecosystem.
3. Eligibility and Qualification Requirements
  - 3.1 Possession of a registration professional certificate or licence related to ranger camp/security gears/ equipment from relevant authorities;
  - 3.2 The bidder must attach a minimum of 3 similar or related reference projects on which has worked. The reference projects must be of ranger camp equipment related;
  - 3.3 The bidder must have positive reputation for good business practice and professionalism; and
  - 3.4 Current physical location of the bidder mentioning region and district where is registered and operating, which will be inspected for verification;

4. WWF Tanzania now invites applications from eligible registered suppliers to supply VGS working gears and ICT equipment and supplies

S/N	Tender name	Tender lot number
1	Supply of VGS working gears	WWF/TCO/SECAD/VGS 001
2	Supply of ICT equipment & supplies	WWF/TCO/SECAD/ICT_002

5. Detailed tender advert and the list of equipment to be supplied is accessible through WWF website; <http://tanzania.panda.org/>; [tanzania.panda.org](http://tanzania.panda.org/); email; [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)

6. Only electronic applications are required to be directed to the procurement email; [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)

7. All applications should reach us by or before 10am Thursday, 15th April 2021 at Tanzania local time



THURSDAY 1 APRIL 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## More efforts needed to solve Dar's traffic congestion

THE ongoing widening of the New Bagamoyo and Shekilango Roads in Dar es Salaam gives hopes that traffic congestion in the city would be greatly eased.

But just hopes, for we were told several years ago that Dar city road congestion would be greatly eased, if not past history after the inauguration of the Kimara-Magomeni Ferry rapid transport motorway (mwendokasi).

That has yet to show even though, in addition, two fly-overs have been inaugurated in the intervening period - the one at Mandela-Pugu roads intersection and Mandela-Morogoro Road junction, christened "Mfugale" and "Kijazi" fly overs respectively.

They have not shown any tangible relief to the Dar City commuters transport woes.

As for the 'Mwendokasi' motorway, at times the entire system becomes closed due to rains which flood the Jangwani stretch of the infrastructure due what was clearly poor workmanship in its planning.

The stretch, well known for floods since times immemorial needed a raised bridge right from the Fire-UN Road junction to Magomeni Mapipa, and it is still not clear whether the government has that in its plans to solve the teaser.

One would also question the government's decision to construct the so called Tanzanite Bridge connecting Upanga and

Oyster Bay areas across the Indian Ocean, instead of the Jangwani stretch bridge that joins two of the city's populated areas.

However, it would be wrong to heap blame for all the Dar commuters' transport woes entirely on the Government, local or central. It is true that the road network was never designed to accommodate the amount of vehicular traffic that plies the labyrinthine grid that makes the roads and streets of Dar es Salaam. On the other hand, this hopeless situation is exacerbated by the very bad road manners by all types of road users, including foul-mouthed drivers and pedestrians one encounters on the city roads.

It is also by no means certain whether even the Police know why motorists in this city punch the Highway Code on the nose.

And talking of the law enforcement organs, they appear to be overwhelmed by the scale of wanton disregard of laws and simply the absence of good road manners.

And while our upcountry roads continue to haunt those using them, passengers and pedestrians alike through loss of life and limb, those in the city of Dar es Salaam inculcate their own version of anguish in traffic congestion.

The only difference between the two is the speed. In the former it's the vehicles' jet-speed that claim human lives while in the latter it's their snail pace that infuriates and inconveniences many motorists.

## Responding to challenges of climate change calls for global response

METEOROLOGY is a branch of the atmospheric sciences which includes atmospheric chemistry and atmospheric physics, with a major focus on weather forecasting. The study of meteorology dates back millennia, though significant progress in meteorology did not occur until the 18th century. The 19th century saw modest progress in the field after weather observation networks were formed across broad regions.

Prior attempts at prediction of weather depended on historical data. It was not until after the elucidation of the laws of physics and more particularly, the development of the computer, allowing for the automated solution of a great many equations that model the weather, in the latter half of the 20th century that significant breakthroughs in weather forecasting were achieved. An important domain of weather forecasting is marine weather forecasting as it relates to maritime and coastal safety, in which weather effects also include atmospheric interactions with large bodies of water.

Meteorological phenomena are observable weather events that are explained by the science of meteorology. Meteorological phenomena are described and quantified by the variables of Earth's atmosphere: temperature, air pressure, water vapour, mass flow, and the variations and interactions of those variables, and how they change over time. Different spatial scales are used to describe and predict weather on local, regional, and global levels.

The word meteorology is from the Ancient Greek meteor and logia meaning "the study of things high in the air." The ability to predict rains and floods based on annual cycles was evidently used by humans at least from the time of agricultural settlement if not earlier. In 350 BC, Aristotle wrote Meteorology. Aristotle is considered

the founder of meteorology. One of the most impressive achievements described in the Meteorology is the description of what is now known as the hydrologic cycle.

In 1494, Christopher Columbus experienced a tropical cyclone, which led to the first written European account of a hurricane. Over the next 50 years, many countries established national meteorological services. In 1904, Norwegian scientist Vilhelm Bjerknes first argued in his paper Weather Forecasting as a Problem in Mechanics and Physics that it should be possible to forecast weather from calculations based upon natural laws.[52][53]

It was not until later in the 20th century that advances in the understanding of atmospheric physics led to the foundation of modern numerical weather prediction. In 1922, Lewis Fry Richardson published "Weather Prediction By Numerical Process,"[54] after finding notes and derivations he worked on as an ambulance driver in World War I. He described how small terms in the prognostic fluid dynamics equations that govern atmospheric flow could be neglected, and a numerical calculation scheme that could be devised to allow predictions. Richardson envisioned a large auditorium of thousands of people performing the calculations.

However, the sheer number of calculations required was too large to complete without electronic computers, and the size of the grid and time steps used in the calculations led to unrealistic results. Though numerical analysis later found that this was due to numerical instability.

World Meteorological Day was established in 1961 to commemorate the World Meteorological Organisation creation on 23 March, 1950. This organisation announces a slogan for World Meteorology Day every year, and this day is celebrated in all member countries.

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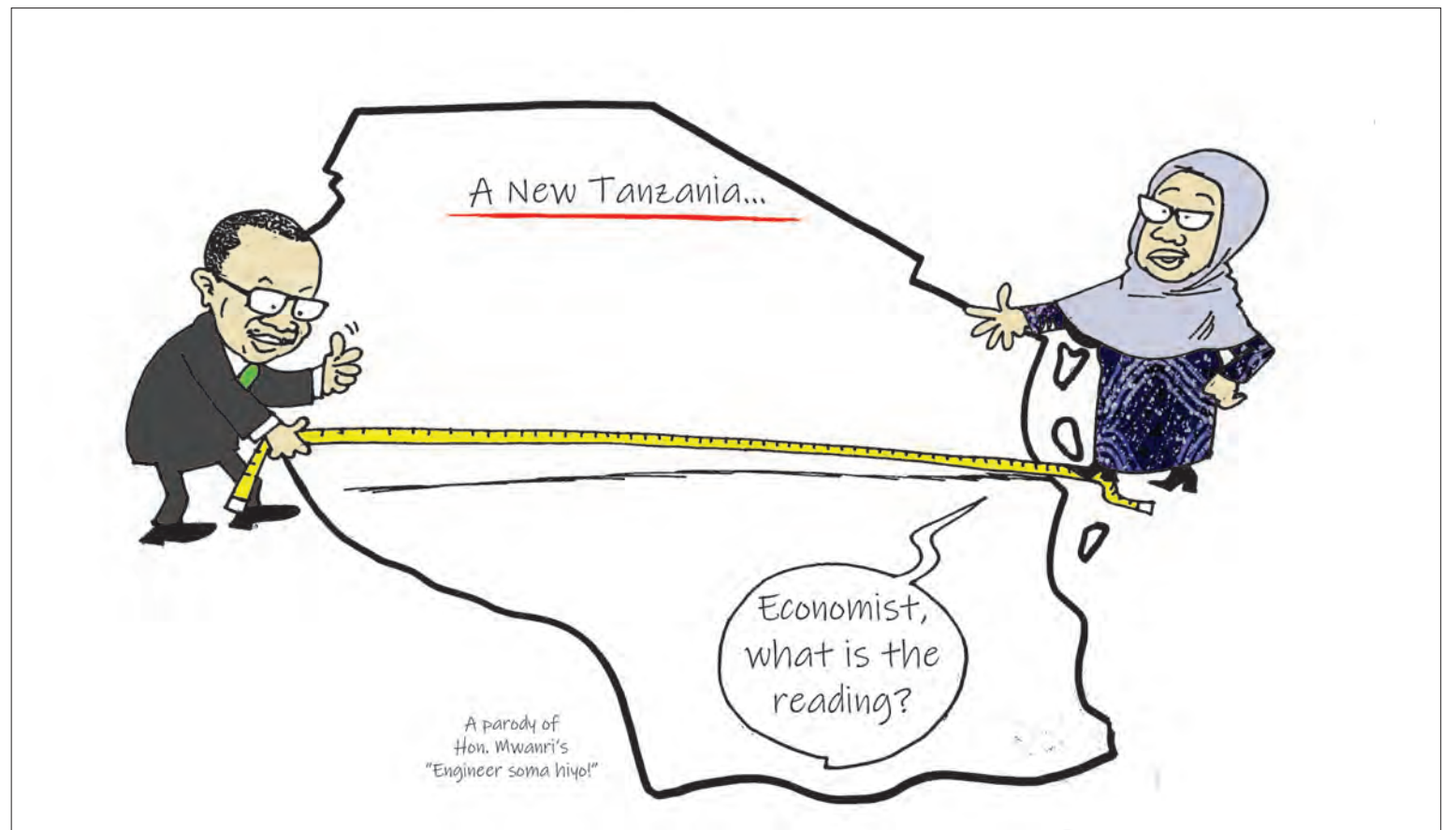
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By Special Correspondent

THE COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest challenge to the global community since the 1940s. At that time, following the devastation of two world wars, political leaders came together to forge the multilateral system. The aims were clear: to bring countries together, to dispel the temptations of isolationism and nationalism, and to address the challenges that could only be achieved together in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, namely peace, prosperity, health and security.

Today, we hold the same hope that as we fight to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic together, we can build a more robust international health architecture that will protect future generations. There will be other pandemics and other major health emergencies. No single government or multilateral agency can address this threat alone. The question is not if, but when. Together, we must be better prepared to predict, prevent, detect, assess and effectively respond to pandemics in a highly coordinated fashion. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark and painful reminder that nobody is safe until everyone is safe.

By Special Correspondent

THIS weekend will be the Easter holiday and already people will be making plans and preparations, some, as always, responsibly, but others regrettably and as always, irresponsibly.

Easter starts off as the major religious event on the Christian calendar, which is why there is a four-day holiday to start with. But for many people it is a time to take a break, to visit family, to socialise a bit, even to party.

And this year, with the modified school terms, there is an opportunity to visit children at boarding school.

But there are also dangers. As usual there might be more people driving on the roads, more people driving fast, more people driving after drinking, so there is every likelihood that more people will die on the roads.

But for the second Easter running we will also have Covid-19. Last year few of us believed that this could involve. Now we know. The Christmas holidays helped spark off the second wave that killed almost 1 500 people, and we are back down to a modest level of lockdown. So the irresponsible might kill a lot more.

The churches have taken a highly responsible attitude. The processions, the vigils, the special services have all been cancelled. Services on offer will be the

## COVID-19 shows why united action is needed for more robust international health architecture

We are, therefore, committed to ensuring universal and equitable access to safe, efficacious and affordable vaccines, medicines and diagnostics for this and future pandemics. Immunization is a global public good and we will need to be able to develop, manufacture and deploy vaccines as quickly as possible.

This is why the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) was set up in order to promote equal access to tests, treatments and vaccines and support health systems across the globe. ACT-A has delivered on many aspects but equitable access is not achieved yet. There is more we can do to promote global access.

To that end, we believe that nations should work together towards a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response.

Such a renewed collective commitment would be a milestone in stepping up pandemic preparedness at the highest political level. It would be rooted in the constitution of the World Health Organization, drawing in other relevant organizations key to this endeavour, in support of the

principle of health for all. Existing global health instruments, especially the International Health Regulations, would underpin such a treaty, ensuring a firm and tested foundation on which we can build and improve.

The main goal of this treaty would be to foster an all-of-government and all-of-society approach, strengthening national, regional and global capacities and resilience to future pandemics. This includes greatly enhancing international cooperation to improve, for example, alert systems, data-sharing, research, and local, regional and global production and distribution of medical and public health counter measures, such as vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and personal protective equipment.

It would also include recognition of a "One Health" approach that connects the health of humans, animals and our planet. And such a treaty should lead to more mutual accountability and shared responsibility, transparency and cooperation within the international system and with its rules and norms.

To achieve this, we will work with Heads of State and

governments globally and all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. We are convinced that it is our responsibility, as leaders of nations and international institutions, to ensure that the world learns the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a time when COVID-19 has exploited our weaknesses and divisions, we must seize this opportunity and come together as a global community for peaceful cooperation that extends beyond this crisis. Building our capacities and systems to do this will take time and require a sustained political, financial and societal commitment over many years.

Our solidarity in ensuring that the world is better prepared will be our legacy that protects our children and grandchildren and minimizes the impact of future pandemics on our economies and our societies.

Pandemic preparedness needs global leadership for a global health system fit for this millennium. To make this commitment a reality, we must be guided by solidarity, fairness, transparency, inclusiveness and equity.

## Let's be responsible this Easter holiday

50-congregant services, perhaps a string of them over one day, but nothing like the norm.

Online services have become common, but there is still time for radio and television broadcasters to organise something for the many who are not online.

While there is a broad spread of Christian denominations, it should be possible, when looking at number of groups, to broadcast a Catholic Mass, a traditional Protestant service and an evangelical service.

These could even be split between stations so that each broadcasts just one, but with broadcasters getting together so that almost everyone is covered with no duplication. The liturgical churches cancelled their Palm Sunday processions yesterday, they have cancelled the special Way of the Cross procession on Good Friday, Holy Week services are either not open to the public or restricted to 50 people.

The special vigils have to be done at home. It will not be a normal Easter and many will be disappointed, but the churches are not going to kill anyone. They mark a death: they celebrate a resurrection.

But other people may not be so responsible and here we need to appeal to everyone. Many journeys are just social, or even specifically

for family matters. We need to ask ourselves if they are necessary, or just desirable. And no one should make unnecessary journeys.

Social gatherings over a long weekend are traditional. Again do we need to gather? We are not just exposing ourselves to risk, we are exposing many others to risk. Is it not possible to forgo transitory pleasures to reduce risks?

We can phone our children at boarding school, we can phone our friends and separated members of our families. We do not have to drive around the countryside seeing everyone.

It will be different. It will be hard. And it will be safe. As usual, a major responsibility lies with the police who not only have to enforce traffic rules, but also the lockdown rules. And they need to do this because, whoever makes the appeals and whatever the responsible decide to do, there will be many who will not act responsibly.

So road patrols need to be mounted, to contain not just bad driving, but health safety. Are people in cars masked? Are cars overloaded? Are drivers drinking? Are drivers speeding? Are drivers offering illegal public transport?

Pirate kombis continue to operate, mushikashika will be out to make a killing, both metaphorically and literally.

Other patrols have to look at

shebeens, at large private parties, at people congregating and partying in public places, including the back doors of bottle stores.

As usual the police will be accused of being killjoys, but they are not just enforcing laws, but also preserving lives. There is still a curfew; it might not start until 10pm, but it is there and needs to be enforced.

The lockdown might no longer be a level four, but we still have a lockdown and we are still all under lockdown regulations.

We cannot have a repeat of the Christmas festive season, the shutting of large sections of the economy, the extra deaths and the extra thousands ill at home, just because a bunch of people reckoned they were entitled to take things easy and have fun.

The national vaccination programme is now being stepped up, but despite the tens of thousands who have already been given their jabs, the extra teams being deployed to give jabs, the thousands pouring in vaccination centres each day, we are still below one percent of the numbers we need for herd immunity.

A lot of the most vulnerable are now at least partially protected, but there is a long, hard journey ahead of us until we achieve our victory over Covid-19. Victory is certain, but the battle is not easy.



# Rethinking federal role in Nigeria's university system

By Ladipo Adamolekun

THE Federal Government's hijack of regional universities in 1975 was consistent with the centralism and uniformity that the military imposed on the country during their close to 30 year-rule. The universities at Nsukka, Ife, and Zaria - established by regional governments in 1960, 1962, and 1962 respectively - were taken over by the federal military government.

The strong health of state-owned Lagos State University (LASU) today - ranked third after the University of Ibadan and University of Lagos out of the six Nigerian universities among the world's best 1,500, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021 - is evidence that military centralism most probably had a negative impact on the health of the three regional universities.

Another important negative consequence for the health of Nigeria's university system caused by military centralism and uniformity deserves to be highlighted. This is the transformation of the National University Commission (NUC) into an over-powerful and control-oriented government parastatal with very extensive powers that significantly undercut the powers of individual federal universities, and by extension, all the other universities. At its establishment in 1962, NUC was assigned only a buffer role: to function as a neutral body managing the relationship between the government and the universities.

In the remaining paragraphs of this essay, I focus on three key areas of federal intervention in the university system that require rethinking: (i) role of NUC; (ii) interface with university staff unions, and (iii) support for research and development. I conclude with brief advocacy of the improved health of Nigeria's university system.

**Role Of NUC: Over-Centralised Policy Regime and Burdensome Regulation**

As already mentioned, the NUC was established in 1962 to serve as a buffer between the universities and the government and was regarded as a protector of the autonomy of the universities. However, with the adoption of a series of decrees under successive military governments from the 1970s through the 1980s to the 1990s, the NUC became an over-powerful government parastatal with very extensive powers. In some respects, the powers conferred on the NUC amount to the usurpation of the powers of both University Councils and Senates as per the laws and statutes that established the institutions.

Beyond what would pass as appropriate statutory and regulatory functions such as the administration of government subventions and grants to universities, quality assurance and accreditation of courses, and gathering and collation of quality data sets and statistics on all Nigerian universities, the NUC is today involved in a wide range of activities for which it has no comparative advantage whatsoever (for example, project implementation for universities, organisation of annual research fairs, and administration of a central research fund scheme). There is strong evidence that NUC's centralized, domineering, and unified approach stifles experimentation and initiative at the level of individual universities (public and private).

To end the centralism and uniformity that NUC has imposed on universities since the 1970s - with an increasingly heavier burden on the universities over the decades - measures aimed at reducing its powers and the wide scope of its functions should include abrogating those that enable it to wrongly push for uniformity among all universities (public and private) in disregard of the obvious point that uniformity and excellence are antithetical.

I would also recommend that NUC's accreditation function be hived off (together with staff and resources) and assigned to a separate independent statutory body. The Accreditation Board/Council will be exclusively concerned with accrediting public and private universities as is the case in Ghana. Furthermore, there should be an immediate end to the operational subordination of universities to the NUC that results in key officers of the institutions spending a significant proportion of time in Abuja instead of working on their campuses.

**Federal Interface with University Staff Unions**

The operation of centralised labour unions for teachers at all levels that made sense under centralised unitary military rule has been maintained under civilian rule when the hierarchical federal-state relationship should no longer exist, at least, according to the 1999 Constitution.

Specifically, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) negotiates salaries and other conditions of service at the federal level and the agreements become binding on state governments that did not participate in the negotiations. Persistent strikes that are linked to the challenge of implementing the agreements reached at such negotiations continue to undermine teaching and learning in both federal and state universities.

Although ASUU has contributed hugely to the search for solutions to some of the problems that have caused the progressive decline in university education since the 1980s, it is also the case that ASUU has contributed to some of the problems that have caused the decline. Paradoxically, the use of the strike weapon - estimated to account for close to 30 per cent of total time between 1999 and 2020 - that has been crucial in some of ASUU's positive contributions has also resulted in an unstable academic calendar that is widely regarded as a signpost of decline. Concretely, an unstable academic calendar drives away foreign students and scholars, and Nigerians who can afford it go outside the country for university education, including in sub-standard institutions in Ghana.

Given that tertiary education is in the concurrent legislative list, a state government that establishes a university should determine staff salaries and other conditions of service through the Governing Council that it creates. And it is reasonable to expect that the salaries and other conditions of service in universities across states would reflect the financial capability of the different states.

Thus, while some states would be able to match the salary levels that the federal government establishes for the staff (academic and non-academic) in its universities, others might not be able to match them; and a few might be able to afford higher salary levels. The uniformity that currently prevails regarding staff salaries and other conditions of service across all public universities is illogical and must be abandoned. Consequently, there would be as many university staff unions as there are government owners and this will help end the debilitating uniformity inherited from the military era and the concomitant unending nation-wide union strikes.

**Federal Support for Research and Development**

Of the 90 countries that have spent at least 50 million US dollars on research and development, R&D (with data set ranging from 2007 to 2018), only nine are in Africa (information accessed online on March 17th, 2021). The countries are, in descending order of total spending on R&D: Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, Ethiopia, Tunisia,



Uganda, Sudan, Algeria, and Botswana. Strikingly, Nigeria, the continent's largest economy, is missing while Egypt and South Africa, the second and third largest African economies, top the list. Against this backdrop, President Buhari's recent announcement that Nigeria will henceforth spend 0.5% of its GDP on R&D - see Vanguard, March 16th, 2021 - would qualify as a declara-

tion of intent to catch up. Better late than never!

Assuming that the declared amount is provided in the 2022 budget and released during the Financial Year, Nigeria's 0.5% R&D spending would still be lower than that of five of the nine African countries listed above, with between 0.6% and 0.8%.

In most countries, government

support for R&D predominates in funding academic R&D, with universities relying on industry and their own institutional funds to a lesser extent. In the absence of a formal structure for R&D, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) recently added support for academic R&D to its functions. Nature abhors a vacuum! Given the promised new big push for R&D spending,



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# Talents that lay waste due to addiction

BY ALEM HAILU

**W**HILE I was walking down to Kazanchis a girl who rented a traditional coffee corner on the veranda of a restaurant round Meneharia Photo House Ethiopia, capital Addis Abba loudly said:

"Hello Alex, we don't see much of you these days. Why don't you get in and have a cup of coffee?"

"I'm in a hurry but I can spare five minutes if you can fix the coffee fast!" I looked my watch.

"I will see to it," she projected a sunny face.

I took a wooden stool beside another client with a hoary head.

Soon this short and stout girl started fanning the charcoal stove still talking to me. She has a bent of explaining things with her hand.

"Haven't you heard that the girl, whose bill you liked to foot, has passed away?"

"Do you mean the tall and elegant one with aquiline nose?"

"Right you are! She had also dimples on her cheeks."

I nodded yes.

"What happened? I remember she liked boozing."

"As if she were a fish she often drank round the clock," she giggled and added

"Yes. Sorrowfully one sad morning in her parent's house she was found dead in her bed."

"What a tragedy! She did tell me she was a mother of two," I projected pity-stamped face.

"I think she was either separated or divorced. Once, riding a car her mother and sister came to take her away reminding her she had a court appointment on the morrow. Presenting them coffee I overheard their talk about inheritance. You see she was from a well-to-do family."

"How come she loved this house?"

"It has a spare room for 'Chat' chewers, addicts and gamblers that chitchat day long."

"Is that so?"

"Yes!"

"I have observed that when the addict trespass the limit they spiral out of the orbit that binds them to the community."

"Those who are hardcore addicts of 'Chat' end up half normal."

The hoary-headed man cut in

"A friend of mine that helped me a lot while I was assigned a teacher at Dolomena School in the then Bale province gradually became a chat addict. You see a diploma holder of school administration, this gentleman that used to neatly dress, was the director of the school.

Fifteen years later after I settled in Addis I found him a shabby job-seeking loafer. Out of pity, I allowed him to stay with me till he got a job. For three months he stayed with me. But at last I had to browbeat him to leave of his accord."

"Why?" The chubby girl asked.

"He simply wants me to buy Chat at least twice a day. He couldn't tell whether it is sun up or sun down leave alone it is Monday or Sunday. He forgot he had to take a shower.

Also, he was not washing his clothes and shocks. His nails turned filthy. He was inured to filthiness. Though I advised him to change the sad episode 'Okay! Sorry!' he used to say."

"He became inured to his repellent condition. I have no alternative than being harsh for our own good! I forced him to leave."

"Have you heard from him since then?"

"No. He disappeared into a thin air."

"I have observed addicts resort to thievery when they stop short of money for Chat and alcohol. Such a girl did steal me a cellphone I bought deducting money from my two-year saving," the stout girl poured coffee into two cups and handed it to us.

"That is why some service giving government employees become corrupt. Also the girl addicts will willy-nilly resort to commercial sex work," the man added.

"Sure," I said.

"On top of 'Chat' most of them smoke cigarettes. I often shudder when I reflect how the combined effect of 'Chat', cigarette and alcohol could change the aroma of their mouths. I wonder why men fail to shun such girls," the girl put her hand on her head.

"Their likes could like them! As the Amharic adage goes 'Filthy with filthy trek together' (Birds of the same feather fly together.) A revolting thing! " the man laughed accompanied by us.

"By the way how is my coffee?" the girl asked.

"As usual excellent," said the man.

"One Christmas morning when I went to a church for a prayer an emaciated man got up among a large circle of the destitute being fed by Sunday school students who were offering them special dishes killing sheep pooling resources from the



faithful. First I didn't recognize him. But when he drew closer saying 'Alex' Oh Getahun is that you?" I proffered him my hand.

"It was long since I saw you last he said." His unkempt hair and tattered clothes were telling that he is out of job as he can't hold down one gradually turning a 'Chat' addict. Around Piazza, he used to invest his salary on a roomful of chat chewers that do the same when they get money.

Before he knows it this sought-for teacher of Commercial Mathematics in one of the High Schools of Addis tragically turned into a hard-core addict. He was missing classes and as such frequently receiving warning letters. He had almost lost all of his dark brown teeth practically fully chiseled down.

"Via corrupt officials involved in the export and sale of 'Chat' the unreformed government had deliberately promoted 'Chat' addiction. Don't you remember the long line of gentlemen and cars by that shop?" he pointed his finger across the road.

When my phone rang I stood up and said "It is from my friend waiting

for me around Total Petroleum Station. I have to hurry up. Have a nice time! I handed the stout girl 15 birr saying "For three cups of coffee including you!"

"Thank you!" Said the man.

Of all addicts I know, I feel pity to Bethesda a tall attractive girl, a graduate of sociology from Addis Ababa University. Attracted I had put her under my radar. Once, in the same taxi from Arat Kilo to Kazanchis I did get a chance to talk to her. Stunned by the profound knowledge she has about socioeconomic and philosophical issues I asked her a favor to invite her a cup of tea under the pretext of continuing the discussion.

Winning her consent over a cup of tea we deliberated for hours on end.

"Men chauvinists' line of reasoning is embedded in the logo centrism which talks about the presence and absence of the reproductive organs in the three dimensional space. They relate it with the biblical saying 'There was light at the beginning!'"

"I see the presence of male's reproductive organ in the three dimensional space allows him the upper hand! What reasoning!" I said.

"Sigmund Freud also asserts male's superiority claiming 'Males are active while females are passive in conjugal felicity,' "she unzipped her lips.

"So funny!" I said.

"But feminists slam the idea with women's power of giving birth capitalizing on the ability of bringing forth something new."

"A better reasoning!" I said happily. "Are you supporter of feminism?" she laughed.

"Yes I have translated the short stories of Maxim Gorky in Amharic. If you read his works you will be surprised how with word pictures he paints women."

"Yes he uses brighter hues for women. I know Gorky, the figurehead of Socialist Realism," she said.

Though unwilling to give me her cellphone number I managed to receive her e-mail address. Even if I wrote to her three letters she failed to respond. Once I met her pale. She could not identify me as she was imaginatively transported to another world. She was nonstop squeezing her nose with her fingers.

When I told a girl colleague about Bethesda a she said "She might have sniffed a weed (a drug)!"

I used to meet her at least once in a three month. Unfortunately, three years have elapsed since I saw her last. She was a girl of a well off family in Bole. I'm afraid we might have lost her to addiction.

## USAID | TANZANIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) No. 72062121R00003

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Tanzania is seeking proposals from eligible organizations interested in implementing the Tanzania Comprehensive Client-Centered Health Program—HIV and Tuberculosis (C3HP-HIV&TB). The purpose of this program is to increase the demand for and use of quality integrated HIV, TB and Family Planning services, particularly by youth and children, leading to improved health outcomes.

This procurement is conducted under a limited competition to "Local Partners". Only Tanzania local organizations that meet the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief's (PEPFAR) definition of a Local Partner as provided below are eligible to compete and submit offers.

1	Either	Must be incorporated or legally organized under the laws of, and have its principal place of business in the country served by the PEPFAR program with which the entity is involved;
	or	Must exist in the region where the entity's funded PEPFAR programs are implemented.
2	Either	Must be at 75% beneficially owned at the time of application by individuals who are citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of the same country;
	or	At least 75% of the entity's staff (senior, mid-level, support) at the time of application must be citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of that same country.
3		Where an entity has a Board of Directors, at least 51% of the members of the Board must be citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of such country.

For purposes of this RFP, "Principal Place of Business" means the primary location where the business is performed. In this case, the prime organization's principal place of business must be Tanzania.

The full solicitation and its subsequent amendments can be downloaded from the US Government's official website at <https://beta.sam.gov/>. To access the solicitation from the website, search by the key word "C3HP-HIV&TB Local". Organizations that are unable to find the solicitation can request an electronic copy (as attachment via e-mail) by contacting USAID at [usaidthzco@usaid.gov](mailto:usaidthzco@usaid.gov).

Questions on the RFP and proposals in response to the RFP must be submitted in writing to USAID at [usaidthzco@usaid.gov](mailto:usaidthzco@usaid.gov), and must be received no later than the dates indicated on the cover page of the RFP.

Thank you for your interest in USAID/Tanzania program activities.



### ADVERTISED EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO UNDERTAKE EXTERNAL AUDIT ASSIGNMENT AT POLICY FORUM.

**POLICY FORUM LIMITED** Policy Forum is a dynamic network of over 60 Tanzania Civil Society Organisations drawn together by their interest in influencing policy processes on good governance and accountability with a specific focus on public money accountability. The network is facilitated through a lean secretariat office.

Policy Forum (PF) invites "Expression of Interest" from reputed and experienced auditors to undertake assignment for; External Auditing for the financial year ending December 31st, 2021

- Terms of Reference, scope of audit work, application form and relevant documents are found at [www.policyforum.or.tz](http://www.policyforum.or.tz)
- The sealed tenders containing "Expression of Interest" for External Audit Assignment should be submitted to Policy Forum by **8<sup>th</sup> April 2021**.
- Preference for international affiliated Audit Firms invited to undertake the External Audit Assignment.
- PF reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

#### MODE OF SUBMISSION

Interested firm should send their application to address below by **8<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. Only short listed firms will be contacted.

**Executive Director**  
**Policy Forum**  
**P.O Box 38486**  
**Dar-es-Salaam**  
**Email: [info@policyforum.or.tz](mailto:info@policyforum.or.tz)**



# New global tracker to measure pandemic's impact on education worldwide - survey

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

**J**OHNS Hopkins University, the World Bank, and UNICEF have partnered to create a COVID-19 Global Education Recovery Tracker to measure the impact of the pandemic which has disrupted education for 1.6 billion children worldwide over the past year.

Launched last week, the tool assists countries' decision-making by tracking reopening and recovery planning efforts in more than 200 countries and territories.

The Global Education Recovery Tracker seeks to build upon Johns Hopkins University's pivotal work in gathering quality data on COVID-19 cases, testing, and vaccinations, along with the strategic roles that the World Bank and UNICEF play in operational and policy support to countries during the pandemic.

"Throughout the pandemic Johns Hopkins has demonstrated the vital role for universities in providing accurate, evidence-based data and information for the world," said Johns Hopkins Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Sunil Kumar.

Kumar added: "We hope the work of this partnership will build understanding of how COVID-19 continues to affect students everywhere."

World Bank Global Director for Education, Jaime Saavedra said: "The world was facing a learning crisis before COVID-19. The learning poverty rate - the proportion of 10-year-olds unable to read a short, age-appropriate text - was 53 per cent in low- and middle-income countries prior to COVID-19, compared to only 9 per cent for high-income countries.

"A year into the pandemic, continued disruptions to schooling, shifts in learning modalities, and concerns for students' well-being are ever greater, and this learning

crisis is getting worse. COVID-19 related school closures are likely to increase learning poverty to as much as 63 percent," noted WB director.

Saavedra noted that in many countries, students and teachers need urgent supplemental support. He said to return to school requires accelerated, remedial, and hybrid learning, as well as other interventions.

"Collecting and monitoring this data on what countries are doing is critically important to help us understand the magnitude of what support is needed as we go forward, learning from the major trends observed among countries," he added.

"Even as vaccines are beginning to rollout worldwide, for hundreds of millions of the world's schoolchildren, the consequences of this pandemic are far from over," said UNICEF Chief of Education Robert Jenkins.

Jenkins added: "We must prioritize the reopening of schools, including prioritizing teachers to receive COVID-19 vaccines once frontline health personnel and high-risk populations are vaccinated. While such decisions ultimately rest with governments making difficult tradeoffs, we must do everything in our power to safeguard the future of the next generation. And this begins by safeguarding those responsible for opening that future up for them."

Data through early March 2021 show that 51 countries have fully returned to in-person education. In more than 90 countries, students are being instructed through multiple modalities, with some schools open, others closed, and many offering hybrid learning options.

Regionally, there are emerging indications of shifts in learning modalities. Remote learning continues to dominate in the Middle East and North Africa where schools were largely closed in recent weeks.

However, in Sub-Saharan Africa, most students are physically attending school.

In addition to tracking the operational status of schools, the Tracker will also monitor how students are being supported. This includes changes to the school year schedule, tutoring, and remediation, especially for the primary school grades.

These interventions will be a critical component of the education recovery process after a year that has affected the learning and well-being of 95 percent of school children across the globe.

In countries where the COVID-19 vaccine is available, the tool is tracking whether teachers are eligible as a priority group. As of early March, teachers are largely not being immunized as a priority group in low- and low-middle-income countries.

Of the 130 countries where vaccine information was available, more than two-thirds are not currently vaccinating teachers as a priority group.

The Tracker is intended to offer evidence that informs policy makers and researchers working on COVID-19 responses. The tool is built to have the flexibility to incorporate emerging issues while offering a time trend of actions in the past months.



**Even as vaccines are beginning to rollout worldwide, for hundreds of millions of the world's schoolchildren, the consequences of this pandemic are far from over**

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Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania

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Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Akiba Commercial Bank joins fellow Tanzanians in congratulating Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango for being sworn in as the new Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

**FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY**

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**REPORTS TO: HEAD OF RESEARCH, MONITORING AND LEARNING**

Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) seeks to contribute to a Tanzanian society where empowered and responsible citizens realize social and economic justice and an improved quality of life. Since its founding in 2002, FCS has grown into one of the largest sources of funding and capacity building services to civil society organizations. FCS seeks to fill the position of Research, Monitoring, and Learning Officer who will work under the supervision of the Head of Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning.

**ABOUT THE ROLE**

The Research, Monitoring, and Learning Officer will be responsible for maintaining a robust M & E system that generates quality information for purposes of assessing progress, making performance improvements and programming decisions, as well as accountability to development partners and the public. The role will entail the following:

**Design:** The job holder will participate in the design of the organization's MEL frameworks and information systems for the core program and other initiatives carried out by the organization. As a grantmaking organization, this role will also ensure that MEL frameworks for all grantees are robust enough and are aligned with FCS' programmatic outcomes. Key products that the job holder will be fully or partly responsible for include: FCS' theory of change, theory of action, results framework, data collection tools, and a data/knowledge management system.

**Implementation:** The job holder will check all programmatic activities carried out within FCS for progress against set targets. She/he will also facilitate the collection of information and carry out analyses to assist the organization in its internal reflections as well as reporting. Key activities will include monitoring visits, support visits, desk review of reports, surveys, learning and reflection sessions, training assessments, research studies and others.

**Other roles:** The job holder will maintain effective relationships with staff, consultants and donors where required. From time to time, she/he will provide administrative and technical support in the implementation of activities in the MERL department.

**CANDIDATE'S PROFILE:**

Professional Background: The ideal candidate will be a mid to senior level professional in research, M&E and related fields with over 5 years of experience. Expertise in implementing MEL in governance, economic empowerment, gender equality and social inclusion, disability and human rights will be an added advantage.

**Education:** She/he should possess a Master's degree in M&E, research, social sciences, public policy, international development, economics, or a related field.

**Skills and Personal Attributes:** The ideal candidate must be capable of working with dynamic datasets, programme frameworks and passionate about using advanced computer programs to analyse and present information to diverse groups of audiences. She/he will also possess strong analytical and writing skills in both English and Swahili.

**REMUNERATION**

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**MODE OF APPLICATION**

If you feel you meet the criteria outlined above, please apply in writing to the address below, and enclose the following documents:

- A typed application letter stating why you feel you are the best candidate for the post
- A fully typed curriculum vitae (CV)
- Copies of relevant certificates
- Full contact details, including telephone numbers and e-mail address
- The names and contact details of three (3) professional references.

Closing date for all applications will be **15<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 at 15:00hrs**  
Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

**The Executive Director**  
Foundation for Civil Society,  
7 Madai Crescent Ada Estate Plot 154,  
P. O. Box 7192,  
Dar es Salaam.  
Website: [www.thefoundation.or.tz](http://www.thefoundation.or.tz)  
Email: [jobs@thefoundation.or.tz](mailto:jobs@thefoundation.or.tz)

*The Foundation has zero tolerance to bribery and corruption. We are committed to Gender Equality and Diversity.*

*The Foundation is also an equal opportunity employer and therefore all applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, genetics, disability and age.*

**World Health Organization**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**SSA – Data Clerk**

**Position Description:** N/A

**Position Number:** Data Clerk for Immunization Unit

**Position Title:** G.06 - 01

**Grade and Step:** UHC /VD

**Unit/Team:** WCO Tanzania

**Major Office:** Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar

**Duty Station:** WHO

**Organization:** SSA

**Nature of Position:** SSA

**Date Classified:**

**CCOG Code:**

**First Level Supervisor:** UHC/CDN Team Lead

**Second Level Supervisor:** WHO Representative Tanzania

**1. Rationale**

**Purpose of the SSA:**

**Background**

Tanzania has made tremendous progress in eradication of poliomyelitis and elimination of MNTC and measles. The last case of Polio was in 1996 and since then no case of wild poliomyelitis or cVDPV has been detected in Tanzania. In 2020, the WHO African region was declared polio free, however more efforts are needed to sustain the gains by continuing with routine immunization and strengthening vaccine preventable diseases surveillance. Therefore, a strong Monitoring and evaluation system with accompanying accountability is indispensable for better guiding the program towards the goals. Data Management is a very crucial component to ensure effective implementation of M&E system.

**Scope and Methodology**

The incumbent is expected to support the country and zonal surveillance officers in data management, monitoring and evaluation activities. Under the direct supervision of the WHO IVD team leader Operation Officer, the incumbent's duties shall be to:

**Summary of Assigned Duties:**

- Assist with data presentation, analysis and interpretation.
- Prepare reports and disseminate as required relevant levels
- Manage all Disease Surveillance Case-based and Line listed cases (AFP, AFP-CVF, Measles, NNT, YF, CSM), IDSR
- Produce timely and disseminate to the ZC and relevant levels weekly/monthly and quarterly EPI feedback
- Produce quality analysis/reports from all data generated to enhance decision making at relevant levels
- Systematically provide feedback to states and laboratories on data quality as well as timeliness and completeness
- To classify cases accordingly using all available parameters (Lab result, DCIF and NPEC decision)
- Prepare Alerts for Detailed Case Investigation due for Sixty Days Follow up
- Collate and Collaborate with data managers in the Polio/Measles/Rota Virus/PBM Laboratories and State Coordinators/other state staff and Central Level staff to ensure that data is captured and updated
- Ensure timely submission of data to the central level
- Data harmonization with all levels involved (Lab/WCO/Zone)
- Keep records of all PBM/Rota Virus data received
- Update databases with results received from Polio/Measles laboratories feedback
- Supervise and monitor the activities of State Data Clerks and Zonal Data Assistant
- Track and Update Measles outbreak logs by LGAs/State and submit to WCO weekly
- Timely submission of my monthly activity reports to central level
- Ensure timely submission of data to the Zonal Office
- Support/monitor the Zonal Data Assistant and the State Data Clerks to manage data entry, basic analysis and other ad-hoc data Management activities
- Establish, maintain and update all data files pertaining to Disease Surveillance, IDSR, LQAs, SIA (Polio and non-Polio SIAs) and Routine Immunization
- Ensure IDSR 002, 003 and Core Indicators are done by States and received at Zonal level then transmitted to WCO
- Submission of all Case-based data electronically generated via entry of Case Investigation Forms to WCO every Thursday
- Manage all PBM, Rota Virus and Sentinel Sites data in line with WHO managed Sentinel Sites Standard Procedures
- Coordinate, print and distribute EPID and ID Registers for States and send timely to states and the Labs for use
- Project Target Population in line with Bureau of Statistics Census for Ward, LGA and State Levels and Share with WCO and States for Data Management
- Perform data validation and cleaning on all data set received before sending to various levels
- Backup copies of all state data in the zone
- Provide feedbacks and feed-forward on all data collated to relevant levels for necessary action and decision making.
- Investigation, Active Case Search etc) are downloaded/collated, cleaned, analysed and sent to the relevant levels for action.
- Support state on the use of DHS2 Plat form for RI reporting
- Perform any task provided by the Team Lead UHC/IVD.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Ensure Data Kit (ODK) for all data set available
- Support EPI Staff in Monitoring and Evaluation of WHO Processes using METT on monthly and quarterly basis
- Collate, Clean and Share data from ODK server weekly to States and WCO
- Phone configuration, trouble shooting and providing first line support to Staff Members in the field collating data Via Mobile device.
- To classify cases accordingly using all available parameters (Lab result, DCIF and NPEC decision)
- Prepare Alerts for Detailed Case Investigation due for Sixty Days Follow up; Collate and update the AFP DB with findings at
- follow up and as well Submit to relevant levels
- Monitor Zero Dose Cases and ensure Zero Dose cases have duly investigated and filled form sent to ODK Server
- Follow up with States in the Zone to track and retrieve missing/incomplete data.
- Identify incoherent data and notify relevant levels accordingly.
- Ensure analysis and transmission of quality data from the state and carry out supportive visit to address gaps.

**Technical Supervision**

Objectives of the Review The objective of the post is to coordinate WHO data management and M&E activities at zonal level and provide evidence driven information for actions aimed at supporting the zone/states to (a) ensure availability of quality, timely, and complete information that guides the surveillance and immunization program (b) monitor achievement of recommended surveillance performance indicators for Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), other Vaccine Preventable Diseases as well as other diseases of public health priority as highlighted in Tanzania's Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) strategy. c) provide evidences through the timely utilization of different data available and guide the program. Specific Requirements.

**LANGUAGE:**

**Essential:** Fluency in both English and Swahili language.

**Desirable:** Working knowledge of other UN language is an added advantage.

**EDUCATION:**

**Essential:** Completion of secondary education; preferably supplemented by a technical or university degree in Computer Science, Statistics, Monitoring & Evaluation or data management related field with additional data management training.

**Desirable:** Strong IT knowledge with training.

**Experience:**

**Essential:** 5 - 7 years' experience in health-related data management. Experience in quality collection analysis, dissemination, and use of health information for program planning and management. Experience in database development. Working knowledge of statistical application programs (EPI INFO, SPSS, STATA etc.) and mapping programs (Health Mapper, ArcGIS, MapInfo etc)

**Desirable:** Experience in managing health related data

**Skills and Competencies**

- Data Management and IT skill with working experience.

**Competence Required**

- Teamwork
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences
- Communication
- Producing results
- Knowing and managing yourself

**Other Skills (e.g. IT):**

- Basic IT skills is a requirement: Good command of MS office software: Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and use of the Internet.
- Basic competency in Microsoft office applications.

**PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT**

- Data Clerk will be working in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

**2. TIMELINE AND REPORTING**

**Duration**

- The contract will be for one year

**Salary**

- Grade: G.6 - 01

**3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

- Interested and qualified applicants should send cover letter and comprehensive resume to the WHO Country Representative via the following email addresses [afwcotzrem@who.int](mailto:afwcotzrem@who.int); [afwcotz@who.int](mailto:afwcotz@who.int) or use the following link to apply online <https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ttl>
- Females are highly encouraged to Apply for this position.
- Deadline for submission of applications is Wednesday 21st April 2021.



# Nigeria: Keeping schools safe in the north

BY RUBEN ABATI

ON April 14, 2014, 276 Nigerian female students of the Chibok Girls Secondary School were abducted by Boko Haram terrorists. It was a very disturbing moment for Nigeria and the rest of the world. Most of the abducted girls were Christians. Six of them reportedly died. About 57 escaped subsequently, but till date, more than six years later, many of the Chibok girls are still in captivity. Four years later, on February 19, 2018, history repeated itself. About 110 school girls were abducted from Government Girls Secondary School and Technical College, Dapchi, in Yunusari Local Government Area of Yobe State. Following negotiations between government and the abductors, 104 girls were released about a month later, on March 21. One of them Leah Sharibu, is still in captivity because she refused to renounce Christianity. She is a prisoner of faith and victim of the Nigerian problem.

In December 2020, more than 300 boys were abducted from the Government Science Secondary School in Kankara, Katsina State. 344 boys eventually regained freedom. The Katsina State Government had to negotiate with the bandits. There was also Kagara, Niger State. On February 16, 2021, 27 children were kidnapped in a night-time raid on a boarding school, along with 12 of their relatives and three staff members. On February 25, 2021, the terrorists struck again. They kidnapped 317 girls from the Girls Science Secondary School, in Jangebe, Zamfara State. 279 girls have since regained their freedom. There have been in-between many other cases of abduction of boys, girls, men and women in parts of Northern Nigeria, but the aforementioned specific examples have been cited because of the recurrent pattern that they present. Altogether, they paint a picture of anguish, and the tragedy of the failure of the state to protect young, vulnerable Nigerians, and even the old, and all citizens generally, from the menace of terrorism.

Boko Haram, the name by which the local terrorist group in Nigeria is known is propelled by the ideology that "Western education is a sin". This clearly explains the focus on schools, particularly boarding schools. In each of the cases - from

Chibok to Jangebe, the terrorists targeted boarding schools, and abducted young children between the ages of 11- 18. In terms of numbers, young girls have been the majority of victims. They are dehumanized, raped, subjected to the most inhumane conditions possible, turned into sex slaves or even forcibly put in the family way by their abductors. They are carted away over long distances, and security agents are unable to intercept the unholy movement by gun-wielding criminals. After a pattern, the authorities suddenly raise an alarm when the incident has occurred, only to embark on the same routine: assurances that the students will be rescued, reports of negotiations with the bandits, eventual release of some or all of the abducted students, reunion with their parents, and shallow promises that the government will take every step to keep our schools safe. Oftentimes, indeed, in virtually every case, there are discrepancies in the reported numbers. Nigeria is one country where a human being can disappear, say from a school, and there will be no record, absolutely no trace of that person's existence on the register. I mean, yes, literally. What do you expect in a country where population data is unknown and identification is a problem?

This is tragic. The North is the most educationally disadvantaged part of Nigeria. Most of the over 15 million children that are out of school, are from the North. And now the ones that are in school face the constant threat of abduction. No one should be surprised that some of the students who recently regained their freedom declared that they would rather not go back to school. They are traumatised. Their parents are scared. Boarding schools have become unattractive. School itself has become a place of fear and danger. Every school that has been a target of terrorist attack, is said to be without perimeter fencing and adequate security. Terrorists stroll in, pack the children and a few teachers like chicken and lead them into the forest. The terrorists may be opposed to Western education, but they seem to be more interested in science schools (Dapchi, Kankara, Kagara, Jangebe). In a country where science education should be encouraged, terrorists are turning science students in the North into objects of trade. No state government, not even the Federal Government has ever admitted that ransom was paid to the kidnapers, but it is very obvious that kidnapping has become a source of livelihood for those we call bandits. It is the new big business, not just in the North, but across Nigeria. Widespread unemployment, poverty, hunger and bad beliefs and choices have turned kidnapping into a lucrative option. Just carry a



gun, abduct a few persons, children are easy targets because they are defenceless, then negotiate with government and smile to the bank. Official spokespersons would step forward to make the usual noises that no ransom was paid and that government will not tolerate any act of impunity. Just like that. Lori iro!

Governors of the Northern states, according to a report in ThisDay newspaper, March 8, are now taking steps to "tighten security to curb abduction of school children." In total, 11 states are said to be adopting measures including the merger of boarding schools, provision of security, perimeter fencing, operational vehicles for the police, sensitisation of school authorities to be more security conscious and so on. I am sceptical. I hope this is not one of those usual excuses to award contracts and profit from other people's agony. The Northern elite have been holding meetings about how to develop and promote education in the North since 1959. They meet. They talk. Nothing happens. In May 2014, the Nigerian Government embarked on a Safe Schools Initiative in collaboration with the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the Global Business Coalition for Education and another NGO - A World At School. This was in response to the Chibok girls' abduction. The Federal Government of Nigeria committed a sum of \$10 million; seven years later, not much has been achieved. The schools remain unsafe. The Jonathan administration also built 165 primary schools across the North - what became

known as the almajiri schools with the primary goal of getting children off the streets, and back into classrooms. Many of those schools have been abandoned by the state governments. The children are still out of school. President Buhari most recently stressed the importance of the Safe Schools Initiative. Keeping the schools safe should indeed be a top priority at all levels of government. But is anyone doing so? If terrorists succeed in instilling fear in children who have a whole future ahead of them and drive them away from the classrooms, then they would have won a major psychological war, with far-reaching implications for the future.

There is a lot that government can do to provide security. But the Northern elite must embark on serious introspection. The security of the North lies in education, and that requires ensuring that the emerging generation is given every opportunity to go to school, and acquire skills that can fit into a world that has become more competitive. The Northern elite must be ashamed that right in the first quarter of the 21st Century, - the age of Artificial Intelligence, electronic vehicles, space science and high-end tech - it is more preoccupied talking about cattle rearing and nomadism! The real revolution that the North needs is greater investment in education and the people. The Governors should stop making empty promises and get to work. Otherwise, when next another boarding school is attacked and school children are kidnapped in any part of the North, we

would remind them of their own criminal negligence.

II: Okowa and Idumuje-Ugboko Crisis

On March 8, 2021, the Vanguard newspaper online in a story titled "Delta Committee makes all-inclusive recommendations to end Idumuje-Ugboko crisis" by Emma Amaize reported that a committee set up by the Delta State Government which investigated "the kingship tussle and land acquisition crisis at Idumuje-Ugboko Kingdom. Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State has concluded its assignment and made far-reaching submissions to the state government on how to bring lasting peace to the troubled domain. In October 2020, some concerned stakeholders reportedly approached Senator Ifeanyi Okowa to intervene to ensure peace in Idumuje-Ugboko, an agrarian community in Delta Ibo part of Nigeria that has not known peace since the death of its former monarch in 2017. The main conflict is between Prince Ned Nwoko and Prince Chukwunonso Nwoko on one hand, bitterly opposed to each other over land acquisition issues, and between the latter and other stakeholders who are challenging his right of ascension to the throne. Idumuje-Ugboko has thus been gripped by a fratricidal, filial conflict that has affected the entire community. Cases have been filed in court. There have been accusations of murder, threats of assassination and the spread of bad blood in the community.

The details of the committee's recommendations have not been made public, but Senator Ifeanyi Okowa must be decisive in dealing with the situation. Peace should be the main target, and getting the various gladiators to sheathe their swords. Idumuje-Ugboko is like a typical Nigerian community where a few persons think that they are more important than others just because they have a fat bank account or their palm kernels have been cracked for them by benevolent spirits. They should be told to heed Chinua Achebe's advice in Things Fall Apart and be humble.

## Plain facts about Xinjiang cotton industry speak louder than lies

URUMQI

TRACTORS are busy plowing cotton fields in Bachu County, one of the cotton hubs in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, as the season for cotton sowing arrives.

Across Xinjiang, spring plowing season usually starts in late March and early April as the weather becomes favorable.

Farmer Yimam Tursun, from Bachu, has over a dozen years of cotton growing experience. Before last year, he needed to pay about 9,000 yuan (about 1,370 U.S. dollars) each season to hire workers to help harvest his 1.13 hectares of cotton. It would take five workers more than half a month to finish hand-picking cotton in his field.

Last year, he rented a harvesting machine, which completed the work in less than an hour, thus greatly lowering the cost on labor. Yimam Tursun spent only 3,060 yuan on renting the harvester.

Mechanized farming is increasingly popular in Xinjiang. In 2020, the mechanized cotton harvesting rate in Xinjiang reached nearly 70 percent, according to Elijan Anayat, spokesperson of the Information Office of Xinjiang regional government.

But cotton-picking used to rely heavily on manual labor. When the harvesting season arrived, hundreds of thousands of migrant workers from China's labor abundant provinces such as Henan and Sichuan would take train trips to Xinjiang to join local residents in the manual picking of cotton, which was considered a well-paid job.



A farmer ploughs in a field with a tractor in Bachu County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, March 28, 2021. (Xinhua)

For southern Xinjiang where Bachu is located, mechanization in the cotton fields has seen rapid development.

Bai Jianxin, director of the mechanization development center of Bachu County's bureau of agriculture and rural affairs, said mechanization has been

realized in all aspects of cotton sowing, harvesting and quality control.

Bachu has introduced foreign machinery including agricultural equipment imported from Case Corp. and John Deere in the United States.

From cotton planting to harvesting, farmers in

Xinjiang, especially in the southern areas, are more willing to get involved in the industry, which has yielded good profits, said Elijan Anayat.

Cotton has become a cash cow for many Xinjiang farmers. Mijit Hemit, a cotton grower in Aksu Prefecture, southern Xinjiang, said his family farm

spreads over 20 hectares of cotton fields and brings 150,000 yuan of income a year.

Talking about the so-called "forced labor" that was recently hyped by some Western countries, Elijan Anayat said it was ridiculous. He welcomed enterprises from all over the world to visit cotton farms in Xinjiang and see with their own eyes.

He said even before mechanization had developed, there was no such thing as "forced labor," let alone now when mechanization is gaining steam.

Official statistics show that the cotton planting areas in Xinjiang reached 2.5 million hectares, and the region's cotton output last year was 5.16 million tonnes, accounting for 87.3 percent of the country's total.

Some 7 million rural residents in Xinjiang are engaged in the cotton-related industry, with the majority from ethnic minority groups.

The development of Xinjiang cotton and textile industry has increased demand for high-end textile machinery, providing business opportunities for global machinery manufacturers.

The region has become an important purchaser in the global textile machinery supply chain. By the end of 2018, there were 3,650 sets of cotton harvesting machines in China, with half of them imported, according to official statistics.

Between 2017 and 2019, Xinjiang imported 1,895 units of cotton textile machinery and equipment worth 462 million U.S. dollars, figures from the General Administration of Customs showed.

Xinhua





Thursday 1 April 2021

## CRDB finance chief basks in FiRe Awards success for East Africa

By The Banker Reporter

PROFESSIONAL accounting reports preparation has landed CRDB Bank Plc Financial Reporting (FiRe) Awards for 2020 in the domestic market and third winner in East Africa. The regional winner is KCB Bank Group while Standard Chartered Bank Kenya was first runner up.

The bank's Chief Finance Officer, Fredrick Nshakanabo said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the award which is presented by Nairobi based Capital Markets Authority, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya, Nairobi Securities Exchange and Public-Sector Accounting Standards Board-Kenya, only encourages them to do better.

"This award is also testimony that as a bank we invest a lot in preparation of our reports professionally to enhance transparency and accountability. Currently, we are utilising a comprehensive way of reporting which incorporates all of our business activities for the benefit of stakeholders," Nshakanabo said.

He said with the theme of this year being, 'Enhancing corporate value through excellence in financial reporting for cross-border trade and

investment facilitation in East Africa and beyond,' the FiRe Awards are an important vehicle to realise such developments.

"As a bank we have also invested heavily in digital platforms to allow clients and the general public easily access banking services wherever they are. Our bank also subscribes to International Financial Reporting Standards which has meant that quality of our accounting reports conforms to global standards," he said.

The latest award is an addition to several others awards won by the bank both locally and internationally last year which include best prepared accounts for 2019/20 organized by National Board for Accountants and Auditors (NBAA).

For the last 18 years, the FiRe Awards has recognized and awarded the best reporting entities in the region. The award encourages organizations to strive to be the best by learning about best practices and demonstrating leadership.

The award is aimed at promoting integrated reporting through enhancing accountability, transparency and integrity. This is done to enhance compliance with the appropriate financial reporting framework, and other disclosures on governance, social and environmental



CRDB's chief finance officer, Fredrick Nshakanabo.

reporting by private, public and other entities domiciled in East Africa.

CRDB Bank was overall winner of the award in 2019 after beating NIC Bank Plc and Equity Group Plc which emerged as first and second runner up. The bank also won first position in the listed firms' category on its way to winning the overall award.



**This award is also testimony that as a bank we invest a lot in preparation of our reports professionally to enhance transparency and accountability**

## Bolt eases ride-hailing services with own application

By The Banker Reporter

CLIENTS of ride-hailing services, Bolt can effective today download its own application and easily access its services through feature phones cheaply.

Bolt Country Manager, Remmy Esekka said the Bolt Web App is a great option for riders who have feature phones which have limited capabilities in terms of high-performance user experience, internal phone storage and are prone to a weaker internet connection.

Esekka said often such users are also conscious of the amount of money spent on data hence the new application is also available to riders who want to order a ride using their computer. "At Bolt, we're always working on making urban transportation more accessible and convenient. Bolt Web App provides access to affordable and reliable transportation for customers who aren't using smartphones, and those living in regions where they are challenged by high data costs and limited access to high-speed connectivity," he said.

The Bolt Web App functionality is accessed by inputting a cell-phone number and submitting a onetime password number sent to the cell-phone provided by the rider. Once authentication is complete, the rider can select the destination of their choice.

"Bolt strives to assure customers there is a Bolt ride available around



Bolt Country Manager, Remmy Esekka.

the corner for everyone irrespective of their means of mobile communication, model of phone or quality of connections. This way, our users have another possibility to order affordable and reliable rides," Esekka added.

The rides ordered in Bolt Web App can be paid for in cash but can still rate their trip and driver for

their completed ride. Bolt Web App has a variety of categories available, including Bolt, Bolt Boda, Bolt Bajaji and Bolt XL that riders can select according to their trip requirements.

With the ride-hailing web application set in motion, Bolt Web App is now at the fingertips of riders in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Mwanza in Tanzania,

South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya.

Bolt is the leading mobility platform that's focused on making urban travel more affordable, convenient and responsible with more than 30 million users in over 35 countries across Europe and Africa.

## Mastercard battling £14bn UK legal case alleging customers were overcharged

LONDON

A SPECIALIST London court will this week re-consider allowing a historic - billion (\$19bn) class action against Mastercard to proceed, which could entitle adults in Britain to about £300 each if successful.

Former financial ombudsman Walter Merricks, who alleges that Mastercard overcharged more than 46 million people in Britain over nearly 16 years, hopes the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) will certify the case after the UK Supreme Court overruled objections to it proceeding in December.

A two-day court hearing will kick off on Thursday and will determine the fate of Britain's first mass consumer claim - and clarify the rules for a string of other competition class actions that have stalled in its wake.

Mr Merricks, who is being advised by US-based law firm Quinn Emanuel, alleges Mastercard charged excessive "interchange" fees - the fees retailers pay credit card companies when consumers use a card to shop - between May 1992 and June 2008 and that those fees were passed on to consumers as retailers raised prices.

Mastercard says the claim should not be brought, that people received valuable benefits from its payments technology and that the lawsuit is driven by US lawyers and backed by organisations focused on making money for themselves. "We fundamentally disagree with this claim," it said.

Legal arguments this week are expected to revolve in part around whether estates of the deceased should have a claim and whether compound interest should accrue, which are "significant" for the ultimate size of the claim, Mastercard says.

The case was filed in 2016, one year after the CAT was nominated to oversee Britain's US-style "opt-out" class action regime for breaches of UK or EU competition law - and 12 years after the European Commission ruled that Mastercard had charged unlawful cross-border interchange fees over the period.

In such cases, UK-based members of a defined group are automatically bound into legal action unless they opt out.

But the CAT blocked the lawsuit in 2017 because it thought it unsuitable for collective proceedings, triggering drawn-out appeals and causing a bottleneck for other class actions.

## Jubilee, Co-op Bank named top dealmakers in East Africa

NAIROBI

JUBILEE Holdings and Co-operative Bank have been named the top dealmakers in East Africa for 2020 following the completion of their multibillion-shilling strategic transactions.

Region's top insurer Jubilee deal with Germany's Allianz Africa, which involved a cash consideration of Sh10.9 billion (\$100 million), emerged at the top in the ranking by DealMakers Africa - a South African-based mergers and acquisitions rankings provider. Co-operative Bank's Sh1 billion acquisition of 90 per cent stake in Jamii Bora Bank - now trading as Kingdom Bank - emerged the second in the ranking.

DealMakers Africa say the Jubilee-

Allianz transaction is the largest announced in East Africa during 2020, and the region's second single largest deal in the industry after the Sh274 billion (\$250 million) UAP Holdings-Old Mutual deal in 2015.

"The transaction was complex, and involved a protracted negotiation process to meet the divergent needs of the buyer and the seller to achieve an alignment of interests," says DealMakers on Jubilee deal.

Allianz will acquire controlling stakes in the general insurance business - also known as the property and casualty insurance segment - in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda as well as the short-term insurance segment in Burundi and Mauritius.

"We are pleased to be recognised

for entering into this exciting new partnership. We look forward to bringing to the East African market international industry best practice and increasing insurance awareness and accessibility to our customers," said Jubilee Holdings Group chairman Nizar Juma.

Co-op's 90 per cent stake in a lender with 17 branches, over 445,000 customers and Sh4.7 billion deposits gave the small bank lifeline. The transaction has been billed to diversify the business models of the two institutions and benefitting Co-op's diverse shareholders.

"The deal, which enhances the resilience of the Kenyan banking sector, provides Co-op Bank with the opportunity to rapidly expand its offering to



Allianz Africa regional CEO Coenraad Vrolijk (left) and Jubilee Holdings Chairman Nizar Juma during the announcement of the agreement to establish a strategic partnership on September 29, 2020, at Jubilee Centre in Nairobi.

micro, small and medium enterprises, and increase its revenue streams while leveraging on cost synergies," said DealMakers. DealMakers say the total value of deals for last year halved to Sh846.85 billion (\$772 billion) from Sh1.7 trillion (\$15.54 billion) in 2019 on Covid-19 disruptions.



## Treasury bonds, CRDB, NMB shares boost DSE turnover in March 2021



DSE's CEO, Moremi Marwa.

By The Banker Reporter

A record 192.6bn/- in turnover was made through Treasury bonds, CRDB Bank Plc and NMB Bank Plc share trading at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange as of Friday last week.

In its weekly market report, DSE's CEO, Moremi Marwa said the increase accounted for 53 percent compared to 126.06bn/- realised during the same period in February. Marwa said in the report that Treasury bonds dominated performance with 186.12bn/- made up from 119.46bn/- realised in February.

"CRDB Bank sold 2.69bn/- accounting for 41.6 percent of the total turnover that was realised during the period while NMB sold shares worth 1.7bn/-," the DSE chief

said in the report. Other listed shares which also contributed to the increase include: TBL Plc, Tanzania Cigarettes Plc, DSE Plc, Jatu, Twiga, Swissport, Nicol, Tanga Cement and Vodacom in ascending order.

Meanwhile, the equity market experienced a slowdown in activities with a weekly turnover of 111.34bn/- representing a 96.7 percent decrease compared to last week's turnover of 3.44bn/- as analysts partly blamed the death of President John Magufuli and a weeklong lull in state activities as the late leader's body was flown to

four different places for the public to pay last respects.

Dr Magufuli who died on March 17, was laid to rest at his home district of Chato on Friday, March 26 when the government declared it as a holiday in addition to Monday, March 22 when a state funeral attended by 10 heads of state and government was held in the new capital, Dodoma.

The volume of shares traded decreased to 207,990 from 760,823 during the period of week ending March 19, 2021.

However, analysts remain optimistic that investors'

participation will rise during the coming weeks and months. During the week, CRDB emerged as the top market mover, recording 28.9 percent of total turnover followed by DSE and Twiga with 23.37 percent and 16.51 percent respectively.

Total market capitalisation increased by 0.11 percent to 15.58trn/- with the domestic market posting a decrease of 0.01 percent to close at 9.24trn/-.

Tanzania Share Index fell by 0.01 percent to 3,518.08 points while the All-Share Index rose by 0.11 percent to 1,875.85 points.

## Equity overtakes KCB as the most profitable bank

NAIROBI

EQUITY Bank has overtaken KCB Group as Kenya's most profitable lender on back of aggressive expansion of foreign subsidiaries in a year when earnings plunged due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Equity Bank net profit dropped 11 per cent to Sh19.7 billion, racing ahead of KCB whose earnings fell 22 per cent to Sh19.6 billion with the performance of the foreign subsidiaries setting the two rivals apart.

KCB Group subsidiaries brought in Sh3.6 billion in net profits, which was half the Sh7.2 billion that Equity received from its operations outside Kenya. The growth of Equity profits from the foreign subsidiaries was on the back of its acquisition of Congo's Banque Commerciale du Congo in August, a deal that helped make it the first Kenyan banks to grow balance sheet beyond Sh1 trillion.

"Profit after tax from outside Kenya contributed to 28 per cent of our bottom line from 18 per cent the previous year as we increased market share and the merger in DRC propelled the group from position 4 to position 2 in that market," said James Mwangi Equity Group CEO.

"We saw organic growth in Kenya and Uganda and also grew through seizing an opportunity on acquisition of BCDC in DRC where we were able to migrate and merge with our subsidiary Equity Bank Congo (EBC) and rebranded the new acquisition to Equity Commercial Bank of Congo (Equity BCDC)," he said. Equity grew its loan book to Sh477.8 billion from Sh366 billion in the year under review, reflecting



James Mwangi Equity Group CEO speaks at a past event in Nairobi.

a growth of 30.5 percent.

KCB loans grew at slower pace of 10.3 percent to Sh595 billion. While both banks grew the income from lending and deposits in rival banks, Equity outpaced KCB on non-interest income that comes from forex trading and transaction fees.

Equity's non-interest income grew by Sh7.8 billion or 25.4 percent last year, dwarfing KCB's that grew Sh279 million or 0.99 percent growth. At the Nairobi

bourse, Equity market value is currently at Sh141.7 billion compared to KCB's Sh126 billion.

Cooperative Bank maintained its position as the third most profitable Bank making Sh10.8 billion last year followed by Standard Chartered Bank with Sh5.4 billion net profit. Stanbic Bank (Sh5.1 billion profit) overtook NCBA (Sh4.5 billion) and ABSA (Sh4.1 billion) to become the country's fifth most profitable lender.



Dr Diane Karusisi, the Bank of Kigali Chief Executive.

## BK registered Rwf38.4bn after tax profit in last year

KIGALI

BK Group Plc in 2020 recorded an after-tax profit of Rwf38.4 billion which was a 3 per cent growth compared to the previous year when they registered Rwf37.3 billion. In 2018, the group had Rwf27.4 billion in profit after tax.

According to the group's financial statement, revenues grew in all four subsidiaries; Bank, BK General Insurance, BK TechHouse and BK Capital. The banking arm had the largest growth followed by Insurance.

In the banking arm which has over 350,000 retail customers, the loan book grew by 25.5 per cent to Rwf851.1B. Given the economic turbulence, the Non-Performing Loans ratio increased to 6.7 per cent compared to 5.7 per cent in the same period in 2019 with cost of risk increasing to 4.5 per cent. In an aim to increase financial services access, the lender expanded its agency banking network to 2,341 agents who processed over 1.2M transactions with an estimated value of Rwf134.1 million.

The insurance arm raked in a profit of Rwf1.74 Billion in 2020, in comparison to Rwf1.32 Billion registered in the previous year. Growth was propelled by an increase in gross premium from Rwf7.2 Billion in 2019 to Rwf9.1 Billion in 2020. BK TechHouse had sales revenue of Rwf1.08B in 2020 compared to Rwf1.07B in the previous year.

The subsidiary has over 2 million digital consumers across their 3 digital platforms, Smart Nkunganire System (Agriculture supply chain management system); Smart Kungahara System (working with coffee farmers) and Urubuto Education System all which work with government agencies.

The group's youngest subsidiary, BK Capital reported a 57 per cent

growth in total revenues in 2020 driven by fees from advisory services, fund management service, securities brokerage business and Investment Income. BK Capital which in 2020 launched a unit Trust Fund "Aguka" grew its assets under management by 32 per cent to Rwf11B.

Reduced operating costs  
The Group's operating expenses decreased by 11 per cent to Rwf45.4B from what is termed as 'cost management and improved operating efficiency'. Cost to income ratio reduced to 32.5 per cent from 42.2 per cent in 2019. Cost-to-income ratio is important for determining the profitability of a bank. A reduction in cost to income ratio is a positive development as it indicates that it takes less cost to generate income.

Commenting on the performance, Dr Diane Karusisi, the Bank of Kigali Chief Executive, said as business activity resumes, the group is hoping to take advantage of opportunities presented by economic recovery.

She noted that like other players, they experienced effects of the lockdown and other measures to curb the spread of the virus including increased credit risk in their banking business, affecting the cost of risk that has soared to 4.5 per cent.

"We have managed operating costs with strict discipline, and our insurance, investment banking and technology businesses have grown healthily, providing much needed diversification for the Group's income," she said.

Marc Holtzman, Chairman of the Board said that with the challenges brought by the pandemic, the usage of digital platforms significantly increased making a case for investments that have been made in digital transformation. BK Groups total assets grew by 28.0 per cent to about \$1.3B.

## Sarb gives Grobank, Access Bank approval

JOHANNESBURG

THE Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank has approved Access Bank's acquisition of the controlling interest in Grobank.

The deal announced in October 2020 comprises a total investment of up to R400m, made in two tranches with an initial cash consideration for a 49% shareholding, and a second transaction, increasing to a majority equity stake.

Access Bank is a Nigerian multinational commercial bank, licensed by the Central Bank of Nigeria, the national banking regulator. It operates on three continents and was reported to have assets of \$18bn in 2019.

The transactions significantly strengthening Access Bank's presence in Southern Africa and its footprint for growth in the SADC region. Once signed off, the proposed transactions will result in Access Bank having a presence in 10 African countries.

"We have consistently looked to focus on building the scale required to become a leading African bank; one that leverages our experienced and growing talent base and key stakeholder partnerships towards driving sustainable impact and profitability.

"The proposed transactions will accelerate the bank's momentum towards delivering world class banking services to an expanded customer base across Africa. Our goal remains to reach and impact 100-million unique customers across the continent by 2022," Herbert Wigwe, CEO of Access Bank says. The South African Bank of Athens rebranded as Grobank in 2018.

"The entry of Access Bank Plc into the South African banking sector will enable us to provide sustainable support to our existing customers and target new customers with a presence across the African continent. "We are excited about joining the Access Bank family and look forward to contributing meaningfully to the achievements and ambitions of the group," Bennie van Rooy, CEO of Grobank, says.



# NMB, PASS partnership building capacity of smallholder farmers through credit

By The Banker Reporter

BABATI based smallholder farmer, Hamis Twalib considers himself a lucky man. Last month, he was one of the people who was given an over 40m/- tractor by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa during a National Empowerment Council exhibition week held in Arusha.

"I never imagined that I can get such a modern tractor through an NMB bank loan because, sincerely I have nothing to back me up as collateral," said Twalib who expressed his appreciation to PASS Trust for giving him a guarantee to qualify for the multi-million shillings loan.

"This is a big relief to my family because we are sure now of graduating into commercial farmers," he said while adding that the NMB and PASS Trust agreement will go a long way in helping smallholder families in the country graduate into commercial farming. Twalib said he plans to expand his 10 hectare farm to 50 and plant more crops other than maize and beans.

According to the five year National Development Plan 2015/20, mechanization is a major factor being touted by the

government to speed up transformation of the sector from subsistence to commercial. Heavy investment in equipment and expertise is necessary to ensure that an agrarian revolution happens that will eventually lead to the envisaged industrialization.

PM Majaliwa said NMB Bank Plc and PASS Trust agreement is an innovative way of speeding up the transformation of the struggling agriculture sector which is still dominated by hand-hoe cum seasonal rain dependent farmers.

"I see this PASS Trust and NMB partnership as a game changer for our farmers because it enables them access funding to buy equipment such as tractors easily," Majaliwa said after handing over a multi-million shillings tractor to Twalib thanks to a PASS Credit Guarantee.

He paid tribute to PASS Trust and NMB managements for their innovative thinking which aligns well with the government's plans to mechanise the agriculture sector as a precondition towards becoming a semi industrialised economy by 2025.

"I wish to encourage other smallholder farmers who are facing challenges in accessing



NMB Bank Plc's northern zone manager, Aikansia Muro (L) briefing Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa on the bank's investment made in the agriculture sector during a National Economic Empowerment Council exhibition held in Arusha recently. Centre is PASS Trust acting executive director, Anna Shanalingigwa. File photo.

credit to buy agro-equipment to approach PASS Trust and NMB Bank who are doing a great job," the PM said while promising the two institutions full state cooperation.

He acknowledged the role being played by PASS Trust and NMB in ensuring that smallholder subsistence farm-

ers become commercial producers and agribusiness entrepreneurs. "The government is very happy to be associated with this kind of innovative thinking to bring change to our agriculture sector," he added.

Briefing the PM when he visited NMB's

pavilion, NMB's Northern Zone Manager, Aikansia Muro said the bank is committed towards investing in the agriculture sector through its value chain to speed up smallholder farmers' development.

"NMB has invested heavily in agriculture and continues to do so by working with various partners at different levels to assist farmers," Muro said while noting that PASS Trust is one of such valuable partners that the bank works with.

During the event, PASS Trust also presented PASS Credit Guarantee certificate to NMB Bank on behalf of 20 smallholder farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs valued at 96m/- to allow them get loans from the bank. The loans acquired will be invested in boosting agriculture production among the recipients hence improving their own incomes.

"We are happy that since inception in 2000, we have been able to support some 42,000 agribusiness projects in the country worth over 1bn/- that has benefited a record over 1.5 million smallholder farmers who include women," said PASS Trust acting Executive Director, Anna Shanalingigwa.

Shanalingigwa said her institution has created not less than 2.5 million jobs through its guarantee facility over the period. "Our goal is to continue supporting smallholder farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs grow and gradually graduate into agro-processing companies," she assured.

# The pan-African ambitions of SouthBridge investment bank

COTONOU

THE first stone of what would become SouthBridge was laid in Cotonou in August 2015. Donald Kaberuka, the outgoing president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), was in town for a final official meeting with Beninese President Thomas Boni Yayi, as part of his farewell tour.

He took the opportunity to have lunch with Lionel Zinsou, an old acquaintance. The latter, who had been Benin's prime minister for only two months, planned to leave politics as soon as the next elections were held.

Zinsou confided in him: "From April 2016, I will devote myself to what I have wanted to devote myself to for years." The former partner at Rothschild and CEO of the French private equity firm PAI wanted to dedicate the rest of his career to providing financial advice and investing in Africa. Kaberuka, who was Rwanda's finance minister for eight years, shared this desire. The two men agreed to found a new pan-African investment bank.

Zinsou eventually ran for the March 2016 presidential election, but lost. Defeated by the Independent candidate Patrice Talon, he then devoted the following year to creating the start-up.

A voluminous address book and immediate visibility

The name "Kaberuka Zinsou Bank" was quickly discarded as they wanted to create an institution that would survive them. In the end, they chose "SouthBridge" as their business would mostly take place in the southern hemisphere and focus on integrating African economies.

They picked an English name as they hoped to do business all over the continent. A dozen or so people close to the company - entrepreneurs from East and West Africa - invested their capital into a modest fund-raising campaign.

The company got off to a flying start. Even before it was formally incorporated or had its own premises, SouthBridge got its first job: advising the French hotel group Accor on the creation of a \$500m African fund. But how would they go about establishing a lasting presence in a sector where competition is fierce and contracts are rare?

In any case, Zinsou and Kaberuka's address book gave SouthBridge immediate visibility. "When you are an AfDB president, you know everyone across the continent. This was also the case in French-speaking Africa," Zinsou told us

during a videoconference interview at the end of last year from his Parisian flat.

Their first meetings were held with Patrice Talon, Denis Sassou Nguesso and Ali Bongo Ondimba. "We spoke with many presidents and finance ministers to get a picture of how satisfied they were with the services they received," recalls the former prime minister of Benin. They got the impression from these meetings that governments are tired of advisers "not necessarily all very high in the hierarchy, neither in experience, nor in age, who come from New York or London to spend a few hours on the spot," and who "employ clichés about Africa," said Zinsou. Message received. SouthBridge would need to offer a different kind of service than that experienced by these men.

"A humble, hard-working and slow job" In any case, these summit meetings



SouthBridge founders, Donald Kaberuka and Lionel Zinsou.

BANKING & FINANCE

foreshadowed the kind of activity that SouthBridge would be engaged in. Fast forward to 2020 and the investment bank was supporting the implementation of the Djibouti Sovereign Fund, which aims to reach a size of €1.5bn within ten years.

In the same year, SouthBridge advised the Togolese government on two dossiers: the creation of a public-private partnership, backed by €200m of investment, with the Singaporean agro-industrial group Olam; and selling a majority stake in Togo's New Cotton Company worth €15.3m to Olam. The Sovereign Council represents 60% of SouthBridge's business, Zinsou tells us.

"They only make political deals", says a competitor, for whom the founders' contacts mask the operational teams' lack of experience. "We are veterans of important functions, so we know the people. Yes, that helps," says Zinsou. "But the public relations, social relations and address book are not the most important part. In reality, it's a humble, hard-working and slow job."

Varied and relentless continental competition

In December 2018, SouthBridge announced that it had recruited British-Nigerian Andrew Alli, a leading name in African finance. The man who had previously headed the multilateral financial institution Africa Finance Corporation for ten years stresses that SouthBridge is not just a sovereign board.

He cites, as an example, having the support of Kenya Commercial Bank during its takeover last November of two East African banks owned by Atlas Mara. He also rigorously defends the expertise of its staff, which includes former employees of Goldman Sachs and Deloitte.

SouthBridge has offices in Paris, Abidjan and Kigali, with plans to expand into London and Johannesburg. Alli is based in Lagos. By setting up offices in numerous locations, SouthBridge hopes to establish a pan-African presence.

But the competition is fierce, and especially so on the African continent. Lazard and Rothschild dominate the French-speaking market, while the international banks of Citi, Goldman Sachs, Standard Chartered and Standard Bank are well established in the English-speaking world. "We're a small company compared to Lazard and Rothschild," says William Ediko, a partner at SouthBridge.

Another challenge for SouthBridge is competing with smaller pan-African investment banks with a high level of expertise. These include Russia's Renaissance Capital, France's AM Capital and Egypt's EFG Hermes Frontier as well as a host of national firms, including Capital Trust in Morocco and KeysFinance in Côte d'Ivoire.

# World's top pension fund faces moment of truth on China debt

LONDON

THE world's largest pension pot will soon have to choose between political sensitivities and cold hard returns.

With FTSE Russell set to proceed with a plan to add Chinese debt to its benchmark global bond index from October, Japan's Government Pension Investment Fund will now have to decide whether to put its money into China's sovereign debt, or risk lower returns elsewhere.

Investing Japanese pension money in Chinese government debt is likely to be a politically unpopular decision for the \$1.63 trillion GPIF, considering the historically tense relations between the two countries. Those relations may get even frostier if Japan bows to pressure to join other major democracies in imposing sanctions on China.

Yet it might not be easy for the fund to ignore high-yielding Chinese debt while also meeting

its benchmark returns, with yuan-denominated debt already excluded from the actively-managed portion of foreign bond holdings. China's 10-year notes yielded around 3.2% Wednesday, well above the 0.5% equivalent on the FTSE gauge.

"It'll be important for the fund to evaluate China's risks properly by strictly focusing on its governance and its ability to service its debt," said Takatoshi Ito, an economist at Columbia University who formerly headed a Japanese government panel to reform the GPIF.

Japanese resistance The GPIF's decision will also be crucial for other Japanese public and private pension funds which have been mulling opportunities to invest in Chinese government debt.

Reuters reported in January that FTSE Russell was facing resistance from some Japanese investors, including the GPIF, to its plans. Masataka Miyazono, the fund's

president, said at the time that it would wait until the consultation period had concluded before reaching a decision. "We want to discuss it thoroughly internally and decide our strategy," Miyazono said.

A GPIF spokeswoman said Tuesday the fund was still considering its response.

The index provider's decision to include China in the FTSE World Government Bond Index was made in September. In a statement Tuesday, it estimated Chinese sovereign bonds would hold about a 5.25% weighting in the global gauge after a phased inclusion over a period of 36 months.

That would make it the sixth-largest weighting on the index, with the addition set to take longer than the 12 months initially envisioned, following market feedback.

"The weighting of China in the index will be among the biggest of major countries and looking at the

performance, it will be extremely hard for investors to beat the benchmark if China is excluded from the index," said Tatsuya Higuchi, executive chief fund manager at Mitsubishi UFJ Kokusai Asset Management Co.

The GPIF has a target allocation of about 25% of its portfolio for foreign debt. It held a total of about 15.8 trillion yen in the passively managed portion of its overseas bond portfolio that tracked FTSE's WGBI, which excludes Japan, according to the most recent data from March of last year.

The fund also managed a small amount of money in a separate customized WGBI.

Japanese investors are no strangers to China's bond market, having stepped up purchases almost four years ago after Beijing established a link to facilitate overseas investment through Hong Kong. Data from Japan's Ministry of Finance showed Japan's investors have been net buyers of Chinese

debt for all but two months since September 2017, when purchases reached an all-time high. A rolling 12-month sum of net buying reached 707.4 billion yen (\$6.4 billion) in January.

Japan's recent relations with China have been strained by territorial disputes and disagreements over an intertwined history. Increasing tension around the disputed islands known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, as well as Beijing's recent passing of a law allowing its coast guard to fire on foreign ships, have turned some in Japan more hostile.

The relationship is further complicated by Japan's dependence on China as its largest trading partner, while having its security guaranteed by the US. Some in the country's ruling party are calling for Japan to join the other Group of Seven nations in applying sanctions to China over human-rights violations.

On top of politics, there are also practical issues. Investors have concerns about liquidity and the complexity of settling trades, as well as worries about the amount of information they will get from China, said Eiichiro Miura, general manager of the fixed-income department at Nissay Asset Management Corp.

"People may not take positively the public pension fund investing heavily into a market where there are capital controls," Miura said. "Political factors could be the reason for the GPIF to avoid Chinese bonds." Performance of Chinese bonds investments.



## WORLD

## Leaders pitch unity to head off future pandemics

BY JULIAN SHEA

More than 20 world leaders have joined the head of the World Health Organization, or WHO, in signing a letter calling for a new global strategy to deal with future pandemics.

The leaders include Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, France's President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. They put their names alongside that of WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in pushing for action following the devastation of COVID-19.

The letter, published in major newspapers across the world, calls for the establishment of a framework to encourage cross-border cooperation, similar to treaties drawn up after World War II to help shattered economies to rebuild.

"Following the devastation of two world wars, political leaders came together to forge the multilateral system," the letter says. "The aims were clear: To bring countries together, to dispel the

temptations of isolationism and nationalism, and to address the challenges that could only be achieved together in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation—namely peace, prosperity, health and security."

The pandemic, the letter continues, had exploited national divisions, but at the same time highlighted the importance of sharing knowledge and data for the greater good of all peoples.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark and painful reminder that nobody is safe until everyone is safe," the letter says.

According to figures released by Johns Hopkins University in the United States on Monday, there have been more than 127.6 million cases of COVID-19 worldwide, resulting in 2.7 million deaths.

David Nabarro, the WHO's special envoy on COVID-19, told the BBC that unless serious action was taken, it would be well into 2022 before the whole world could be regarded as

generally vaccinated.

"During that time all sorts of problems with variants will emerge, and so all that leaders are saying is 'this problem is so huge we've got to work together to deal with it,'" he said.

## Cooperation highlighted

Gregg Gonsalves, an infectious disease specialist at Yale University, said the number of new variant strains highlights the importance of a global vaccination strategy.

"New mutations arise every day," he said in a statement. "Sometimes they find a niche that makes them more fit than their predecessors."

"Unless we vaccinate the world, we leave the playing field open to more and more mutations, which

could churn out variants that could evade our current vaccines and require booster shots to deal with them."

The COVAX coalition, against so-called vaccine nationalism, says it hopes at least 27 percent of people in lower-income countries will have been vaccinated by the end of the year, but this figure has been heavily criticized. "The urgency we see in rich nations to vaccinate their populations, aiming for all adults by the summer, is simply not reflected globally," said Max Lawson, head of inequality policy at Oxfam.

"Instead, we have COVID aiming for perhaps 27 percent by the end of the year if we possibly can manage it—that is simply not good enough." **Agencies**



The flag of the World Health Organization (WHO) at the agency's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. (AFP)

## H&amp;M posts loss after backlash, pledges to rebuild trust in China

STOCKHOLM

H&M reported a quarterly loss yesterday and said that it was dedicated to regaining the trust of shoppers in China following a recent backlash there after comments it made last year on the Xinjiang region.

The world's second-biggest fashion retailer has come under fire from consumers and officials in China after an H&M statement from 2020 resurfaced on social media.

In those comments, H&M had expressed concern over reports of "forced labor" in the western region of Xinjiang, saying it would no longer source cotton from there.

In a statement alongside quarterly results yesterday, H&M said that its commitment to China remained strong and it was dedicated to regaining the trust and confidence of customers, colleagues and business partners there.

"By working together with stakeholders and partners, we believe we can take steps in our joint efforts to develop the fashion industry, as well as serve our customers and act in a respectful way," it said.

The latest statement made no specific mention of Xinjiang. China is H&M's fourth-biggest sales market and its biggest sourcing market.

"We have seen brands like Nike and H&M weather similar controversies in the past and maintain relatively strong sales, however short term we think H&M may see a negative impact on its sales in the large and growing Chinese market," RBC Capital Markets analyst Richard Chamberlain said in a note. Shares in H&M fell 2 percent in early trade.

With many of its shops closed because of the coronavirus pandemic, H&M reported a pretax loss for the December-February period, its fiscal first quarter, of 1.39 billion crowns (US\$159 million) against a year-earlier profit of 2.50 billion. Analysts polled by Refinitiv had on average forecast a 1.41 billion crown loss.

Sales from March 1-28 were up 55 percent measured in local currencies. H&M said it would not propose a dividend at its annual general meeting but saw good prospects of one in the second half of the year.



File photo taken on April 22, 2009 shows the giant signboard of Sweden's chic fashion chain store H&M on Qianmen Street in Beijing, capital of China. (XINHUA)

## Health chief frets over 'impending doom' in US

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden on Monday called on local officials to keep or reinstate mask requirements and pause reopenings of their economies as the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, said she has a sense of "impending doom" because of the rising number of daily coronavirus cases, hospitalizations and the COVID-19 death rate.

"If we let our guard down now, we could see a virus getting worse, not better. Reinstate the mandate if you let it down," he said, calling it a "patriotic duty" that is crucial to the nation's fight against the disease.

Biden spoke a few hours after CDC Director Rochelle Walensky described a "recurring feeling I have of impending doom" as infections once again are on the rise.

She said at a White House briefing daily infections are up 10 percent from a week ago, hospitalizations are again rising, and deaths, a lagging indicator, averaged nearly 1,000 per day last week after four consecutive days below 850.

Walensky also expressed concern about increasing travel, saying US citizens should limit trips to essential occasions.

The pace of vaccinations is on the rise. The CDC reported three straight days of more than 3 million vaccine doses administered, including a record of nearly 3.5 million shots on Saturday.

Biden said on Monday that 90 percent of US adults will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccines by April 19, and vaccination sites would be within 8 kilometers of an individual's home.

Despite vaccinations going up, the number of new infections in New Jersey increased by 37 percent in more than a month, to about 23,600 new cases every seven days. In New York, daily cases have averaged about 50,000 people per week since mid-February.

The country has so far reported 30,331,794 confirmed cases and 550,036 deaths since the start of the outbreak, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. **Agencies**

## WHO releases report on global tracing of COVID-19 origins

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday released a report on the global tracing of COVID-19 origins, following a joint research with China on issues including the pathways of the virus and future investigation in different countries.

## LAB ORIGIN 'EXTREMELY UNLIKELY'

A total of 34 experts from the WHO and China jointly conducted a 28-day research from Jan. 14 to Feb. 10 in Wuhan, China. They made assessment of the likelihood of possible pathways.

According to the report, COVID-19 introduction through an intermediate host is "likely to very likely," introduction through cold/food chain products is "possible," and introduction through a laboratory incident is "extremely unlikely."

The experts also put forward a series of recommendations for future researches: developing a comprehensive information database, conducting further retrospective and systematic research around earlier cases and possible hosts, and analyzing the different role of the cold chain in the possible introduction and spread of the virus.

Though the process of finding the source of the virus is still ongoing, evidence and data included in this report offer some key glimpse into it. For example, the team "reviewed data from published studies from different countries suggesting early circulation" of the novel coronavirus, according to the report.

The findings showed that "some of the suspected positive samples were detected even earlier than the first case in Wuhan, suggesting the possibility of missed circulation in other countries," the report said, adding that "Nonetheless, it is important to investigate these potential early events."

Also on Tuesday, the WHO held a briefing on the report. During it, British zoologist Peter Daszak, a member of the WHO team, said the Chinese scientists did a lot of the work.

"Don't think about national boundaries if we really want to defeat pandemics," he said. "We have to come together with other countries to focus on how they emerge and try and stop them for the future."

## CHINA'S POSITIVE ROLE

China believes that the joint research will play a positive role in promoting global cooperation in COVID-19 origin tracing, a Chinese Foreign



Peter K. Ben Embarek, leader of an international team of experts to Wuhan

Ministry spokesperson said Tuesday.

He said China has always been a supporter of global scientific research on the source of the virus and its transmission routes. China co-sponsored the 73rd World Health Assembly resolution on COVID-19 and supports WHO-led cooperation on zoonotic source research among member states.

Despite the daunting task of domestic prevention and control, China twice invited WHO experts in for origin-tracing, said the spokesperson, adding that the Chinese side offered necessary facilitation for the team's work, fully demonstrating its openness, transparency and responsible attitude.

Members of the WHO team have expressed similar feelings. Daszak said in early February that during the visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the experts were met with a level of openness even

he had not anticipated. "I can't stress enough how rewarding a process the trip has been. It went beyond all expectations in many ways," said Thea Kolsen Fischer, also a WHO team member, in February. "When we have had discussions in the expert team, it has only been based on data and documentation."

During a briefing on Tuesday, Liang Wannian, a member of the WHO-China joint team, said the novel coronavirus origin tracing research in China is part of the global study of origins of the virus, and it is the first step.

All the conclusions and recommendations in the report are based on a global perspective, and future research will not be limited to a certain area, Liang said.

Novel coronavirus origin tracing is about science, and it should be jointly carried out by scientists worldwide, said Chen Xu, head of the Chinese

Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

This joint research will play a positive role in promoting origin-tracing in many countries and regions around the world, and provide a scientific guide for the human race to better understand the virus, Chen added.

## FUTURE STEPS

The size of the report and the amount of material and results, analysis and data in the report speak for themselves in terms of how the collaboration with the Chinese colleagues went, said Dr. Peter Ben Embarek, team leader for international experts, during the Tuesday briefing. "There is still a lot of work to do," he said, adding that recommendations laid out in the report are expected to be implemented in the coming weeks and months to get a better understanding of the origin of this virus.

Professor Dominic Dwyer from University of Sydney, also a member of the WHO team, said in February that the WHO mission was only phase one of the investigation. "Investigators will also look further afield for data, to investigate evidence the virus was circulating in Europe, for instance, earlier in 2019," he noted. **Xinhua**

## Australia marks quietest fire season in a decade

MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA'S most populous state has closed out its quietest fire season in a decade, its fire service said, as the coolest and wettest summer in years offered a reprieve from the uncontrolled blazes that torched large swathes of the country the year before.

The current bushfire season has seen half the number of

callouts in New South Wales state, at 5,500, as the previous season, the NSW Rural Fire Service said on Wednesday, and burned 31,000 hectares compared to 5.5 million hectares razed across the state during last season's Black Summer wildfires.

The less hazardous fire conditions were underpinned by a La Nina weather pattern, which saw Australia registering its

wettest weather in four years and its coolest in nine though it also had the downside of causing massive floods in parts of the country's east coast.

"Today marks the official end of the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period," the RFS said in a social media post.

Fires this year blackened nearly half of the World Heritage listed Fraser Island, home to the world's only tropical forest

that grows on sand, off the country's north east coast. In Western Australia state, fires burned more than 70 homes.

Australia's climate has warmed by around 1.44 C since 1910, while southern Australia has seen a reduction of 10-20 percent in cool season rainfall between April and October in recent decades, according to its Bureau of Meteorology.

Wildfires destroyed an area

the size of Turkey, killed 33 people and billions of animals, and destroyed nearly 3,000 homes from September 2019 to March last year. This month, Australians on the east coast have been inundated with rain and the worst floods in more than half a century, with tens of thousands of people evacuated.

Authorities this week began recovery efforts as water levels receded. **Agencies**

## Unmanned farm projects boost development of smart agriculture in China

UNMANNED farm, where driverless tractors can cultivate land quickly and unmanned aerial variable rate fertilizer applicators can spray pesticides efficiently, is becoming a reality in China.

On March 9, an expo on preparation for spring farming held in Jingxia village, Huangpu district of Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong province, caught wide attention to unmanned smart agriculture practices including driverless agricultural machinery conducting farming activities and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) performing tasks of plant protection accurately.

Huangpu district has been trying to empower and promote agricultural development with science and technology. Since the

district has relatively less farmland, its pays greater attention to leveraging scientific and technological means to improve the quality and output of farm work.

The district has made great efforts to practice the strategy of innovative application of agricultural technology to increase farmland productivity. Regarding the use of scientific farming methods as an important measure to increase crop yield and people's income, Huangpu district has endeavored to promote the commercialization and application of scientific and technological advances in a bid to increase the output per unit area and total output of grain.

In February, Huangpu district introduced research achievements in the development

of unmanned farm of a research team led by Luo Xiwen, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), aiming to create an unmanned farm using 100 mu (about 6.67 hectares) of paddy fields in its Dajisha Island and find an effective solution to the problems of "who farms the land" and "how to farm the land" by realizing unmanned operations during the whole processes of farming activities from sowing, fertilization, pesticide spraying, to harvesting.

By promoting the development of unmanned farms, Luo's team intends to liberate farmers from heavy manual labor and operators of agricultural machinery from laborious driving operation, Luo told re-

porters at the expo in Guangzhou.

As an approach to smart agriculture, unmanned farm features full coverage of all the production links from cultivation and management to collection of crops, full-automatic operation of machinery, automatic obstacle avoidance and shutdown in abnormal conditions, real-time monitoring of crop production process, and intelligent decision-making and unmanned accurate operation.

Unmanned farm can effectively improve the quality of farming activities, reduce production costs, increase the utilization rate of land, fertilizer, and pesticides, and realize all-day continuous operations.

Driverless tractors can finish soil preparation of 50 mu of land in three hours, a signifi-

cant improvement in efficiency compared to manual labor. Meanwhile, if UAVs are used to ensure accurate fertilization, the yield of farmland will be raised by as much as 10 percent compared to that achieved through traditional fertilization methods.

Besides Guangzhou's Huangpu district, other areas in China have also piloted unmanned farms. Such farms include the eco-friendly unmanned farm of Shandong University of Technology in Zibo, east China's Shandong province, digital unmanned farm in Waigang township, Jiading district of east China's Shanghai, as well as the Qixing farm in northeast China's Heilongjiang province, with each having its own strengths. **People's Daily**



# HKSAR gov't strongly opposes US human rights report

HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government has strongly opposed comments relating to the HKSAR in a report titled "2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices" issued by the United States' Department of State.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, a spokesperson for the HKSAR government said human rights are fully protected by law in Hong Kong.

"The Basic Law, which serves as the constitutional document of the HKSAR, provides a constitutional guarantee for fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to equality before the law, and is buttressed by the rule of law and an independent judiciary."

The spokesperson said safeguarding human rights and freedoms is a constitutional duty of the HKSAR government, which is firmly committed to upholding human rights and various freedoms in Hong Kong.

In the statement, the spokesperson described as "utterly groundless" as the report calls into question China's willingness to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle.

"To uphold and implement the principle of 'one country, two systems' meets the interests of the Hong Kong people, responds to the needs of maintaining Hong Kong's prosperity and stability and serves the fundamental interests of the nation," the spokesperson said.

The Central People's Government has repeatedly made it clear that it will unswervingly implement the policy of "one country, two systems," according to the statement.

The HKSAR government also strongly objected to the comments in the US report smearing the National Security Law in Hong Kong.

The spokesperson said national security is a matter within the purview of the central authorities and it is the legitimate right and duty of every country to safeguard its national security.

"Smearing the National Security Law out of political motivation is clear hypocrisy in adopting double standards," the spokesman said.

Regarding judicial independence, the spokesperson said as enshrined under the Basic Law, Hong Kong courts can exercise independent judicial power, including that of final



This photo dated Aug 8, 2017 shows the Central Government Offices in Tamar, Hong Kong.

adjudication, free from any interference. The spokesperson also stressed that all prosecutorial decisions are made independently based on objective assessment of all admissible evidence, applicable laws and the Prosecution Code, without political consideration.

On the postponement of the Legislative Council election, the spokesperson said the health and the well-being of the people are the overriding concerns of any responsible government.

The government also opposed to report's claim that the decision to disqualify four LegCo members "sought to restrict the rights to express or report on dissenting political views," adding that the decision by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress was constitutional, lawful and reasonable.

The spokesperson reiterated that foreign governments should not interfere in any form in the internal affairs of the HKSAR.

The Commissioner's Office of the Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR expressed a similar sentiment in a separate statement issued on the same day.

A spokesperson for the office said the report distorted the truth, demonized the central government's Hong Kong-related policy measures, vilified the SAR government's law-based governance and the police's law enforcement efforts.

The report, which openly endorsed anti-China forces sowing trouble in Hong Kong, is a gross violation of international law and basic norms governing international relations and an outright interference in Hong Kong affairs, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the finger-pointing US report "makes a total mockery of human rights" as the US lags behind the HKSAR in global rankings in the areas of freedoms and the rule of law. *Xinhua*

China's automotive aftermarket hits 1 trillion yuan in 2020: Ministry of Commerce

CHINA'S automotive aftermarket is estimated to have hit 1 trillion yuan (\$153.78 billion) in 2020, said the country's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) Wednesday. The sector has given a tremendous boost to consumption related to the auto industry, the ministry added.

The automotive aftermarket refers to deals and services related to sold automobiles. Citing China Automobile Dealers Association, MOFCOM said that over 14.34 million used vehicles were traded last year in China, down by 3.9 percent from a year ago. The decrease narrowed 15.7 percent compared with that in the first half of the same year. Total transaction volume stood at 888.8 billion yuan, shrinking 5.0 percent year on year.

MOFCOM estimated that the country had recycled and dismantled nearly 2.4 million scrapped vehicles last year, up 4.5 percent year on year, including 2.06 million automobiles and 332,000 motorcycles.

According to the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, the value of the Chinese car tuning market hit 65.2 billion yuan last year, up 71 percent from a year ago. The country is seeing increasing demand from customers to modify their vehicles.

Statistics released by the Ministry of Transport indicated that as of the end of 2020, China had issued business permits to 214 online car-hailing firms, as well as 2.89 million licenses to car-hailing drivers.

A total of 2.1 billion car-hailing orders were placed in the fourth quarter last year, according to a national monitoring platform for the industry.

Agencies

People's Daily

# Northern Sea Route's significance growing in light of Suez Canal incident - Rosatom

MOSCOW

THE role of the Northern Sea Route, which runs through Russia's seas in the Arctic Ocean, is growing in light of Tuesday's incident in the Suez Canal. Vladimir Panov, a special representative of the Rosatom state nuclear corporation for Arctic development, who is in charge of the development of the Northern Sea Route, said in an interview with Interfax.

"The Suez precedent has shown how fragile any route between Europe and Asia is. Therefore, the de-

velopment of alternative routes is essential to guarantee sustainable international navigation. This increases the role of the Northern Sea Route, which has been ever more competitive from year to year," Panov said.

"The Northern Sea Route's development hedges logistical risks and makes global trade more sustainable. Undoubtedly, such Asian countries as China, Japan, and South Korea will take the precedent of the Suez Canal's blockage into consideration in their long-term strategic plans," he said.

As reported earlier, Rosatom expects the Northern Sea Route to be-

come an international and national sea transport corridor to compete with the southern route via the Suez Canal by 2035.

Rosatom is conducting a pre-investment study of the Northern Transit Corridor, as part of which it plans to clarify the target segment of the market, determine a marketing strategy, analyze the volume and structure of cargo turnover and routes between Northern Europe and East Asia, assess potential cargo flow, choose a site for transshipment hubs in the east and west of the route, as well as conduct an audit of shipyards for build-

ing Arc-7 ice-class pilot series ships.

The Ever Given container carrier chartered by Taiwan's Evergreen ran aground and blocked navigation through the Suez Canal on Tuesday.

The canal's administration is continuing efforts to bring the ship afloat using eight large tugboats. Two more dredgers have been dispatched to the Suez Canal to join the operation.

The administration said on Thursday that navigation via the waterway would be suspended until the Ever Given is brought afloat.

According to the Alphaliner research company, a congestion of 165

ships has formed in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean waiting for the waterway to be unblocked.

If the canal remains blocked long enough, shipping lines could start redirecting their ships around the Cape of Good Hope, which would significantly increase their time in transit.

The Ever Given, bound for the port of Rotterdam, Netherlands, is making its way from China with more than 20,000 heavy containers on board. It is one of the largest vessels in its class. It is 400 meters long and 59 meters wide.

Agencies

People's Daily

# UK not structurally racist, report ordered by Johnson says

THE UK is not a "post-racial" society but issues around race and racism are becoming less important as opportunities improve, a report commissioned by the government after the Black Lives Matter protests found.

When the death of George Floyd last year prompted riots in the US, mirror protests took place around the UK against perceived police racism and the poorer life chances for ethnic minorities. But the report by the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities rejects the idea the UK is structurally racist.

"The well-meaning idealism of many young people who claim the country is still institutionally racist is not borne out by the evidence," the report will say, according to extracts released before its publication Wednesday. Still, "overt and outright racism persists," particularly online, it will say.

"The prime minister commissioned this report because he believed this was an extremely important issue for the country and that we want to tackle this, to go even further," Cabinet minister Robert Jenrick told Sky News Wednesday. "We're doing well as a country on the road



Pedestrians cross the junction of Coldharbour Lane and Atlantic Road in the Brixton district of London, UK, on July 1, 2020. (PHOTO / BLOOMBERG)

to a post-racial society."

Halima Begum, director of the race equality think tank Runnymede Trust, criticized the report, which she said "was clearly written to a script defined by 10 Downing Street the moment this so-called independent commission was convened." She said the study "insulted every ethnic minority in this country - the very people who continue to experience racism on a daily basis."

**'Disappointing'**

The main opposition La-

bour Party criticized the report, calling it "disappointing." Labour's foreign affairs spokeswoman Lisa Nandy told Sky News it "seeks to downplay" some of the structural nature of the challenges facing ethnic minorities in the UK.

The report found that there is an improving picture in the UK including increasing diversity in elite professions and a shrinking ethnicity pay gap, though disparities remain. It also finds that children from many ethnic communities

do as well or better than White pupils in compulsory education, with Black Caribbean pupils the only group to perform less well.

"Most of the disparities we examined, which some attribute to racial discrimination, often do not have their origins in racism," the commission found.

Still, some communities are "haunted" by "historic cases" of racism, creating "deep mistrust" in the system which could prove a barrier to success.

Agencies

# Parliament passes law letting Putin run for president again

MOSCOW

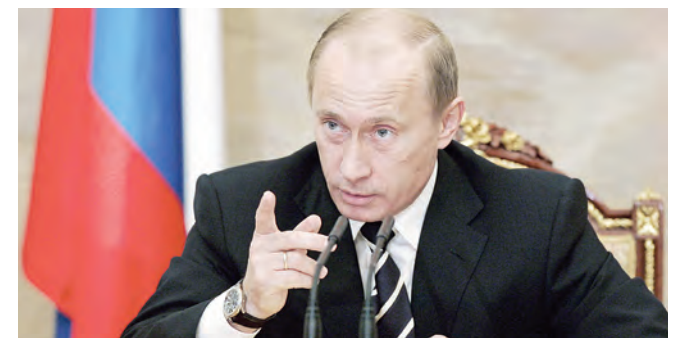
RUSSIA'S Federation Council (parliament's upper house) at its plenary meeting yesterday passed a law enabling President Vladimir Putin to contest the presidency again.

A number of the law's provisions was formulated on the basis of amendments to the Constitution, such as a restriction on the number of presidential terms for one person.

It is applied to the incumbent head of state regardless of his previous presidencies. This rule allows the current head of state to hold this position for two more terms.

The law stipulates that the vacancy of Russia's president is open to any citizen of Russia over 35 years of age, who has permanently resided in the country's territory for no less than 25 years and does not have and never had citizenship or residence permit of another country.

This rule does not apply to Russians who "earlier had citizenship of a state that was eventually incorporated entirely or in part into the Russian Federation in ac-



cordance with a federal constitutional law."

The initiative introduces age qualification for the chairperson of the Central Election Commission (CEC). This position is open to any Russian citizen over 30 years of age.

The Central Election Commission can terminate the powers of a regional election commission member appointed at its initiative.

The CEC is empowered to dismiss an election commission member only on the basis of a motivated request and in combination with the nomination of another candidate.

The CEC also enjoys the right to form a separate territorial election commission for the federal territory Sirius.

The new rules also empower the election commissions to edit, in coordination with the CEC, the information about candidates in the ballot papers, if the number of candidates is more than ten, or if there is a list of candidates.

Also, the election commissions will be able to increase the number of mobile ballot boxes that can be used for voting outside the polling stations.

The law specifies the norms of the law on State Duma elections and prohibits those convicted of offences of medium gravity to elect or be elected members of the lower house of parliament for five years following the cancellation of conviction.

# Emotional testimony in trial over Floyd's death evokes memories of US trauma

WASHINGTON

More witnesses have taken the stand as the murder trial for former police officer Derek Chauvin charged with killing George Floyd ended on Tuesday, giving emotional testimony reflecting the country's trauma over the death of the African American in Minneapolis, Minnesota, about ten months ago.

"He (Chauvin) just pretty much killed this guy that wasn't resisting arrest," prosecution witness Donald Williams was heard as saying in a 911 call played in court on Tuesday. Williams told the court that he made the call because he believed he had "witnessed a murder" since Chauvin had Floyd in a "blood choke," a chokehold that cuts off the blood supply from the brain by

placing pressure on either or both sides of a person's neck where the carotid arteries are located.

Chauvin's attorney, Eric Nelson, argued on Tuesday that Williams, who is a 33-year-old mixed martial arts fighter, did not have enough medical or police training experience to analyze Floyd's cause of death. The full video of Floyd's arrest was played by prosecutors in opening statements on Monday, showing that Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck for about 9 minutes and 30 seconds, instead of the widely reported 8 minutes and 46

seconds. Floyd could be heard pleading with Chauvin multiple times, saying that he couldn't breathe. "You can believe your eyes, that it's homicide -- it's murder," said prosecuting attorney Jerry Blackwell, noting Chauvin's knee remained on the neck even after Floyd lost consciousness. Floyd, 46, was pronounced dead later on the day.

Genevieve Hansen, a 27-year-old city firefighter and emergency medical technician, wiped tears from her eyes as she recalled witnessing Floyd's arrest. She said she had urged police officers to

take Floyd's pulse and also called 911 at the time. "I was concerned to see a handcuffed man who was not moving with officers with their whole body weight on his back and a crowd that was stressed out," Hansen said.

Among people who had testified as of Tuesday, four were younger than 18 on May 25, 2020, the day of Floyd's arrest and death, said a New York Times report. Darnella Frazier, the teenager who recorded the infamous video igniting nationwide outcry for racial justice, said she ultimately believed the former city

police officer was at fault for Floyd's death. "It's been nights I stayed up apologizing and apologizing to George Floyd for not doing more and not physically interacting and not saving his life," said Frazier, noting the incident had changed her life by making her filled with grief and anger.

Chauvin was charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. The duration Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd and the concrete causes of the black man's death were widely thought to be among the major

cruxes of the trial. While the defense may argue that use of force was necessary, prosecutors will try to convince the jury that the amount of time was unreasonable and unlawful, according to local media reports. At least three bystanders called 911 on the scene.

Outside the courthouse, high school English teacher Kaia Hirt, 48, sat wrapped in blankets and heavy chains locked to the security fence surrounding the building, quietly calling for racial justice. She told USA Today on Tuesday afternoon that she has been

locked to the fence in protest for almost 24 hours, with a few breaks. Currently, a record number of Americans are worried about race relations, according to a Gallup poll released on Friday.

As many as 48 percent of respondents said they worried a great deal about U.S. race relations, up 17 points from that of last year, the poll found, attributing the hike to last year's protests and riots in the wake of Floyd's death in police custody. Twenty-five percent of Americans said they worried a "fair amount about race relations," while 16 percent said they worried only a little. Only 11 percent said they didn't worry at all, according to the poll.

Xinhua



# SPORT



Ihefu FC head coach, Zubeir Katwila.

## Ihefu FC leadership sets strategy for motivating squad

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IHEFU Football Club's SC leaders have announced a huge bonus for each of the side's players, if they win matches in this season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL) from now on, to save the team from relegation.

The Mbarali District-based team's Secretary General, Athuman Mndolwa, said in an effort to ensure the team remain in the Premier League, the management has added a bonus to the players with the aim of reviving morale, with each match having been allocated its share.

Despite not mentioning the increased level given it is confidential, Mndolwa said the cash they have set for each match is a lot for a Premier League player.

They expressed optimism the approach will stimulate more commitment in the team. "The issue of increased bonus is a secret between club leadership and players, but we stayed with them and agreed to improve the previous one, the main goal is to win every match and keep the team in the Premier League," he disclosed.

Mndolwa added that due to their goals, they decided to give the players a week-long leave. He noted their players have already entered the camp to continue preparing to notch good results in the remainder of their top flight assignments.

"At the moment we are focusing on seeing to it we are avoiding relegation, we are thankful we have unity and solidarity and we are determined not avoid making mistakes in these 10 matches," he said.

Ihefu FC head coach, Zubeir Katwila, has said he is also confident his squad will not be relegated this season.

The team are one of the outfits that got promotion to the Premier League this season, their performance nevertheless has not been convincing.

Katwila who joined the team in the middle

of the season from Mtibwa Sugar of Morogoro said he knows his team are in a difficult time at the moment but he will fight to stay in the Premier League.

Ihefu FC has played 24 matches and notched 20 points, sitting 17th in the 18-team league standing.

Katwila said that there are still several matches before the culmination of the league, therefore he believes he will use those to keep his squad fit and ensure it stays in the Premier League next season.

"Of course we are in a difficult time, but that does not mean that we are not able to fight to stay in the Premier League, we remain convinced and dedicated to survive for next season," he said.

He urged Ihefu FC fans not to give up on their outfit's battle for holding on to its spot in the Premier League, the fans, he disclosed, should instead support their club.

"At this time it is important for our fans to give put their weight behind their team as the players need them very much," he said.

He said the league has become more difficult especially towards the end as no team want to be relegated.

"Every team are currently struggling to avoid relegation and that is when the league becomes more difficult, but we will fight and I am thankful my players have great motivation," he said.

Ihefu FC's keeper, Deogratius Munishi, pointed out if they increase their efforts the team will remain in the VPL next season.

The veteran shot stopper, who has also had the opportunity to play for teams including Yanga, Simba SC and Lipuli FC, said he still believes Ihefu FC has a chance to remain in the league.

He noted: "It's true that the team have not achieved good results and it is difficult for us especially when the team loses, but I believe there is still a chance to stay in the league if we increase our efforts."

"We have been making mistakes that have brought about our failure to get good results. I believe the technical bench recognizes and will work on our mistakes," he said.

contract they have recently signed."

He pointed out: "The implication is that it was targeting to encourage companies to increase their investment in football."

He insisted: "He was not referring to SportPesa alone, it should be noted that there were many companies that withdrew from our football, namely NMB, TBL and more."

"The fact is that the money that is currently being invested is very small compared to the value that Simba currently have."

"It is true that due to the agreement of the period and it is appropriate for that period SportPesa were the liberators of our clubs because TBL withdrew so they helped us, but in reality now there is a need for rethinking."

"The person we are working with is the one who is given priority in the new contract agreement to improve."

"If there is no interest, it is better to give free time to help the community than continuing to advertise and receive an amount that does not match the reality of our club's value.

## Simba SC issues explanations on Mohamed Dewji's statement

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

A member of Simba SC's Board of Directors, Mulamu Ng'ambi, has clarified the message of the board's director, Mohamed Dewji, after the latter expressed his feelings about the club's contract with SportPesa firm.

Dewji wrote on his social media page: Manchester United will be paid £ 305 million which is equivalent to 700 billion Tanzanian shillings for five years from (Team Viewer)."

"Tanzania's Simba do not receive even one percent of the money from SportPesa sponsors (1% of that amount is 7 bn/-)," he stated.

Ng'ambi clarified the message, saying: "People did not understand Dewji, what he meant was to imply that, the amount that is either available or invested in football as sponsorship is still very small compared to other countries that receive sponsorship."

He stated: "I think he was said Simba are not getting the one-percent sponsorship that Manchester United are getting in the new

## SPORTS

## TPLB unveils schedule for Premier League and Federation Cup



Kilimanjaro's Polisi Tanzania's midfielder, Abdul-Aziz Makame (L), battles for possession with Azam FC striker, Ayoub Lyanga, when the squads locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League's clash, which took place at the former's venue on December 31, 2020. Azam FC won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ALMAS Kasongo, Chief Executive Officer of the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), has said that this season's Mainland Tanzania Premier League is expected to continue on April 8 after completing 21 days of national mourning.

The league was temporarily suspended due to the death of the former President, John Pombe Magufuli, who died in Dar es Salaam on March 17.

Kasongo said: "Looking at our original schedule that we presented to the clubs, it showed that on March 3-4, there will be Azam Sports Federation Cup clashes and on March 6-8 we were set to return to the league matches."

He stated: "Due to the tragedy it means that the Federation Cup matches will not take place because we are in 21 days of national mourning."

He pointed out: "You should remember that 21 days end on April

7 where there was a league game, there was also a league game on April 6."

He added: "After reviewing our schedule we have come up with a change. You can see that our league returns on April 8-10, the games which were to be played on March 6 and 8 will be played on April 9-10, while games that were supposed to be played on March 10 are still scheduled for April 10."

He stated: "Our league will continue on April 8, 9 and 10 and the clashes will be the first games to have the top flight get back to action from where we stopped for 21 days of mourning."

"There are some games that have yet to be scheduled, we will search another day for them to take place and there are other games which include matches in hand that will be also arranged for the days they are to take place," he said.

According to TPLB the teams with games in hand will tussle on April 13-15, whereas others will play the fixtures on April 24, games will continue to May 5-12 and May 23-25 with other games yet to be scheduled, according to Kasongo.

Yanga are the league leaders with 50 points, five points ahead of age-old rivals Simba SC who are on 46 points with three matches in hand.

Relegation battle is what makes the league more

interesting, with Mwanuzi FC fighting for their lives at the basement of the league table.

The outfit is placed 18th with 16 points, Ihefu FC is placed 17th with 20 points.

Relegation play-offs' spot has Mbeya City FC sitting on the spot with 20 points.

Despite being level with Ihefu FC in terms of points, Mbeya City FC are above their fellow Mbeya team thanks to more goals they have scored.

Dodoma's JKT Tanzania sit 15th to fill up the two relegation play-off spots.

The league's clubs that will be placed in the play-off positions will face First Division League outfits, seeking a place in the top flight next season.

## Prisons' players should maintain consistency in VPL - Kazumba

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League (VPL) side, Prisons, has returned to training to prepare for the resumption of this season's top flight.

The Rukwa-based side's assistant coach, Shaaban Kazumba, insisted he wants his team's players to maintain consistency they put to show before the league was suspended.

The league and the rest of sporting activities are in recess as Tanzania is observing 21 days of national mourning following the death of President John Pombe Magufuli.

Prisons looked in great form after playing six games in a row without suffering loss.

The club moreover put solid showing when it took on the league favourites and consequently moved to good position in the Premier League.

Kazumba made it clear that his players are returning to the camp to begin preparations for the Premier League. He maintained that they will hardly experience drop in form.

He said they are currently awaiting a new schedule, adding his players are ready for the challenge.

"We do not know if we will start with a Federation Cup's clash against Yanga or a VPL clash against Polisi Tanzania, but let me say we will be ready for any schedule and when we start camp the programs will be the same," he noted.

The coach added despite the good results they posted they cannot be satisfied with the success.

He pointed out they have to put in place similar plans, seeking to maintain a good record and finish in the top four.

He said during this period many teams are embarking on preparations with the aim of competing for top positions.

He stated a section of the squads are further working hard to avoid



Prisons' fullback, Michael Ismail (L), challenges Azam FC winger, Iddi Selemeni, in this season's Vodacom Premier League clash, held at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam in February. Prisons drew 0-0 with Azam FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

relegation so Prisons will seek victory in every match.

"Even though we aspire to slot into the top three positions to boost our

quest for taking part in continental tournaments, there are clubs which are seeking to escape relegation so Prisons must be careful," he noted.



## Africa Cup of Nations: Finals field incomplete after COVID complicates Benin-Sierra Leone

JOHANNESBURG

THE conclusion of the Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers hit a stumbling block on Tuesday as Benin refused to play their decisive qualifier in Sierra Leone after local authorities declared six of their players to be COVID-19 positive.

Players initially would not leave the team bus after being told the six were ineligible for the crucial Group L match in Freetown where Sierra Leone needed to win while Benin required only a draw for a place in next January's finals.

One of them would have become the 24th team to reach the finals in Cameroon next year to complete the lineup.

The positive tests were announced just before kickoff in Freetown. Two hours after the scheduled kickoff time, and with no sign of the Benin team, the Sierra Leone Football Association announced the game had been canceled and that the Confederation of African Football would have to make a ruling on what happens next.

"A shame for African football what is currently happening, we hope the Confederation of African Football (CAF) will take responsibility and take action," the Benin Football Federation tweeted.

Negotiations led to the kick off being put back three hours but the revised time passed without play starting. The Benin federation later said its players had returned to the hotel after "being blocked on the bus".

There was no comment from CAF who must now decide whether the game goes ahead on Wednesday.

Matches in African club competitions earlier this year were dogged by players from visiting teams being disqualified by test results, some delivered just before kick off, leading to accusations that testing for the novel coronavirus was being manipulated to offer home teams an advantage.

On the pitch, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania have become the latest countries to qualify for January's Africa Cup of Nations as they secured runners-up berths in their groups on Tuesday.

Ethiopia lost 3-1 to Ivory Coast but still qualified, while Mauritania won 1-0 in the Central African Republic to secure their spot for a second straight tournament.

Guinea-Bissau posted a 3-0 win over Congo to catapult above them into second place in Group I.

They had to win the game while their visitors needed only draw but Piqueti scored in the last minute of the first half and Frederic Mendy and Jorginho Intima added two more after the break to see Guinea Bissau to a third successive finals.

Ivory Coast beat Ethiopia in

Abidjan to top Group K with 13 points but Ethiopia, with nine, qualified as runners-up when Madagascar were held to a 0-0 draw by Niger at the same time.

The Malagasy, who made the last Cup of Nations quarter-finals on their debut, needed a home win to usurp Ethiopia in the standings but despite their desperate onslaught at home in Toamasina failed to beat veteran goalkeeper Kassaly Daouda.

Ethiopia were a goal behind within three minutes as Willy Boly scored for the Ivorians, followed by a 19th-minute penalty from Franck Kessie.

Getaneh Kebede pulled a goal back in the second half but the hosts quickly re-established a two-goal advantage through Jean Evrard Kouassi.

Referee Charles Bulu of Ghana appeared to become disoriented in the 81st minute of the match. With Bulu staggering, concerned Ivorian players held him up by his arms for a short while as others called for medics. Bulu was being helped toward the sideline when he suddenly slumped and lay on his back with his eyes closed.

He was treated by medics and taken off on the stretcher, although he was conscious when he was carried off. Reports say he had fainted.

The game was called off with Ivory Coast leading 3-1 because the fourth official at the game was Ivorian and unable to take charge. After discussions on the field between officials that lasted about 10 minutes, Kenyan assistant referee Gilbert Cheruiyot took over as referee but ended the game without any more play.

It's unclear if the result will stand. The Ethiopian Football Federation said in a statement that the game had been canceled pending a decision by CAF.

However, the result won't matter as Ivory Coast and Ethiopia both qualified for the African Cup next year in Cameroon anyway.

In other matches, former Fulham striker Aboubakar Kamara scored on the stroke of half-time to ensure Mauritania qualified with a win in Bangui.

They finished second in Group E behind Morocco.

French-born Kamara had only agreed to play for Mauritania, where his father hails from, earlier this year and was playing his second international.

Group I winners Senegal, who qualified last November, needed a 96th-minute Cheikhou Kouyate equaliser to avoid a home loss to lowly Eswatini, for whom Sabelo Gamedze netted a stunning fourth-minute volley followed by a frantic defensive rearguard action.

Victor Osimhen, Oghenekaro Etebo and substitute Paul Onuachu scored for already-qualified Nigeria as they beat Lesotho 3-0 in Lagos in Group L.

(Agencies)

## Guardiola: Aguero is England's Messi, Maradona

LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola said that Sergio Aguero has conquered the Premier League in the way Barcelona's Lionel Messi did it in La Liga and Diego Maradona did for Napoli in Serie A.

Aguero, who is the highest-scoring non-Englishman in Premier League history with 181 goals, will leave the Etihad at the end of the season after City confirmed on Monday that he would not be offered a new contract to replace his existing deal, which expires on June 30.

Speaking exclusively with ESPN Brazil, Guardiola compared Aguero to Messi and Maradona as other Argentina greats who have etched their marks in Europe's top domestic leagues.

"Maradona conquered Italy, Messi did it in Spain, and Aguero has done it in England, his numbers speak for themselves," Guardiola said. "When you have that internal fire, play with that anger, his incredible talent comes out, he can win games on his own."

Aguero netted 257 total goals in 384

appearances and won four Premier League titles, one FA Cup and five League Cups. Among the highlights of Aguero's City career is his injury-time winner against Queens Park Rangers on the final day of the 2011-12 season that secured the club's first English title in 44 years.

Injuries, and a spell on the sidelines with COVID-19, have restricted Aguero to just four Premier League starts and one goal this season. In total, he has made just 14 appearances in all competitions, scoring three goals.

Aguero is now fit, however, and ready to contribute to City's push for an unprecedented quadruple of Premier League, FA Cup, Carabao Cup and Champions League this season.

"He is an extraordinary person, and we still have another month and a half to win things and score goals," Guardiola added.

Sources have told ESPN's Mark Ogden that Aguero is drawing interest from Juventus, Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain after ruling out a return to boyhood club Independiente.

(Agencies)

# Are Mourinho's Tottenham struggles similar to what happened at Real Madrid, Man United and Chelsea?

By Bill Connelly, ESPN Staff Writer

THE life cycle for hiring Jose Mourinho as your manager has been pretty well-defined through the years.

First, you win big. He won Chelsea's first two top-division titles in 50+ years in his first two seasons at the club. He won two Serie A titles and a Champions League in two years at Inter. He fielded the most dominant team in La Liga history in his second season at Real Madrid. He won another league title in his second year back at Chelsea. He engineered Manchester United's only top-two finish since Alex Ferguson's retirement in his second season at Old Trafford.

Then, the drama begins. At some point -- usually in his third season at a club -- the results flag a bit. Players stop responding as well to the intensity of Mourinho's demands, poor results creep into the picture -- a frustrating late loss to a minnow here, a blowout loss to a heavyweight there -- and rumors of player discord waft out of the dressing room, soon picking up velocity. Mourinho begins to get testier with the media. The club (usually via anonymous sources) and its fans express dismay with his lineup selections, often in his lack of trust in a young hotshot prospect.

Finally, he departs. Typically, he's walking away with a large buy-out in hand.

By hiring Mourinho, you're signing up for trophies, a heavy and immediate investment in player talent -- from Michael Essien and Didier Drogba at Chelsea to Paul Pogba at Manchester United -- and a more dramatic than usual departure.

His time at Tottenham Hotspur, however, has followed a different script. For one thing, though the club has more money and talent than most of its peers, it doesn't have the financial (or roster) superiority that most of Mourinho's previous employers have boasted. And due in part to the effects of the pandemic, the club's moves since hiring Mourinho in November 2019 have been more calculated and less free-spending; they've made loan deals for Gareth Bale and Carlos Vinicius, while their biggest transfer spending was geared towards strong, but less-than-Pogba-level, players such as Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, Sergio Reguilon (though Real Madrid did insert a buy-back clause) and Steven Bergwijn.

Another difference? Well, Mourinho hasn't won big.

When attackers Harry Kane and Son Heung-Min have been healthy, Spurs have been a perfectly solid team. From the start of Project Restart last summer (which finished the delayed 2019-20 season) through mid-December -- a span of about 21 matches for each club -- they generated 43 points, tied for most in the league with Pep Guardiola's Manchester City. They have also advanced to the League Cup finals; an upset of City on April 25 would bring the club its first major trophy since 2008.

Still, they suffered an embarrassing collapse in the Europa League round of 16 earlier this March, and despite a solid recent run of league form, they remain three points off of the Champions League pace for next season. That initial burst of wins and trophies that you sign up for -- the reason the eventual drama is worth it for so many clubs -- hasn't materialized.

When players return from the international break later this week, Spurs will set off on one of the most important stretches in their time as an aspirant soccer heavyweight. With the League Cup battle against City looming, and league contests remaining with Manchester United (April 11), Everton (April 17) and Leicester City (May 23), the season could finish with a trophy and Champions League qualification, or it could finish with neither.

While we wait to see how things



Mourinho's teams always start strong before tailing away. Is the same happening at Tottenham, but at a much quicker rate than at past stops in the Special One's career? (Agencies)

play out, it is perhaps worthwhile to look at how Mourinho teams take shape statistically, where Spurs have lacked to date and what things tend to look like when his tenures fall apart.

First, let's clear up a misconception about the 'Special One'

While Mourinho has long been associated with the word "pragmatism," and while his first champion at Chelsea allowed a forever-incredible 15 league goals all season (in 38 games), his best teams of the 2010s were superior at both ends of the pitch. His 2011-12 Real Madrid team scored a La Liga record 121 goals, 3.2 per match, and at worst most of his Real Madrid, Chelsea (second tenure) and Manchester United teams had above average shot frequency and shot quality numbers.

As it turns out, combining Mourinho's pragmatic ways with otherworldly offensive talent -- a peak Cristiano Ronaldo with Angel Di Maria and Mesut Ozil at Real Madrid, Eden Hazard and a Diego Costa at peak crabbiness at Chelsea -- works pretty well. Go figure. While his focus has always been on defensive structure, and he will never overcommit numbers to attack if he doesn't have to, he doesn't necessarily get in the way of superior offensive talent either.

Well... not at first, anyway. The longer Mourinho stayed at Chelsea and at United, the more their offensive returns diminished. His teams got a little more bunkered in, the shot quantity diminished, and the fact that his teams don't engage in length-of-the-field pressing meant that there weren't as many easy scoring opportunities created from said pressure.

Toward the end of a given Mourinho tenure, the attacking and pressure stats tend to fade.

- In Mourinho's last year at Real Madrid, Los Blancos went from starting 2.9 more possessions per match in the attacking third than their opponent to 0.9, from ending 50% of their possessions in the attacking third to 46%, from allowing 9.9 passes per defensive action (PPDA) to 11.9 and from possessing the ball 59% of the time to 56%.

- At Chelsea, his Blues went from starting 3.2 more possessions than opponents in the attacking third in his first year to 0.6 fewer in his third. They went from finishing 47% of their possessions in the attacking third to 43%, while opponents went from finishing 35% of their possessions there to 39%.

- At Manchester United, their margin for starting possessions in the attacking third went from +1.5 in his first year to +0.0 in his third, and their margin for ending possessions there went from +9.0% to +1.2%. Their PPDA slipped from 10.0 to 11.9.

These shifts seem pretty small for the most part, but they flip results. In close matches -- basically, matches decided by zero or one

goal -- Real Madrid went from averaging an unsustainably high 2.5 per game in his second season to 1.6 in his third, while Chelsea went from 2.0 to an unsustainably low 0.9.

These problems didn't present themselves in every match, of course, but they occurred with increasing frequency toward the end of each of his tenures. Late in his third year at Real Madrid, for instance, came results like these:

- Borussia Dortmund 4, Real Madrid 1 (April 24, 2013): In the 17 or so minutes that this Champions League semifinal match was tied, RMA averaged just 0.05 shots per possession. Once behind, they were unable to generate pressure, starting just five of 109 possessions in the attacking third.

- Espanyol 1, Real Madrid 1 (May 11, 2013): Los Blancos had 70% of the possession and attempted more shots, but they averaged just 0.05 xG per shot and again began just five possessions in the attacking third.

- Real Sociedad 3, Real Madrid 3 (May 26, 2013): A goal by Gonzalo Higuain defined the early going, but while RMA held the lead for 80 minutes, they averaged only 0.09 shots per possession while ahead and began only six possessions in the attacking third. RSO outshot them 28-11 and eventually found an equalizer in stoppage time.

It was the same story near the end at Chelsea and Man United, too.

- Stoke 1, Chelsea 0 (Nov. 17, 2015): Chelsea had managed seven shots at just 0.07 xG/shot when Stoke scored early in the second half. Chelsea averaged only 0.06 xG/shot from there, began only five possessions in the attacking third and fell.

- Spurs 0, Chelsea 0 (Nov. 29, 2015): Chelsea let Spurs have a majority of the possession (as is frequently the case for Mourinho against top teams), but couldn't counter off of it and finished the match with just five total shots at 0.06 xG/shot.

- Leicester City 2, Chelsea 1 (Dec. 14, 2015): The eventual league champs gave Chelsea 65% of the possession, but the Blues managed a ghastly 0.03 shots per possession and 0.07 xG/shot -- a totally nonexistent attack -- for the 33 or so minutes that the game was tied. By the time Chelsea generated some ideas in attack, they were down 2-0. (Mourinho was sacked on Dec. 17.)

- Manchester United 2, Arsenal 2 (Dec. 5, 2018): Different club, same story. In the 85 minutes or so that the game was tied, United took just seven shots at only 0.04 xG per shot. They exploded back twice when behind, but couldn't create anything until then.

- Valencia 2, Manchester United 1 (Dec. 12, 2018): In the 16 minutes this Champions League group stage match was tied, United attempted no shots despite 53% possession. And once more, they couldn't build traction until down 2-0.

Liverpool 3, Manchester United 1 (December 16, 2018): This match was tied at either 0-0 or 1-1 for about 64 minutes. In that span, United attempted two shots at 0.03 xG per shot. Liverpool in that same span: 28 shots, 68% possession. (Mourinho was canned on Dec. 18.)

If this type of defeat sounds familiar to Spurs fans, there's a pretty clear reason for that.

Basically, this is just how Mourinho teams lose matches.

Team averages in wins, Europe's Big 5 leagues (2020-21): 0.14 shots per possession, 0.15 xG per shot

Tottenham Hotspur in wins: 0.13 and 0.15, respectively

Team averages in losses, Big 5: 0.11 and 0.11

Tottenham Hotspur in losses: 0.09 and 0.09

In their victories, Spurs fit a "normal" profile of a team in Europe's Big 5 leagues. In losses, they are more meek in attack than the "normal" losing team. Again, these don't seem like huge differences, but they add up.

Tottenham averaged 0.05 shots per possession for the first 60 minutes, and 0.08 overall, in a 2-0 loss to Leicester City on Dec. 20. On Jan. 28 against Liverpool, they managed just three shots total (0.03 per possession). They were at 0.08 per possession in a 1-0 loss to Brighton, 0.07 in a 2-1 loss to Arsenal and 0.05 in a 2-1 loss to West Ham United.

Their Europa League collapse against Dinamo Zagreb had a similar theme. Spurs averaged just 0.05 shots per possession over the first 60 minutes while nursing a 2-0 lead from the first leg. Dinamo eventually scored twice to force extra time, then scored quickly again in the extra period. Spurs finally found the accelerator from there, but thanks in part to some incredible work from Dinamo goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic, it was too late.

This occasional offensive disappearance has combined with a lack of extreme pressure. Spurs allow 13.1 PPDA (10th in the league) and allow opponents 5.3 passes per possession (11th); they start just 5.7 possessions per match in the attacking third (17th), while opponents average 7.8 (18th).

To their credit, Spurs have played better since a dreadful February stretch of six losses in eight matches. They have since won six of eight overall after that, scoring 18 goals in the process. Gareth Bale has begun to find his fifth-gear form, which has given Spurs an extra avenue for attack beyond "Son and Kane do something amazing," for which there hasn't been a Plan B all season. Plus, the rumors of player discontent and/or Mourinho's crankiness with the media have been kept to a minimum. As long as that remains the case, we aren't necessarily in Mourinho End Times.

Of course, the low-quantity Arsenal loss and the Zagreb collapse also happened in March. It was a "two steps forward, one back" sort of month, and it gives pause to any serious hope of a League Cup win or Champions League qualification.

So does the familiarity of the problem. For all of Mourinho's innovation through the years -- particularly in the field of "tactical periodization," which became so well-accepted over time that teams from other sports have adopted its principles -- he's never had much of a Plan B in attack. Not everyone can stop Plan A, but when someone does, Mourinho appears to simply trust his players to figure it out. That doesn't always happen.





# SPORT

Are Mourinho's Tottenham struggles similar to what happened at Real Madrid, Man United and Chelsea?

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Dar es Salaam visual artist, Athuman Hamis 'Ochu', holds a portrait of the late President John Pombe Magufuli created by the artist.

## TPC now solicits cash for sending athletes to Paralympics' qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) has sent a passionate appeal to the general public asking for \$17,360 to send domestic athletes to Tokyo Paralympics' qualifying events.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC secretary general, said Paralympic power lifting and Paralympic swimmers will compete at two different events which will be used as qualifying tournaments for Tokyo Paralympics.

He said Para swimmer Amos Boniface will compete at Internationale Deutsche Meisterschaften im Para Schwimmen 2021 slated for June 17-20 in Berlin.

Namkoveka pointed out TPC needs \$7046 to successfully send the athlete and his coach to the event.

The TPC official noted the money will cater for accommodation, air tickets, entry fee and classification fee.

Namkoveka said about \$10260 is needed to send seven Para power lifters to Dubai for a qualifying event which will be held in June.

"We are appealing to Paralympics stakeholders, organizations, companies and people of good will to back us financially to send teams to qualifying events," he added.

He disclosed: "Para power lifting athletes need \$10260 while the Para swimmer needs \$7046, the money will help our athletes attend the events which will be used as qualifiers for Tokyo Paralympics," he said.

He explained that Para swimmer, Boniface, is Tanzania's sole representative as two others namely Gerald Hamisi Sokolo and Ahmed Ali Khamis will not battle it out in the tournaments.

According to Namkoveka, Sokolo is committed to other education assignments, while Khamis was killed in a road accident in Zanzibar on March 24 this year while he was returning from training.

Sokolo is the only Para swimmer who is classified by the World Para Swimming Association.

Local Para athlete Sauda Njopeka flopped at the just ended World Para Grand Prix which was held in Tunisia. The event was used as qualifying tournament for Tokyo Paralympics.

## Simba SC will not play defensive game against AS Vita Club, says coach Gomes



Simba SC head coach, Didier Gomes Da Rosa.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC head coach, Didier Gomes Da Rosa, has stated his players will not play a defensive game when they take on AS Vita Club in their CAF Champions League's Group A fixture, which will take place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

The French tactician promised an attack-minded game when Simba host the Black Dolphins from Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Simba will entertain the DRC outfit at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, seeking a draw to advance to the quarter-finals of the competition for the second time in the club's history.

Despite Simba SC needing a draw, the French tactician has maintained his team will not play a defensive game as they did in the first meeting between the two sides, which took place in Kinshasa, and saw Simba post 1-0 victory.

He insisted that they will play an approach he termed as 'Simba style of football' to win the Group A fixture.

Speaking yesterday the Simba gaffer opened up on his approach on Saturday.

"In the first match against AS Vita Club I asked my players to close the match, to be very solid and very consistent and play with a very compact block, defensive block to play coun-

ter-attacking, but this time even if we need a draw to qualify, we are at home and Simba must play the 'Simba football' at home," Da Rosa stated.

He added: "It is very important for us to be very positive and so I think now because I am here for two months I think when I ask my players to play a positive game, very offensive game they are better, so for sure we will play to win the match."

On whether his training for the clash was affected following the absence of key players who travelled to feature for their respective countries' national teams in Africa Cup of Nations' qualifying matches, Da Rosa said the situation hardly affected the team.

He pointed out: "Since all of them left, we had trained with the youth team."

He disclosed: "It was very good and it helped us identify the future of Simba. It is very important and they are able to work in good conditions so we have organized 11 players against the other 11 and it was very good for us and our players to keep the rhythm and good condition."

He noted: "I don't think their absence affected us, because I hope they did well with their national teams and so we found a very good solution with the youth team to organize a very good training session and then I am very happy about our work since yesterday."

"We work many times on physical sessions particularly last week with four or five very tough sessions physically and today [Wednesday] will be good to see them, Bernard [Morrison] was good, I think they are ready to play."

After beating AS Vita, Simba returned home to beat Egyptian giants, Al Ahly, 1-0.

Simba later travelled to Sudan where they secured a 0-0 draw with Al Merreikh, the former then returned home to hammer the Sudanese side 3-0 in their last match.

Simba are currently on a good run in the competition as they have now played four matches and they are yet to lose.

The side is now topping Group A with 10 points, while CAF Champions League's defending champions, Al Ahly, are second three points adrift of Simba.

The AS Vita Club is placed third with four points and Sudanese outfit Al Merreikh are placed last with one point.

## Dar visual artists pay tribute to Magufuli

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

A group of Dar es Salaam-based upcoming visual artists and musicians has paid a moving and heart-rending homage to the departed President John Pombe Magufuli.

In the tribute song, titled 'Giza, the artists' spokesperson, Athuman Hamis, who is popularly known as 'Ochu', said they mourn the death of President Magufuli.

The song was done at K Studios in Dar es Salaam and the musicians behind it are Ochu, Dulla, Planet, Punch, Young, Kichwa, Joe, Marley, Merinah, Hanskid and Lenny B.

"As young and upcoming musicians, we thought it wise to record a tribute song to our fallen President, his death must be grieved with dignity and respect, he did a lot for the country," he said.

Ochu, who is based at Mwenge Vinyago, had last year drawn a 40x50 portrait of President John Pombe Magufuli.

He told The Guardian that the portrait is mainly aiming at appreciating good deeds the President had done to the country.

He noted: "I have finished drawing the 40x50 portrait of President John Pombe Magufuli, behind it there is Mount Kilimanjaro, the wall, buildings and the national flag."

He stated before the President's demise: "To many people it's the observational drawing but in an artistic eye it is ambiguous, hence the need for me to meet him personally and explain to him what the portrait meant."

Magufuli's portrait was not Ochu's first portrait for the leader. The artist pointed out that he prepared the first in 2018.

He disclosed: "In 2018 I drew a portrait which had all the five president, starting with Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the late Benjamin Mkapa, Jakaya Kikwete and John Pombe Magufuli." "It was a black and white 80x100cm portrait, my aim was to give it to President Magufuli, but I did not have either connections or means for meeting him, I sold it to a certain lady," he said.

Ochu also recently came up with his cartoon, known as 'Bongo Bhana', which is aimed at sensitizing people on the dangers of COVID-19 pandemic which has affected the world.

The cartoon is orienting people on health and safety precautionary measures to avoid contracting the disease.

**EATV THURSDAY**

**MORNING @ 11:00**

**DADAZ.**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Bongo Hits  
13:00 Msozi Kitaani (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Ujenzi (r)  
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)  
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:30 EATV SAA!  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

**DADAZ.**

**DADAZ** A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

**eastafrica RADIO**

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

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

