



National Pg 3 Expansion of Z'bar's Mkokotoni port



National Pg 4 Bank provides loans to farmers



National Pg 5 Temeke constructs 157 classrooms



President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses the nation from State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia hints at reshuffle, scorns 2025 manoeuvres

By Getrude Mbagu

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday hinted at a major reshuffle to put up a team that can bring development to Tanzanians, saying the current cabinet is being hampered by groupings engaged in machinations towards the 2025 General Election.

Speaking after receiving a report on

implementing development projects using the 1.3trn/- loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the State House in Dar es Salaam, the president expressed disappointment at the current state of affairs. She declared that she will relieve some people of their duties so that they have enough time to focus on those affairs that

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TAWA introduces glass boat for marine tourism

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilwa

COASTAL tourism is being beefed up as the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) implements new strategies for Kilwa Kisiwani and Songomnara areas sea tourism, revamping infrastructures and purchasing a bottom glass boat for viewing marine life.

Samson Gisile, a TAWA warden told reporters visiting various tourist attractions that TAWA supervises in Kilwa District, that in order to open up tourism opportunities in Kilwa, the agency had revamped roads to ease visitations to various ancient buildings.

TAWA is putting up two buildings, one for receiving tourists, also billed to be used as a

warehouse or museum, holding historical artifacts and other items of tourist interest related to the Kilwa and Songomnara areas, he said.

TAWA is also building sheds to enable tourists to sleep in, where they need to use pitch tents, after purchasing a spacious boat that enables tourists to view the scenery under the sea through the glass beneath the hull, he elaborated.

"They can see marine life including fish and marine vegetation, so we hope many tourists will be attracted to come to Kilwa," he affirmed, noting that TAWA was patrolling the sea around Kilwa to prevent illegal fishing,

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NBS issues upbeat growth data for third quarter 2021

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ECONOMIC activities expanded further by 5.2 percent in the third quarter of 2021, from July to September, compared to 4.4 percent reached during the same period in 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

Daniel Masolwa, the TBS acting director for economic statistics, said a press conference here that in absolute terms, the nominal gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 37trn/- compared to 34.5trn/- the same quarter in 2020, which comes



Uganda's economy expanded by 3.8 percent from a contraction of 0.8 percent for the period in 2020

to 32.0trn/- from 30.0trn/- when adjusted for exchange rate differences for each year respectively.

During the period under review, the economy continued to gain momentum despite COVID-19 disruptions, with accommodation and food services having the highest growth at 14.3 percent on account of tourist arrivals, after contracting by 25.1 percent in the same period in 2020, he elaborated.

Tourists' arrivals for July-September last year peaked at 243, 565 arrivals, a sharp rise

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Tasaf extends 9.2bn/- to Morogoro Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOTAL of 41,247 households included in the Tanzania Social Action Fund programme in Morogoro Region have been paid 9.2bn/- through six windows from July-August 2020 to May last year.

Jacob Kayange, the regional TASAF coordinator, made this observation during a visit by TASAF board members to the region. Payments for Phase III started when implementation was launched, where the second round on February 17, 2020 which was officiated by the late president John Magufuli.

A total of 10.2bn/- was received out of which 9.2bn/- was paid to 41,247 households in the programme and 927.8m/- earmarked for administrative and follow-up services at the village, ward, district and regional levels, he explained.

TASAF Phase III is meant to facilitate households to move from abject poverty, create income opportunities to eventually cater for basic needs like food, education and health, he stated.

Meanwhile, Kilosa District has enabled the creation of 428 groups with a total of 5,860 members and saved 93.1m/-, as part of the savings and investment plan for TASAF in the region.

Beneficiaries have been spending the money in setting up farming, livestock keeping, tailoring, vegetable farming and other small businesses, he said.

Edna Chami, a TASAF beneficiary at Mkambarani village in Morogoro District said the beneficiaries have established six entrepreneurial groups chiefly directed at soap making, apart from several other products.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday consoling Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally, who is admitted to Muhimbili National Hospital. Photo: State House



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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (4th-R) unveils a plaque to launch Mkokotoni Port pier in North Unguja Region yesterday as part of the countdown to the climax of the commemoration of 58th anniversary of the January 12 Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: Zanzibar State House

NBS issues upbeat growth data for third quarter 2021

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compared to 72,147 arrivals for the same period in 2020, he said.

The first, second and third quarters recorded 5.0 percent growth, 4.5 percent and 5.2 percent growth levels respectively, the director noted, specifying that realised growth levels are quite similar to projections by the Treasury and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Treasury projected GDP growth of 5.0 percent in 2021 while IMF had projected GDP growth rate of 4.0 percent in 2021, showing a one percent deviation, which the director attributed to differences in assumptions and methodologies used.

Mining and quarrying registered 12.2 percent growth, arts and entertainment and household employer (12.1), electricity (10.0) while information and communication posted 9.3 percent growth levels.

On the basis of broad economic classification,

tertiary activities like trade and financial services had the highest share of GDP at 42.1 percent, while primary productive activities like manufacturing had 30.0 percent contribution and agriculture (27.8 percent).

During the third quarter, all activities, according to NBS contributed to the growth of 5.2 percent with the main drivers for the growth being construction by 18.1 percent, agriculture (1.1 percent), mining and quarrying (11.4 percent), manufacturing (8.6 percent), public administration and defence (5.8 percent) while trade and machinery repairs accounted for 4.0 percent of growth activities.

Masolwa said Tanzania is doing well in gross terms, citing evaluations in the IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO) for October 2021, where the projected growth rate for 2021 was revised downward to 5.9 percent.

Global economic growth estimates for 2022 remained unchanged at 4.9 percent due to worsening pandemic dynamics in low-income

countries and supply disruptions in advanced economies, he stated.

In sub-Saharan Africa, WEO projects economic at 3.7 percent overall for 2021 while in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), growth was projected at 3.7 percent in 2021.

For the East Africa Community (EAC) zone, economic activity in the period July-September 2021 was expanding, ending the contraction observed in the corresponding period in 2020, the IMF report indicated.

By yesterday, three EAC member states had compiled and disseminated third quarter GDP data, the director noted, pointing out that available third quarter GDP reports for 2021 show that Rwanda's economy expanded by 1.0 percent from negative 3.6 percent observed in the corresponding period in 2020.

Uganda's economy expanded by 3.8 percent from a contraction of 0.8 percent for the period in 2020, he added.

Samia hints at reshuffle, scorns 2025 manoeuvres

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have nothing to do with serving Tanzanians, insisting that she wasn't conducting all the development efforts and struggles for the 2025 General Elections, but for improving the lives of all Tanzanians.

"I will soon conduct a cabinet reshuffle soon and I will strictly choose those whom I think will support my vision of bringing development to Tanzanians," she affirmed, pointing out recent statements and position taking on the IMF loans.

All this is just because of the stress of the coming 2025 General Elections and this because some of them don't believe in the speed I am going with to bring development in this country," she further stated, appealing to leaders at all levels to continue supervising proper utilisation of the IMF funds so as to achieve intended goals and impacts to the society.

"There are a lot of rumours and negative speech in the streets that the funds were not being put to what was intended, so (leaders) must go and ensure that the funds are well spent. If it is the procurement of equipment, then make sure that it is properly implemented," she explained.

The Head of State said the government has a commitment of 7trn/- in loans from various institutions to finance development projects and thus stimulate economic growth.

"I recently sent my finance ministers both from the Union and Zanzibar governments to seek for loans in various organisations which I trust and they obtained commitment for 7trn/- in loans, mainly soft loans with favourable conditions. So we will continue taking loans to push Tanzania's development forward," the president declared.

A considerable portion of the lately agreed loans will be directed to the agriculture and fisheries sectors, she stated, asserting that once the talks are completed and the funds signed, "we will invest much in the agriculture sector especially in irrigation programmes as well as improving the fisheries sector."

"Taking loans didn't start in 2021, it started from independence and Tanzania sometimes became a highly-indebted (poor) country, but we sorted it out and we are going on well," she explained, referring to the debt restructuring period in the late 1990s.

President Samia commended leaders from the national to village level for supervising the implementation of various projects under the programme and ensuring that they are completed on time.

"Ministers, regional, district and other executives are working hard and often tirelessly to ensure that the projects are implemented well and at required standards of quality," she paid homage before the gathering, insisting that leaders must supervise and ensure that all school-age children are registered in school to set forth their dreams in life.

"I want to see children from pre-school, standard one and form one in school, so leaders have a role to educate and monitor parents to ensure that they send the children to school. We have constructed enough infrastructures, we should ensure that children get an education," Samia said, emphasizing that local collections cannot finance all development projects, so seeking external loans is unavoidable.

Finance and Planning Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said at the event that the \$567.25 (1.3trn/-) funds from IMF are denominated as a soft and non-interest loan, and until December 31, a total of 774.7bn/- had been disbursed to support the implementation of various development projects countrywide.

"The water sector was given 139.4bn/-; health 466.9bn/-, education 368.9bn/-, with other funds directed to Zanzibar," he stated, noting that a range of other projects was also included, with the funds financing the construction of 15,000 classrooms across the country.

"A total of 245 contracts to conduct improvements in the health sector have been set up, with 106 contracts signed already, which include the installation of MRI (magnetic resonance image) machines in all zonal hospitals, plus CT scan and x-ray

machines in all regional hospitals," he said.

In the water sector, equipment procurement procedures for 172 water projects have been completed, setting the pace for further strengthening water supply services, he stated.

A total of 161bn/- has been collected in mobile transaction levies from July to November, 2021 with 90bn/- already directed to broaden higher learning students' loans, he affirmed, elaborating that funds collected from mobile transaction levies were directed to primary education, construction and improvement of 3000 newly built primary and secondary schools, construction of health centres and other immediate needs.

The minister appealed to the public to continue paying taxes and levies in a voluntary spirit so as to support the government's efforts to achieve the country's development goals, noting that Tanzania is rated as one among countries whose economies are solid and can continue taking loans.

On the level of the national debt, the minister said an evaluation was conducted in November and showed that the debt is consistent with debt servicing capacity.

"Debt is not a gift or a donation, but is given to someone who exhibits the capability to repay the loan, or else Tanzania could not have managed to get all these loans, so Tanzanians should ignore street arguments about the national debt," he declared.

He said in the assurance that the national debt level is healthy and people should not worry about anything as the government is making all efforts to facilitate implementation of various development projects envisaged while ensuring that social services are closer to the people.

He pointedly cited remarks from the Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai, quoted as saying that the sixth phase government had taken loans of over 10trn/- in just nine months, which the minister discounted as fabricated and totally untrue.

"The sixth phase government pays over 800bn/- per month to service the debt, which includes loans obtained in previous phases of government, he explained.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the implementation of various strategic development projects has stimulated economic development and produced direct and indirect employment to large numbers of people.

He praised the work of President Samia, saying she has done a tremendous job including restoring democracy, uplifting diplomatic relations and facilitating the implementation of various strategic projects in the country.

Due to a changing investment environment, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) registered record collections of 2.5trn/- in the past month, surpassing the goal of collecting 2.29trn/- it had set earlier.

The national committee for coordinating and supervising the implementation of projects under the IMF funds was carrying out its work properly, witnessing agreeable progress of the projects in numerous water, education, health and tourism sector projects, he stated.

"We conducted tours in various areas of Ruvuma, Mbeya and other regions and we witnessed a great job done by ministerial departments, regional and district authorities and they should be commended. We are working to ensure that up to June 2022, all the projects will have been completed," he asserted.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango hinted on the note that Tanzania has been blessed with plenty of natural resources and under the leadership of President Samia, the country will now go even farther.

He commended Tanzanians for supporting the government's efforts by paying tax and various levies so as to support the implementation of various development projects, appealing to President Samia to look forward and not pay attention to detractors in the big job of serving the country and its people.

"Tanzania is not in the group of debt distressed countries; we are in a moderate risk level which is not bad, so still have a capability to continue taking loans," he added.



A nun (L) with the Moyo Safi wa Bikira Maria parish of the Catholic Church at Unga Limited in Arusha city leads elderly citizens to the venue of a luncheon the parish co-hosted at the weekend with Swiss-based Fabienne Jaquemet to welcome New Year. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilelezi

TAWA introduces glass boat for marine tourism

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use of poison in particular, as it destroys a wide range of marine life.

Local people similarly search for ancient artifacts believed to be under the sea bed like cutlery and other valuable items, which he said was now ceasing after providing education to

Kilwa residents.

District Commissioner Zainab Kawawa said tourist attractions in the area have opened up opportunities for residents there and people from other regions.

On Boxing Day Kilwa received a ship with 120 tourists, the first time in three years to have received that number of tourists in the area,

she stated, asserting that Kilwa residents and investors need to grab opportunities tie with uptake in tourism, like having a good hotel and a range of guest houses.

The government has invested 50bn/- to build a fishing port and a fish processing plant as part of the development of the blue economy, she added.



Long-haul trucks are loaded with consignments of maize from Tanzania's Cereals and Other Produce Board in Iringa municipality yesterday ready for transportation to Rwanda. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

We've enough stocks of maize, CPB official says

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THE Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) in the southern highlands has enough stocks of maize in its centres and prices haven't gone up compared to 2016.

In 2016 the price of maize in January per kilogram rose to 1,050/-, but for this year the price of maize per is between 500/- and 600/- per kilo, so the food situation is still good and it is not expected to be bad because there are enough maize reserves.

Speaking yesterday on behalf of CPB, Anganyila Kamihanda said that the main objective of the institute is to continue trading and now the main business is the sale of maize vehicle and when he reached the bridge and the vehicle overtook him when he had already reached the bridge and plunged into the river.

It should be noted that in the meantime the situation of maize sales was deteriorating to the point where our reserves were full but now we have managed to reduce the huge maize reserves we had through maize procurement agreements with Rwandan and Kenyan companies," he said.

He said at the Iringa center they had a maize reserve where they had 180,000 tonnes of maize before Rwanda bought 500 tonnes so the reserve they will have is 13 tonnes of maize which they continue to grind flour and distribute locally at the

lowest cost.

He also said that in some Songwe and Songea centers in Ruvuma region they still have adequate maize reserves and if the drought continues there will be no fear as the existing maize reserve is bigger for them and also the National Food Reserve has adequate reserves of corn.

Kamihanda said that in the event of a shortage of maize, they would go and collect maize at the National Cereal Reserve where there is a sufficient supply of maize.

He said that usually the current price of maize is very good and cheap for the people as if the price of maize would go up in the 9th or 10th month then it would be worse if it reached that price in the months mentioned then the fear would be greater but despite the rain challenges of maize will not grow instead next year farmers will have more favors than better crop prices.



...in the event of a shortage of maize, they would go and collect maize at the National Cereal Reserve where there is a sufficient supply of maize

Two killed in tractor accident in Masasi

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

TWO residents of Chiungutwa and Lupaso villages in Masasi District, Mtwara Region have died in a tractor accident.

The tractor involved accident was carrying building blocks plunged into Mwiti River along the Masasi-Newala road.

Chiungutwa village executive officer (VEO), Ziada Mtaule explained that the incident took place yesterday at 6.30 pm when the tractor carrying bricks plummeted into a river.

The tractor was coming from Mbuyuni village was carrying

concrete bricks that are used for the construction of a new government school being built in Mpetu by Masasi District Council.

The VEO Mtaule said when the tractor arrived at the Mwiti river bridge located in Chiungutwa village along Masasi-Newala road the driver suddenly lost control and plunged into the river. According to her, in the tractor, there were ten people.

She identified those who died in the accident as Ashirfu Rashidi (17) a resident of Chiungutwa village and Ahmadi Hamisi (31) a resident of Lupaso village.

"This accident is so bad that the

bodies of these deceased were buried yesterday evening shortly after the accident because the conditions of the bodies were so badly affected," she said.

Some of the witnesses including Jafari Athumani and Ashura Bakari said that the driver of the tractor was driven by a speeding vehicle and when he reached the bridge and the vehicle overtook him when he had already reached the bridge and plunged into the river.

Chiungutwa Ward Councilor Juma Satma explained that the accident is and has not happened in the ward and that they as citizens are sorry

for the family members who lost their relatives.

Masasi District Hospital acting Chief Physician, Rahimu Jafari said confirmed the deaths of the two persons as a result of the tractor accident while one person was injured and that due to his critical condition he was referred to Mkomaindo Hospital for further treatments.

Masasi district commissioner Claudia Kitta confirmed the accident and said the government would stand shoulder to shoulder with family members and urge them to remain calm during this difficult time.

'Construction of berths at Mkokotoni port aims to improve provision of transport services and stimulate the economy'

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said construction of berths at the Mkokotoni port in North Unguja would improve provision of transport services and stimulate the economy.

Dr Mwinyi said the project will open-up economic opportunities in Unguja North Region, adding that upon completion, the berth will allow large ships to dock at the port. "Mkokotoni is among the fastest growing towns in Zanzibar; the on-going improvement at this port will stimulate both social and economic activities. It will boost government revenues and ease transportation of cargo and passengers," said Dr Mwinyi.

He was speaking yesterday shortly after inspecting the on-going construction of the berth at Mkokotoni port in the sequence of celebrations for the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar revolution.

The President urged port employees to avoid engaging in corruption acts and adhere to their ethics to ensure efficiency. He also called upon ship captains to respect the laws and guidance governing the sector to avoid marine accidents.

He added that construction of the Mangapwani multipurpose port in North Unguja will boost Zanzibar's economy through enhanced revenue collections.

The Mangapwani port project will involve the construction of berths for liquid bulk goods, containers, fishing vessels, natural gas offshore services as well as backup infrastructure for rehabilitation of marine vessels. He said the government is determined to ensure people's development in all the sectors as well as improving other ports including Malindi, Mkoani and Wete. He said plans are underway for construction of ports at Kizimkazi and Shumba.

Representing the Minister for Construction and Communication, Leila Kassim Ali highlighted the need for Zanzibar to have all its berths improved to facilitate implementation of the blue economy aspect.

She said completion of the project would not facilitate transport services, but also boost government coffers. North Unguja Regional Commissioner, Ayoub Mohamed Mahamoud said construction completion of the berth at Mkokotoni port would ease transport services to Tumbatu residents and stimulate economic activities.

Tumbatu Representative for CCM, Haji Omar Kheir said the port improvement project is part of implementation of the ruling party's 2020 - 2025 election manifesto. He called upon the government to ensure the newly purchased boat for provision of transport services between Mkokotoni and Tumbatu functions properly.

Earlier, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Amour Hamil Bakar said the project at Mkokotoni port is implemented by a contractor—Ms Edge Engineering Co Ltd under the supervision of Zanzibar Building Agency (ZBA) at a cost of 6.4bn/-.

'Horticultural farmers in Kilosa District no longer at risk of contracting skin diseases'

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

FARMERS engaging in horticultural activities in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region, are no longer at risk of contracting skin diseases caused by pesticides, thanks to the Norwegian People's Church Aid (NCA) for donating a drone for pesticide spraying.

Speaking to this paper, one of the farmers from Mbigiri ward, Mathew Mboya said they were previously exposed to various health problems due to poor pesticides spraying methods. She said most of them were suffering from skin diseases due to the effects of pesticides.

"When spraying pesticides manually, you put yourself at risk of getting health problems because pesticide splashes on the

skin. You will need to spend a lot of money to cure the skin," she said.

A water melon farmer, Idrisa Ally said that apart from being affected by the pesticides, they have been using a lot of money to purchase and spray the pesticides. He commended the Anglican Church in Morogoro Region through NCA-Tanzania for providing them with the special drone for spraying of pesticides.

Mathias Sanane from NCA-Tanzania said they conducted research among farmers and realized that most of them were suffering from skin diseases caused by poor pesticides spraying methods. He said farmers were also incurring a lot of cost when spraying pesticides manually.

Project Officer from the Anglican Church

in Morogoro Region, Pius Ng'irwa said they are supporting the farmers as part of the church's efforts to support the government in ensuring farmers benefit from their sweat.

He said the Anglican Church through NCA-Tanzania has been supporting various projects in Kilosa and Mvomero districts including those in the health and education sectors. He said through the church, farmers were also able to establish entrepreneurship groups and Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies.

"When spraying pesticides manually, you put yourself at risk of getting health problems because pesticide splashes on the skin. You will need to spend a lot of money to cure the skin"




United Republic of Tanzania
Ministry of Water

Belgian Development Agency

CALL FOR BIDS

Public Works Contract Enabel TAN1403211-10026

The Government of Tanzania with funding from the Kingdom of Belgium is implementing a water and sanitation programme in Kigoma region. The program is being implemented through RUWASA and through public works contracts procured through Enabel, Belgian Development Agency. The program has three specific objectives namely: 1) enhancing sustainable water supply operations and maintenance, 2) construction and rehabilitation of water supply schemes and 3) promotion of safe hygiene practices in domestic water management. Under the second result area, the programme is now seeking to engage capable construction companies for works, Enabel TAN1403211-10026 which is in two lots as below.

Lot 1: Construction of Kidyama Water Supply Scheme
This is a groundwater development project intending to serve communities in the peripheral of Kasulu Town and some parts of the urban areas. Under this contract the program seeks to construct a groundwater pumping station, riser main pipeline, a storage tank, and distribution network.

Lot 2: Construction of Nyanganga Water Supply Scheme
This project seeks to pump water from Mkuti River in Uvinza District to serve a growing population of Nyanganga village. It therefore intends to construct an intake on the river, a riser main pipeline, storage tank and gravity-flow water supply network.

More information on this contract and these lots is found on Enabel website www.enabel.be, in the Belgian Public Tender bulletin (BDA) and on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) websites, and also on <https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/>.

Execution of these two projects under this contract has a strictly limited timeframe and therefore prospective contractors must have demonstrable requisite technical and financial capacity to implement this contract without any extension or pre-financing. The same must have a track record of being able to implement similar works within a limited time.

Interested companies are encouraged to download the tender specifications on the websites provided above and duly submit their bid on or before **Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 16:00 pm East Africa Time**. All interested tenderers will be accorded a clarification meeting and a guided site tour at 9.00 am on January 13, 2022, in Kigoma.

Any queries must be directed via email to antony.warrant@enabel.be


VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT POSITION:

Operations Manager

- * Qualifications and Experience
- * A candidate must have at least a Secondary education level 3-5 years experience in Managerial in the hotel Industries


Age: Maximum of 45 years

- * Application process
- * Application along with resume CV's and relevant work experience should be submitted by email to wessam@laico.ly.



High Commission for Pakistan, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania

Pakistan Navy Ship "PNS ALAMGIR" to host Free Medical Camp at the Aga Khan Diamond Jubilee Hall, Malik Road, Upanga, Dar es Salaam, from January 11-12, 2022



The Pakistan Navy Ship PNS ALAMGIR, as part of goodwill visit to the Port of Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from January 10-13, 2022, will be holding a 'Free Medical Camp' during her stay in Dar es Salaam. The Medical Camp is being organized at the Aga Khan Diamond Jubilee Hall, Malik Road, Upanga, Dar es Salaam, from 10 a.m. to 03 p.m. for two days on January 11 and 12, 2022.

The Aga Khan Diamond Jubilee Hall is offered on complimentary basis as a humanitarian gesture by the Aga Khan Development Network Tanzania for the Pakistan Navy's Free Medical Camp.

PNS ALAMGIR is embarked with specialized Medical Team and free medicines sponsored by the Pakistan Navy. The Medical Team of PNS ALAMGIR is excited to invite and extend the free medical service to the friendly people of the United Republic of Tanzania as also the Pakistani Diaspora members living in the country. Details of the free Pakistan Navy Medical Camp (medical facilities and services) are as follows:-

a. Specialist Doctors:

• Medical Specialist	• Pediatrician
• Surgical Specialist	• Dentist
• Anesthetist	• Pathologist

b. Medical Laboratory Investigation Facilities:

• Blood CP	• Blood MP
• Blood ESR	• S ALT
• Serum Bilirubin	• Blood Sugar
• Anti HCV Antibodies by Rapid Method (ICT)	• Serum Amylase
• Serum Urea and Creatinine	• Serum cholesterol
• Cardiac Enzymes	• HIV by Rapid Method (ICT)
• Urine Routine Examination	• Serum Triglyceride
• Stool Routine Examination	• Urine Sugar
• Typhi dot Test	• Urine for Protein

Dar es Salaam
January 05, 2022



Ado Shaibu, Secretary General of the opposition ACT-Wazalendo, addresses a recent meeting in Newala District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt pumps 56bn/- into Kimara-Kibaha project

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has pumped in an extra 56bn/- for the improvement of the 19.2km highway Kimara-Kibaha road.

The move will see the construction of flyover at Mbezi-Goba junction, a bridge at Kwa Yusufu and feeder roads at the Magufuli International Bus Terminal.

Construction of the eight-lane Kimara-Kibaha road by Estim Construction Company Limited, which was earlier scheduled for completion in October last year to the tune of 161bn/- will now be completed in June this year.

Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Eng. Godfrey Kasekenya said while inspecting the construction work that some challenges were observed after the completion of the first phase of the project which prompted the government to add an extra 56bn/- to the project.

He said the first phase of the Kimara-Kibaha road was almost complete at 99 percent, but the government saw the need to have a BRT project alongside the project from Kimara to Kibaha which is currently being improved.

"We saw the need to construct feeder roads, a bridge at Mbezi Kwa

Yusufu and a flyover at Goba-Mbezi junction to ease traffic plying Goba-Segerea route," he said.

The minister said the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan also saw the need to improve the roads at the Magufuli International Bus Terminal at Mbezi Luis following huge traffic and also construct a bus stand at the junction of Mloganzila Hospital in the area.

He stressed the need to ensure that the construction meets the required standards so that various road projects currently under construction can have value for money.

Briefing the Deputy Minister, Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) Regional Manager Harun Senkuku said his team will ensure that the contractor meets the June deadline.

He said the government has already set aside a total of 59.5bn/- in the 2021/2022 fiscal year for Dar es Salaam Region where 27.4bn/- will be used for road maintenance and 32.7bn/- as a development fund.

The construction of the 19.2km road from Kimara in Dar es Salaam to Kibaha in the Coast region started in 2018 and was expected for completion in October last year.



Dr Damas Ndumbaro (in white T-shirt), who doubles as Songea Urban legislator and Natural Resources and Tourism minister, has a quick word at the weekend with Ruvuma regional CCM chairman Odo Mwisho at a zoo in Ruhila ward during a domestic tourism sensitisation tour. Photo: Lusungu Heiela

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

WOMEN have been urged to join hands of efforts made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in accomplishing strategic development projects.

Paradise mission pre and primary school managing director Ndele Mwaselela made the call recently when speaking with

Women urged to support President Samia's drives

women entrepreneurs in Mbeya City.

Ndele said women in Mbeya region are among those who support President Samia's endeavours towards bringing in socio-economic development to people, including

women.

"Let us continue praying for our President so that she continues working for Tanzanians and accomplishing her desired development plans. Women must support President Samia's

good work towards improving individual's economic wellbeing" he said.

The Chairperson of a widows group in Uyole ward, Suzana Mchiwa said they decided to establish the group to join efforts

CRDB Bank Plc provides loans for inputs to Ushetu District cash crop farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

FINANCIAL institutions in Kahama district, Shinyanga Region, have begun giving loans of inputs to farmers of cash crops to rescue them from the effects of production in the coming season.

Due to the rising prices of farm inputs in the district, tobacco farmers in Ushetu District have benefitted from fertilizer loans for planting and growing while cotton farmers were received loans for pesticides.

The remarks were made on Monday this week by the Kahama CRDB Bank Branch Manager, Evod Kereti when speaking to reporters in his office and added that they extend the loans with the aim of repaying them when they harvest their crops.

Kereti said the loans provided to tobacco and cotton farmers in Ushetu District are guaranteed by Kahama Cooperative Union (KACU).

He said CRDB Bank has been loaning the farmers every farming season and added that in the current situation regarding little or late rains, the farmers can recoup their profits incoming season.

For his part, Ushetu District Agricultural Officer, Mapenzi Wilson, speaking on behalf of the District Executive Director, Lino Mwangeni, said there is a great possibility of production drop in the district due to the shortage of rains in this season, compared with past

seasons.

He said in Ushetu district, many crops need fertilizer and many farmers cannot meet its cost.

He said as for now, they have started providing education to farmers to use animal fertilizer for crops like maize.

He said in the 2021 season farmers in the district were able to cultivate 113,000 hectares of maize yielding 226,000 tonnes of the crop, 90,000 hectares of rice-producing 227,000 tonnes and 34,000 tonnes of sweet potatoes were produced.



...CRDB Bank has been loaning the farmers every farming season and added that in the current situation regarding little or late rains, the farmers can recoup their profits incoming season

Traditional healers providing COVID-19 education to public

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

TRADITIONAL healers and those practicing alternative medicine in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region, have started providing education to members of the public on how to protect themselves against Covid-19 infections as well as urging patients visiting them for treatment to make sure they are vaccinated against the disease.

This was revealed here Monday this week by Athumani Waziri, coordinator of the Association of Traditional Healers for the Western zone comprising Tabora, Kigoma and Shinyanga regions when he spoke to this paper in his office on how their group has been involving itself in educating the public on the fight against the pandemic.

He said traditional healers and those practicing alternative medicine have been receiving many patients from various areas, but the great majority of them never take any precautions against COVID-19 and were not vaccinated.

"Just recently we received some special training on Covid-19 in Dodoma and we were instructed to pass the education to our patients on the importance of vaccination. The wearing of masks, washing hands with soap and running water and to observe social distancing," Waziri said.

He added: "We have begun providing such education to traditional healers in Ushetu District and later we shall visit Kigoma Region, our aim is to ensure our healers work in a safe environment, for their own selves and their patients."

He added that Ushetu District has

more than 230 traditional healers 120 of who have been registered and legally recognized by the government.

He also added that in the past many healers did not emerge for Covid-19 vaccination for fear of turning into buffaloes after they heard via these social media that the vaccines were not safe, but after government officials including President Samia Suluhu Hassan received their shots, many healers started coming up for vaccination.

For his part, the COVID-19 vaccination coordinator from Kahama Municipality Mkola Vedasto said they received a total of 24,142 doses of the vaccines and so far 18,079 have been used, equivalent to 15,541 people.



We have begun providing such education to traditional healers in Ushetu District and later we shall visit Kigoma Region, our aim is to ensure our healers work in a safe environment, for their own selves and their patients

potatoes, beans and production of different traditional home appliances," said Mchiwa.

A lawyer from Aika Attorneys, Aikande Lema urged women to keep up the good job and continue fighting against poverty.

Parents in Tarime decry illegal fees

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

SOME parents in Turwa Ward, Tarime District, Mara Region have aired complaints against the headteacher of Buguti primary school, Nkongo Wandiba for charging them 5,000/- when enrolling their children to join Std One.

Speaking at different times, Chacha Marwa, a resident of Kebikiri area said the Headteacher was going against President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives on Covid-19 funds provided for classrooms construction hence they do not see the reason why should they be charged 5,000/- for each child enrolled.

He said they are told that out of the 5,000/- charged, 3,000/- is for classrooms construction, 1,000/- for watchman expenses and 1,000/- for preparation of papers for examination results.

Bhoke Ryoba, a resident of the Kokehogoma area said that when the parent does not have 5,000/-, the child is not registered until the money is paid.

"The government prohibited teachers to charge parents, but this Headteacher has been doing so," said Rebeka Yusuphu another resident of Kebikiri area.

For their part, some village chairmen, including Kokehogoma Chairman Musasa Nehemia said there haven't been any sitting that was called to discuss the issue of contributions from parents for their children to enroll in STD I.

For his part, Buguti Primary school Headteacher Nkongo Wandiba confessed to be charging parents 5,000/- for each child to be enrolled saying the contribution was endorsed at a parent meeting in February 2021, even though the

statement was vehemently opposed by parents who said there was no such meeting that sat, and added that even if that was true, it could not apply to students joining Std I in 2022.

For his part, Turwa Ward Education Coordinator Imani Buchafya said on December 6 2021 there was a meeting by all headteachers in the Ward in which they were told not to demand any contributions from parents, and promised to make a follow up of the reports in regard to the 5,000/- contribution from parents demanded by the Buguti Primary School headteacher.



... they are told that out of the 5,000/- charged, 3,000/- is for classrooms construction, 1,000/- for watchman expenses and 1,000/- for preparation of papers for examination results



As part of the run-up to the January 12 climax of the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution, Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training minister Simai Muhammed Said briefs journalists yesterday on the achievements the Isles have registered in the respective sector since the Revolution. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS in Mbeya Region are complaining over the rapid price increase of the maize crop, something which greatly affects low income families.

According to them, the price has changed hastily in just a week and called for the government to intervene and fight the unhealthy inflation rate.

Oliver Sanga, Iyunga resident in Mbeya city told this paper that some weeks ago, 20kg of maize was sold at 8000 but it has now hiked to 13000/-.

"Normal citizens with low income are the ones who feel the hardship,

Mbeya farmers complain over rapid increase in maize prices

we have gone back to the tough life we experienced in 2017 where a 20kg bucket of maize reached 20,000/-. We are calling on the government to monitor prices of these important food crops so as to support poor families who cannot afford high prices," she explained.

Stewart John, a maize trader at Soweto market acknowledged that the rapid increase of the price of the product is caused by the interaction

of economic activities and big traders going directly to farmers to purchase maize by setting prices by themselves.

"For example in November last year, we were purchasing a 20kg bucket of maize at a price of 4500/- to 5000/- and then came to sell at 8,000/- to 8,500 to the market, but now it is not the same, big traders are penetrating themselves to the farmers to purchase the product,"

he said.

He said inflation causes a lot of harm and hardship to low income communities and families, something which needs immediate action by the government.

Sekela Mwakitalima, a maize possessing entrepreneur said the high maize price does not only affect low income families but also small-scale traders who do not afford the price and end up producing little.



Dr Selemani Jafo (R), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), exchanges ideas with Zanzibar elder Hassan Omar Mzee in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: VPO

By Guardian Correspondent

Temeke constructs 157 classrooms with IMF COVID recovery funding

TEMEKE District in Dar es Salaam Region has completed construction of 157 classrooms worth 3.14bn/- for both primary and secondary schools under the COVID-19 recovery funds from the International Monetary Funds (IMF).

Speaking during the handing over ceremony at Dovy secondary school which was attended by government leaders and Temeke residents, Temeke District Commissioner, Jokate Mwegelo said all the newly constructed classrooms are equipped with desks and chairs.

Jokate thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for approving the

3.14bn/- for Temeke District, saying students will now learn in an improved environment.

She said the new classrooms will reduce students' congestion in classes as well as allow all Standard Seven leavers selected to join Form One in 2022 are accommodated.

"Improving the learning environment for our students is meant to improve their academic performance as well as enabling them to sit in a manner that protects them from being infected with

COVID-19," she added.

Jokate added: "We need to do even better to impress the President and show her that we are determined to improve the performance of our students in national examinations."

According to her, completion of the classrooms would add the number of students enrolled at both primary and secondary schools.

Finance and Planning Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said the 1.3trn/- financing facilities were to build 18,000 classrooms in both primary

and secondary schools.

According to the Minister, the division of classrooms in the region followed all the criteria needed to ensure that all councils in the country had classrooms.

"We considered the number of students expected to participate in Form 1 in all criteria, all councils, all regions, and the number of children filled out in Form 4 implemented justice. We will meet the needs of everyone. No council will run out of classrooms," said the Minister.

Mental illness and violence: Myths, addressing realities

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A growing body of research is helping to tease apart why some people with serious mental illness are prone to violence while others are not, and how clinicians and others can help through improved treatment and informed myth-busting.

The increasing number of people suffering from mental health is caused by acts of violence, including people wanting to commit suicide. The observation was made here on Monday by the Director of the Cure Department, in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Omary Ubuguyu during a special interview with the acting head of the ministry's Communications, Catherine Sungura.

Dr Ubuguyu said there are some mental health diseases that can be associated with anger and bad intentions against one's partner thinking that he/she is betraying you, hence, he added, families are supposed to adopt good communication within and outside marriage.

"A family is an institution hence its robustness is built through cooperation among partners; hence any problems in marriages should be discussed to avoid mental health.

"A person who is not in good mental health can fail to control his/her impulses or even gauge them to know the adverse effects thereof," said Dr Ubuguyu.

However, he called on parents and guardians to stop being angry in front of children as this, as part of upbringing can hurt the impulses of the children with the possibility of them copying such habits.

"Society still fails to report people with mental health in fear of them, but whenever he/she commits an act of violence, the people around him/her will start saying they knew it would come to this," he added.

He further said that the government, through the Health Ministry has given priority by coming up with national coordinators in

every region and district and all areas providing health services starting from the National Hospital.

He said mental health services are provided, hence people should not hesitate to go to the health centres for treatment to avoid acts of violence in society.

A psychiatrist at Mirembe Mental hospital, Dr innocent Mwombeki explained that symptoms of mental health are change of behaviour, being angry and listening to voices talking to you without seeing them.

"All these symptoms can make a person become a mental case, but the condition is curable through medication and psychological counselling," said Dr Mwombeki.

"We have established a new unit on research and training to the society and already research has been done on 180 people in various regions and 32 per cent were found, 10 per cent were found to be hardcore drinkers and 10 per cent had at one time the urge to commit suicide," he added.

Statistics from the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimate that in every 40 seconds one person commits suicide and 800,000 commits suicide every year.



Society still fails to report people with mental health in fear of them, but whenever he/she commits an act of violence, the people around him/her will start saying they knew it would come to this

Tanzania gears up for digital currency

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A Senior Auditor from the National Audit Office Sandra Chogo has embarked on training higher learning students about digital currency to give skills on how to apply for crypto job listings.

Chogo said that through a phone interview with the Guardian newspaper that awareness about the new technology was highly needed adding that there is no way because digital currency uptake is gaining momentum around the world.

She said higher learning students were among important groups to acquire the skills noting that without having they cannot apply for the crypto jobs listings.

Chogo, Co-founder of Blocktech and Author of the book "Jielimishe kuhusu Blockchain" said most job vacancies announced on the online platforms, need people with established relationships to decision makers at cryptocurrency businesses.

The expert said the world has turned to digital technology (artificial intelligence) therefore; no way out its people can distance themselves from it.

"Effectively from this month, I will start conducting class sessions about blockchain technology to university students to enable them not to remain behind in the jobs that need blockchain and bitcoin knowledge," she said.

"If our students won't cope with global technological changes, they will be left behind and unemployed, while their jobs are taken by foreigners," she added.

Chogo said that so far, she had trained experts in Rwanda and South Africa and sometimes when invited to seminars and workshops.

On November 29, this year, Tanzania's central bank announced that it would launch its own digital currency soon.

Governor Florens Luoga revealed the news at the central bank organized "20th Conference of Financial Institutions (COFI)".

Luoga said, "the Bank of Tanzania has already begun preparations to have its own Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) to ensure that the country is not left behind the adoption of CBDCs."

A CBDC is a legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. It is the same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.

This development comes after Nigeria rolled out its own CBDC. In late October, Nigeria launched its CBDC – the eNaira.

In doing so, it joined the Bahamas and five islands in the East Caribbean as the only economies to have introduced CBDCs. This is a shortlist, but one that is likely to be supplemented.

CBDC pilot projects are underway in at least 17 other countries.

As of 2019, cryptocurrencies are largely banned in Tanzania after the country's central bank said the digital assets were not recognized by local law.

For Nigeria, the country's central bank banned financial institutions from providing services to crypto exchanges.

On June 14, this year, Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu urged the country to prepare to adopt cryptocurrency.

Her speech in Mwanza came a few days after El Salvador announced it had adopted Bitcoin as legal tender.

A number of South and Central American nations have also signaled their readiness to adopt the use of Bitcoin officially.

President Suluhu told financial chiefs to prepare for cryptocurrency, saying the age of crypto and blockchain was dawning as she urged her country to pave the way for change.

She said Tanzania's central bank should begin the necessary preparations to adopt global attitudes.



Effectively from this month, I will start conducting class sessions about blockchain technology to university students to enable them not to remain behind in the jobs that need blockchain and bitcoin knowledge

Dr Akson: All elderly to get CHF cards for free in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Urban MP, Dr Tulia Ackson is set to provide cards of Community Health Fund (CHF) to all elderly people in the constituency for them to easily get medical services.

Dr Tulia's action came yesterday after she received requests from a section of elders in Mbeya who appealed for her to support them with medical insurance cards so as to enable them to access quality health services easily.

"My elders came to see me requesting to provide them with medical insurance cards as access to health services currently has been hard for them, so I saw the best way is to give them CHF cards which will enable them access services in health centres and hospitals," Dr Tulia said.

She said she will work closely with community development officers to reach the elders and get the correct information and credentials for the CHF cards.

According to her, as an MP and a representative of people, health is one of the major priorities in her office as having a healthy society helps to stimulate development in specific areas and the country at large.

"We also support Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), women and children. Last year groups of motorcycle drivers and food vendors also got CHF cards and

they were required to pay 100/- every month, some of them did well but others have failed to pay the amount," she said.

Zefania Christopher, one of the beneficiaries of the CHF cards programme for last year commended the MP saying that the card has helped him and other family members to access health services smoothly.

He said that the programme has come as a saviour to them considering that they work in a difficult environment.

Selena Amos, one of the elders also hailed the MP saying that they are happy as they will start accessing quality health services without hurdles.



My elders came to see me requesting to provide them with medical insurance cards as access to health services currently has been hard for them



Dr Selemani Jafu (R, foreground), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), has a word with members of the Zanzibar Special Anti-Smuggling Force in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo courtesy of VPO

Pangani District spends 810 million/- constructing classrooms, health centres

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Pangani

PANGANI District Executive Director, Isaya Mbenje said 810m/- received from the central government last year was used to construct classrooms and health centres.

He said that of money, 560m/- were used to construct 28 classrooms at primary and secondary schools. According to him, 14 classrooms were built at satellite primary schools within the district.

Mbenje told this paper that

Pangani residents contributed 28.4m/- in total whereas they donated various construction equipment and workforce.

He said that all the classrooms have been completed calling upon parents to make sure eligible children are registered at schools. He said new classrooms would enable the district to accommodate all students selected to join Form One this year.

"We are ready to accommodate all Form One students by January 17. We no longer have the shortage

of classrooms, students will now enjoy learning in a conducive environment," he said.

Mbenje noted that the district's academic performance has improved whereas Pangani was ranked fourth out of eleven districts. He said all the students who passed the 2021 Standard Seven national examination have been selected to join secondary schools.

He however added that the district council spent 250m/- for the construction of health facilities. He

said the constructed health center at Madanga area is at the final stages and is expected to serve more than 20,000 people from Kimanga, Madanga, Bushiri and Masaika wards.

Pangani District Medical Officer, Dr Maulidi Majala said completion of the health center will make a total of three health centers. He said the available Mwera and Mkalamo health centers will be upgraded to start offering referral services including emergency medical care and surgeries.



Small-scale fishermen in business in Hombolo Dam in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Omary Kabandika, Uol

RESIDENTS of Kiwalani Ward in Ilala Municipality have asked the government help them by building the Kijiwe Samli-Nyerere Road at tarmac level for easy transport in the area.

In recent separate interviews, residents of Kiwalani Street in the ward for 20 years have had transport woes in the area with thousands of people.

"The road is in poor condition because there are big holes, the situation became worse when raining as the road has no channels to allow water movement," said Mzee Udulele, one of the popular

Kiwalani residents request govt to better Kijiwe Samli road link

residents in the area.

"This situation has been here for a time because the road did not reconstruct for a long time, it was tarmac, but now has faded and started to break down. We spend a lot of time in a meeting about the road but nothing is going on," he lamented.

Mohamed Juma, a bodaboda rider in the area for over 10 years, said: "I don't know why that road is not reconstructed despite the public

commuters using the road."

"So it would be good if the local government to fill the holes in the road by gravels while waiting for the responsible authorities to build the road at tarmac level," he said.

Kiwalani Street chairman, Rajabu Shaha said that the Kijiwe Samri-Nyerere road is in a poor state as it passes through many industries.

He said the road they have readily discussed for construction, though

the government told them that may be in this year.

"As we enter the various forums I believe the road will be constructed at tarmac level," he said.

Kiwalani Ward Councilor Kafana Mussa confirmed that the road is so rough and needs the Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA) to work on it, saying councilors are controlling and running the Ilala Municipal Council as a whole.

COVID-19 and climate change will likely cause slower economic growth for Africa in 2022 - IMF

By Special Correspondent

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its 2022 outlook says the biggest negative factors affecting African economies this year will be the COVID-19 pandemic and the accelerating pace of climate change, both of which underscore the need for increased global cooperation and dialogue.

With recurring Covid-19 waves, African countries continue to be on the back foot.

"For sub-Saharan African policymakers, the first priority is still to save lives. But the sheer speed of the most recent COVID-19 wave highlights the difficulty in heading off a crisis once it gets underway, leaving authorities with little option other than cost-containment measures and the need for continued emergency support and health spending," said the IMF.

It added that as long as the region's population remains vulnerable, policymakers will face the unenviable task of trying to boost their economies while simultaneously dealing with repeated COVID-19 outbreaks as they arise. To alleviate these problems, the IMF said Africa should play a bigger role in world affairs. "Solutions to these global problems must involve all countries and all regions, especially sub-Saharan Africa, with the world's least vaccinated population, most promising renewable energy potential, and critical ecosystems," the IMF said in its report.

With the world grappling with the latest wave of the corona virus which causes COVID-19, particularly the Omicron variant, economies are gradually opening up. However, Africa is lagging behind although signs of growth are optimistic.

The IMF said: "Sub-Saharan Africa's economy is set to expand by 3.7 percent in 2021 and 3.8 percent in 2022. This follows the sharp contraction in 2020 and is much welcome, but still represents the slowest recovery relative to other regions."

Economists say Africa's slow pace of recovery hinges on the continent's slow COVID-19 vaccination rollout, weak political institutions, and economies that were struggling pre-COVID-19 era plummeting further.

"Vaccine politics, poor health systems and the global structure are the reasons behind the slow rollout and that means a delay in the opening of economies. Corruption continues unabated in most African countries, bad politics and conflict affect economic growth more than anything in Africa," said Stevenson Dlamini from the economics department at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Zimbabwe.

The IMF said: "Looking ahead, sub-Saharan Africa's potential remains undiminished. The region is at a critical juncture to implement bold transformative reforms."

As such, Côte d'Ivoire 6 percent, Kenya 5.6 percent, Rwanda 5.1 percent, and South Africa 5 percent, in that order, are projected to be the biggest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2022.



This follows the sharp contraction in 2020 and is much welcome, but still represents the slowest recovery relative to other regions



Dr John Jingu (2nd-R), Permanent Secretary (Community Development) in the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, with Arusha elders council members including Laigwanan Tobiko after a meeting yesterday. Left is Arusha regional administrative secretary Dr Athuman Kihemia

TANSHEP casts a critical look on nutrition improvement and agricultural marketing

By Guardian reporter

A RENOWNED model and prominent social entrepreneur, Nancy Sumari, has encouraged Tanzanians to consume more vegetables.

In a TANSHEP project, Sumari released the video clip on TV saying: "We are made of what we consume every day. I know the source of my beauty is vegetables I eat."

A healthy and brilliant lady confidently talks on the screen in front of various mouth-watering vegetable dishes

TANSHEP is a market-oriented horticulture project, being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-

RALG) in assistance with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), covering the three regions of Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Tanga. The project capacitates farmers to gain more income by encouraging them to look at market needs first. It promotes market surveys by farmers before starting production so that they could capture what types of vegetables are in need when, where and how much.

With the short movie, TANSHEP has started a series of promotions to raise awareness of vegetable consumption among Tanzanian consumers for their healthy diet and nutrition improvement. In this regard, two of the TANSHEP Taskforce members, Tabu Likoko from the MoA and Issa Hatibu from Regional Administrative

Secretary (RAS) in Tanga, were live interviewed in Clouds 360 on 21st December 2021.

In the interview, they introduced TANSHEP activities to millions of Tanzanian audiences and highlighted the positive effects that vegetable intake would bring about to our health. In Tanzania, micronutrient deficiency and obesity have been persistent issues.

The STEPS survey which describes the current levels of risk factors for chronic diseases in the Tanzanian population conducted by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and National Institute for Medical Research in collaboration with the World Health Organization WHO in 2013 reveals that only 2.8% of Tanzanian

population are taking 400g or 5 servings of vegetables and/or fruits per day as globally recommended by WHO. Statistics (FAOSTAT) also show that vegetable consumption in Tanzania in 2013 is calculated to be 112g a day, which is only a quarter of the daily recommendation.

Sufficient intake of vegetables is not only to tune up our daily physical conditions but also to improve immunity as well as to reduce the risks of Non-Communicable Diseases. The project believes that the consumers' acknowledgment of the positive impact of vegetable intake and change in dietary behavior will lead to the growth of the vegetable market in the long term, which would contribute to helping farmers sell more vegetables.



Industry and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo (L) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday addressing a press conference. He is with Business Registration and Licensing Agency (Brela) CEO Godfrey Nyaisa. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Farm attacks are a problem of all South Africans, warns agriculture group chair

By Rafieka Williams

THE Southern African Agri-Initiative (SAAI) has raised the alarm on a spate of farm attacks that happened during December, saying that such attacks were a South African problem.

Statistics have shown that 13 attacks took place across South Africa in December.

SAAI chairperson Theo De Jager

said that while the number seemed low compared to the crime taking place in urban areas, it was still a concern.

"It's true that farmers are not the only victims of murders and it's not even the highest statistics, but what's different to farm murders is that the urban crimes do not necessarily carry the same level of brutality and torture.

"It is not always a white middle-

aged man in khakis that is being attacked. It is farmers of all ages, races and genders. It's not a problem of only one sector of society, it's a problem of all South Africans," said De Jager.

He said the experience of farmers' daily lives makes services that require a prompt response inaccessible.

"Farmers are much more vulnerable, further apart from

each other, living far away from police stations and infrastructure, so if people have stolen from you, it cannot easily be replenished," said De Jager.

Department of Agriculture spokesperson Reggie Ngcobo said that farm attacks had an impact on food security.

"The department condemns any farm attack with the contempt it deserves. These barbaric attacks have an integral impact on food security for the country. Farmers and farm workers play an important role in the agricultural value chain," said Ngcobo.

Richard Leakey, fossil hunter and defender of elephants, dies aged 77

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

WORLD-renowned Kenyan conservationist and fossil hunter Richard Leakey, whose groundbreaking discoveries helped prove that humankind evolved in Africa, died on Sunday at the age of 77, the country's president said.

The legendary paleoanthropologist remained energetic into his 70s despite bouts of skin cancer, kidney and liver disease.

"I have this afternoon... received with deep sorrow the sad news of the passing away of Dr Richard Erskine Frere Leakey," President Uhuru Kenyatta said in a statement late Sunday.

Born on 19 December 1944, Leakey was destined for palaeoanthropology - the study of the human fossil record - as the middle son of Louis and Mary Leakey, perhaps the world's most famous discoverers of ancestral hominids.

Initially, Leakey tried his hand at safari guiding, but things changed when at 23 he won a research grant from the National Geographic Society to dig on the shores of northern Kenya's Lake Turkana, despite having no formal archaeological training.

In the 1970s he led expeditions that recalibrated scientific understanding of human evolution with the discovery of the skulls of Homo habilis (1.9 million years old) in 1972 and Homo erectus (1.6 million years old) in 1975.

Leakey posing with a Homo habilis mock-up under the headline "How Man Became Man" and then in 1981, his fame grew further when he

fronted "The Making of Mankind", a seven-part BBC television series.

Yet the most famous fossil find was yet to come: the uncovering of an extraordinary, near-complete Homo erectus skeleton during one of his digs in 1984, which was nicknamed Turkana Boy.

Battling ivory poachers As the slaughter of African elephants reached a crescendo in the late 1980s, driven by insatiable demand for ivory, Leakey emerged as one of the world's leading voices against the then legal global ivory trade.

President Daniel Arap Moi in 1989 appointed Leakey to lead the national wildlife agency - soon to be named the Kenya Wildlife Service, or KWS.

That year he pioneered a spectacular publicity stunt by burning a pyre of ivory, setting fire to 12 tonnes of tusks to make the point that they have no value once removed from elephants.

He also held his nerve, without apology, when implementing a shoot-to-kill order against armed poachers.

In 1993, his small Cessna plane crashed in the Rift Valley where he had made his name. He survived but lost both legs.

"There were regular threats to me at the time and I lived with armed guards. But I made the decision not to be a dramatist and say: 'They tried to kill me.' I chose to get on with life," he said.

"I have this afternoon... received with deep sorrow the sad news of the passing away of Dr Richard Erskine Frere Leakey."

No compromise on the setting of targets in life

2021 was very challenging pandemically and economically. The novel coronavirus globally took away many lives and affected economies and businesses, Tanzania being no exception. But thank God for another great opportunity of 365 or 366 days, or 52 weeks or 12 calendar months, though COVID-19 is still here with its latest strain, known as Omicron, stifling human movement and devastating trade.

However, as a country, collectively a people and individual human beings, we have other opportunities before us for our lives in the New Year and what we choose to write on this check will determine who we hope to become tomorrow in life.

The truth of the matter is everyone else in the world has this same New Year, which is another 12 months before them but what might be different are opportunities available to exploit. This does not, however, mean we should not dare to do something to change situations around us or to become somebody better in life.

Whether we are in business, in government, or in private life, we must set goals for our lives and endeavor to achieve those goals to improve conditions of life or to live the standard of life we imagine for ourselves and the country we belong to.

As Tanzanians, we should be reminded that Tanzania will never improve unless we sincerely strive by working hard to improve our individual lives, as citizens. This is important if we must join the rest of the world is moving forward.

Politicians and governments,

particularly in Africa would not take us there because they are self-centered, deceitful, greedy and want all for themselves. If we are looking up to them and wait on them, our lives will never change. All we will keep getting are promises and more promises that they do not sincerely desire to fulfill.

If we are in business, we should endeavor to improve services and quality of products for the market. Better services and products would not only attract more customers and increase sales but lead to growth in profit.

We at The Guardian promise to improve on quality journalism this year by reporting stories that are accurate, balanced and concise, without compromising ethical standards.

We believe the Year 2022 provides a great opportunity to improve where we went wrong or where we failed to meet the expectations of our loyal readers and advertisers last year.

In other words, we vow to make quality use of the blank check that the New Year provides to write the dreams that will scare us and expand our horizon in taking Tanzanian journalism to higher levels.

This is a 50-50 chance for all of us but with different opportunities. We must strive to make use of what is before us and forget about who is eating with a silver spoon or is dining in a palace. Least we should forget, just as our conditions globally are not the same, so our opportunities will be different. What matters most, is seizing the opportunities around us and making the most out of them to succeed.

We need to establish national programmes for the management and prevention of SCD

THE government has insisted on the need for health education programme for prevention of sickle cell disease (SCD), as the country records 11,000 new patients every year.

We call for intervention to break the sickle cell cycle and it is high time all concerned stakeholders started awareness campaign in schools, colleges and universities to handle the situation.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) has been one of the chronic diseases neglected for a long time in Tanzania as in many other countries' health ministries within Africa.

Sickle cell anaemia pose significant tolls to individual patients and their families or relatives and contribute to

poverty by leading to loss in productive time and money on the side of the affected persons/families and retardation of their economic development, but this has remained a mere act to be widely documented systematically.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is the single most important genetic cause of childhood mortality globally. Tanzania has one of the highest annual births of SCD individuals in the world, estimated to reach 11 000 births a year. Without intervention, 50-90 per cent of children will die in childhood. However, cost-effective interventions have the potential to reduce childhood mortality by up to 70 per cent.

The effects of SCD are multi-dimensional, ranging from causing high morbidity and mortality, and reducing the quality of life, to imposing a high socio-economic burden on individuals, families and health systems. In the past 12 years, the SCD programme in Tanzania has developed, with local and global partnerships, a systematic framework for comprehensive research that is integrated into

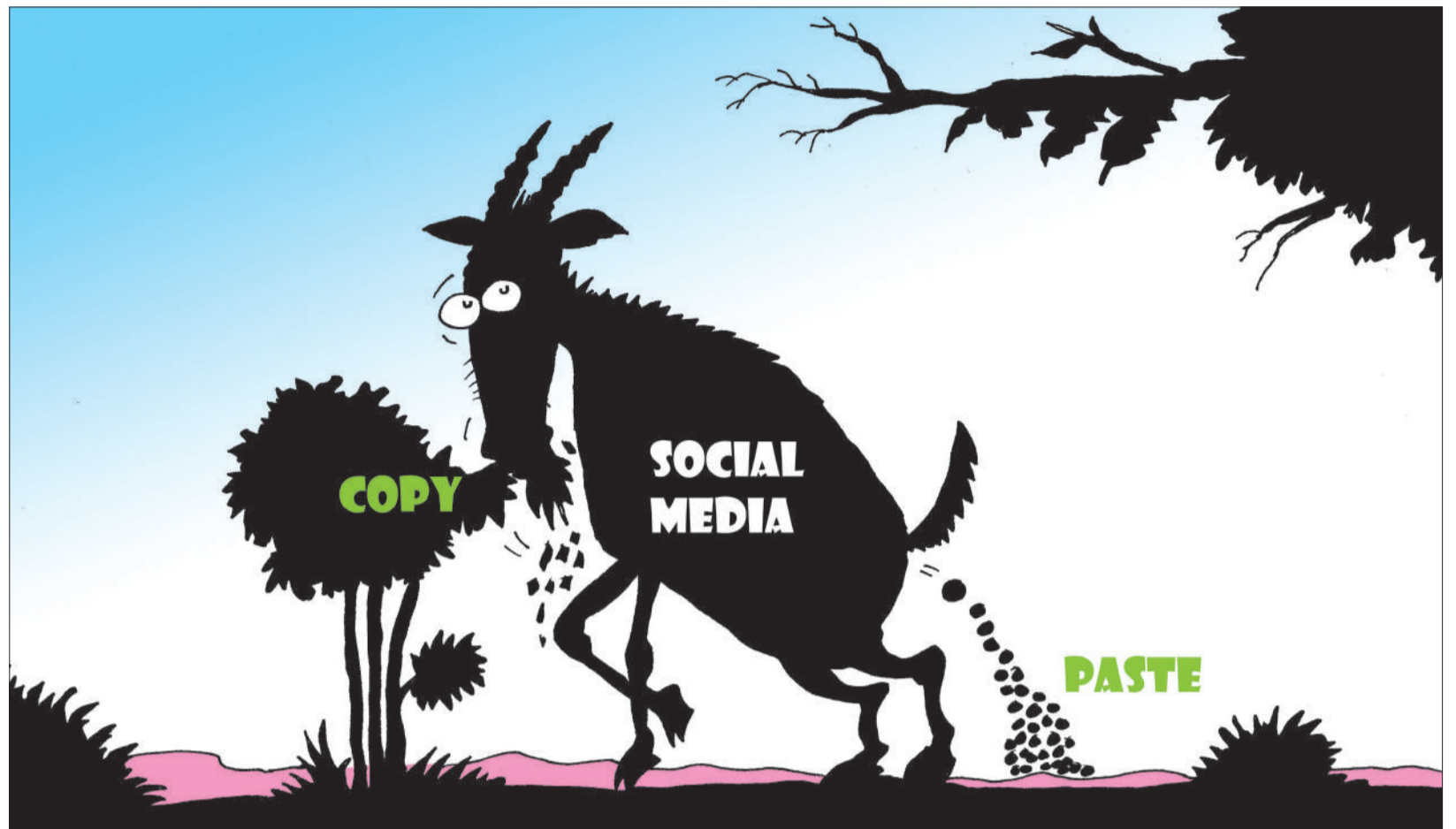
providing healthcare, training and advocacy in SCD. Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a group of blood disorders typically inherited from a person's parents. The most common type is known as sickle cell anaemia. It results in an abnormality in the oxygen-carrying protein haemoglobin found in red blood cells. This leads to a rigid, sickle-like shape under certain circumstances. Problems in sickle cell disease typically begin around 5 to 6 months of age. A number of health problems may develop, such as attacks of pain (known as a sickle cell crisis), anaemia, swelling in the hands and feet, bacterial infections and stroke. Long-term pain may develop as people get older. The average life expectancy in the developed world is 40 to 60 years.

Sickle cell disease occurs when a person inherits two abnormal copies of the -globin gene (HBB) that makes haemoglobin, one from each parent. This gene occurs in chromosome 11. Several subtypes exist, depending on the exact mutation in each haemoglobin gene. An attack can be set off by temperature changes, stress, dehydration, and high altitude. A person with a single abnormal copy does not usually have symptoms and is said to have sickle cell trait. Such people are also referred to as carriers. Diagnosis is by a blood test, and some countries test all babies at birth for the disease. Diagnosis is also possible during pregnancy.

The care of people with sickle cell disease may include infection prevention with vaccination and antibiotics, high fluid intake, folic acid supplementation, and pain medication.

Other measures may include blood transfusion and the medication hydroxycarbamide (hydroxyurea). A small percentage of people can be cured by a transplant of bone marrow cells.

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Adieu, Archbishop Desmond Tutu

By Special Correspondent

SINCE the death of South African cleric and anti-apartheid icon, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, on Sunday at the ripe age of 90, tributes have been pouring in from all around the world. They all describe him in colourful lines as a man that lived an extraordinary life.

Desmond Tutu is highly acclaimed for playing a key role in dismantling apartheid in South Africa, for his tireless campaign for social justice, and the admirable work he did chairing the nation's Truth and Reconciliation Committee during the Nelson Mandela administration, providing healing, closure, and direction for his country and the world post-Apartheid.

On October 16, 1984, Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his "role as a unifying leader figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa."

President Muhammadu Buhari said the death of the iconic teacher, human rights activist, leader of thought, scholar, and philanthropist further creates a void in a world in dire need of wisdom, integrity, courage, and sound reasoning, which were qualities he typified and exemplified in words and actions.

He recalled the critical role Archbishop Tutu played in the fight

against apartheid during which he endured physical assaults, jail terms, and prolonged exile, a struggler that transcended his calling at the pulpit to achieve global, political relevance.

On his part, former President Olusegun Obasanjo recalled Tutu's "uncommon solidarity and the deep passion with which he argued Nigeria's case for full debt cancellation by the contents of his letter to Mr. Gordon Brown, the then United Kingdom's Chancellor of the Exchequer, during my administration as the President of Nigeria."

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called Tutu "a patriot without equal, a man of extraordinary intellect, integrity and invincibility against the forces of apartheid" and a man who showed infinite compassion for victims of oppression, injustice, and violence under apartheid and the oppressed and downtrodden people around the world.

The current archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, said Tutu wanted every human being on Earth to experience the freedom, the peace, and the joy that all of us would enjoy if we truly respected one another as people created in the image of God.

The United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres described him as a towering global

figure for peace and an inspiration to generations across the world.

United States of America President, Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden spoke of their 'heartbreak' at Tutu passing on.

In a statement from the Whitehouse, the Bidens said the Archbishop's 'courage and moral clarity' helped to inspire Americans to change their policy toward the repressive Apartheid regime in South Africa.

"Desmond Tutu followed his spiritual calling to create a better, freer, and more equal world. His legacy transcends borders and will echo throughout the ages," they wrote.

On his part, former President Barack Obama described the late Tutu as "a universal spirit, a mentor, friend, and moral compass."

The Nelson Mandela Foundation described Tutu "as larger than life", whose life was a blessing to not only South Africans but the whole world with his tireless advocacy for social justice, locally and globally.

Similarly, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Tutu would be remembered for his spiritual leadership and irrepressible good humour who played a vital role in the struggle to create a new South Africa.

The Tibetan spiritual leader, The Dalai Lama, called Tutu a "spiritual

brother and good friend."

Born of humble background on October 7, 1931, in Klerksdorp, northwest South Africa, Desmond Mpho Tutu rose in the South African Anglican Communion to become The Bishop of Johannesburg and later the Archbishop of Cape Town, the highest position in the church in the country. He was also the General-Secretary of the South African Council of Churches from 1978-1985, among other positions.

Tutu used the privilege of the pulpit to campaign for universal freedoms and human equality in his country and across the world. He struck a good balance between his politics and his religious calling without letting one demean the other.

The tributes will continue to pour in long after he had been buried on January 1, 2022. The South African government has rightly rolled out the drums to celebrate a remarkable patriot, a proud African and a global citizen who, throughout his life, lived a life of service to others, a fighter for justice, and a lover of humanity, including even his adversaries.

Though Tutu is survived by his wife Nomalizo Leah Tutu and four children: Trevor Thamsanqa, 65, Theresa Thandeka, 64, Naomi Nontombi, 61, and Mpho Andrea Tutu, 58, but left to mourn him are a thankful South Africa and Africa.

Selective corruption fight promotes partiality

By Special Correspondent

THE haste with which the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission is moving to prosecute the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah and others for alleged conflict of interest and corruption while corruption cases of similar magnitude involving other officials of government, including the LACC own vice-chairperson Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala and the Managing Director of the National Port Authority Bill Tweahway, among others, raise questions of selectivity and partiality in the government's fight to minimize corruption in the public sector.

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission thru its Executive Chairperson Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, indicted Madam Browne Lansanah for alleged conflict of interest and corruption. Report had it in

November 2021 that the NEC under the supervision of Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah during the November 16, 2021 by-elections in four counties, rented thermometers from a company called Tuma Enterprises Inc., allegedly owned by her brother for over US\$180,000 outside of government procurement regulations.

She is found to be in breach of Section 1.3.6. of the National Code of Conduct for public officials that prohibits conflict of interest; Part II, Section 2.2 of the LACC Act and Section 15.3 of Liberia's Money Laundering Act of 2012, respectively.

Though Madam Browne Lansanah denied making admissions of guilty during her appearance before the LACC, the Criminal Court C at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia reportedly issued a Writ of Arrest last week against the NEC Boss for corruption.

Meantime a similar case of conflict of interest involving the LACC Vice-Chairperson Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala, who is linked to a contract at the

National Port Authority, and the Managing Director of the National Port Authority Bill Tweahway, who awarded port contracts to his (Bill Tweahway's) brother is inconclusive.

We think the LACC proceeding to court against Madam Browne Lansanah without allowing the Ministry of Justice to look into the case, as required by Section 11.1 of the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008, is not only being selective but impartial in the fight against corruption.

We call the LACC's attention to a recent urge by the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL during the December 9th celebration of International Corruption Day for the Weah administration to be non-selective in the fight against corruption.

"As Liberia joins other countries to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the International Anti-Corruption Day, as the national chapter of Transparency International (TI), the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL)

would like to call on the national government to be sincere, robust and non-selective in the fight against corruption", said Executive Director Anderson Miamen.

Miamen: "We urge the LACC to give the case involving its own the fullest attention, as the public awaits the logical conclusion of the matter, just as all other corruption cases before the body. How the Commission treats the case involving one of its own will send a very strong message about its preparedness, robustness, and impartiality in dealing with all cases and issues of Corruption in the Country."

It is important that the LACC does everything in the fight against corruption not to be seen as being selective in which case to prosecute or not, in order to maintain public trust in its operations. In other words, there should be no sacred cows in the fight against corruption. <https://thenewdawnliberia.com/in-nec-conflict-of-interest-case-lacc-proceeding-wrongly>

By Telesphor Magobe

Effective constitution enshrines people's wishes, binds nation together

FOR over a week now, it has become evident that there is divided opinion in our country on the quest for a new and better Constitution, with some for it and others against.

We also saw how critics pick holes in the current Constitution (1977), saying since it was written during the one-party era, it serves ruling party interests and so it lacks political legitimacy in this era of political pluralism.

The critics also argue that the current Constitution contains a number of claw-back clauses that make the enjoyment of constitutional rights stipulated in the Bill of Rights almost obsolete. So, most of the fundamental rights and freedoms stipulated in the Constitution are at the same time circumscribed by claw-back phrases that neutralise them.

In today's column, I would like to continue in the same direction. A national Constitution is the fundamental law which gives the direction of how policies, laws, regulations and bylaws should be written and enforced for any policy, law, regulation or bylaw that conflicts with the Constitution [Article 64(5)], to the extent of the inconsistency with it, shall be void. But is it so with our Constitution?

Article 64(5) of the current Constitution is circumscribed by another Article 30(2)(f) which states that "provisions contained [in the Bill of Rights] do not render unlawful any

existing law or prohibit the enactment of any law or the doing of any lawful act in accordance with such law for the purposes of - enabling any other thing to be done which promotes or preserves the national interest in general." This 'blanket claw-back clause' dilutes the Article which makes the Constitution a superior law. I can say a national Constitution is the compass of the country's legal framework and policies.

Perhaps one question that can be asked is if we don't need a better Constitution, what made the fourth phase government under President Jakaya Kikwete form a commission under the chairmanship of Judge Joseph Warioba to go around Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar to collect public views?

What justification can we give to spend all those billions of Tanzanian shillings - taxpayers' money - on the constitution-writing process if we don't need it? If there was no need, certainly the money spent on the constitution-writing process could have been spent on development projects and on improving social services.

If it were passed and became the Constitution, the Draft Constitution (2013), also known as the Warioba Constitution, would have sealed constitutional loopholes and it



would have given a clear direction of where we are going.

Article 8 of the 'Warioba Constitution' states that 'this Constitution shall be the supreme law in the United Republic and any person, organ, institution, community and of the government (national authority) and private authority are obligated to observe the conditions of this Constitution and obey them.'

Above all, it stipulates that 'any law, culture, tradition or any decision by a state organ, a government officer or individual is obligated to follow and comply with the conditions contained in this Constitution and that,

any law, culture, tradition or decision that does not comply with or abide by the conditions set in this Constitution shall be null and void'.

This is one of the attributes of an effective Constitution that gives direction to the country's legal framework and policies and, of course, the country's long-term vision.

If we have a new and better Constitution we will most likely have effective policies, laws, regulations and bylaws. This point cannot just be dismissed. There is a famous saying, which goes: 'If a theory contradicts the practice, ignore the theory'. This translates into this - if what is meant to direct the practice is inadequate or in some way irrelevant to what is experienced on the ground then it can't be effective.

Justice James Mwalusanya puts it better when he says in his article "Conditions for the Functioning of a Democratic Constitution" published in 1994 that "Constitutions which do not embody a national consensus do not command political legitimacy. They are more or less imposed and no one cares about them, neither the

rulers nor the ruled."

E.F. Ridley in an article "There is no British Constitution: A Dangerous Case of the Emperor's Clothes (1988)", speaking on the characteristics of a constitution, says "It is a form of law superior to other laws - because (i) it originates in an authority higher than the legislature which makes ordinary law and (ii) the authority of the legislature derives from it and is thus bound by it. The principle of hierarchy of law generally (but not always) leads to the possibility of judicial review of ordinary legislation."

Although the current Constitution (Article 8) states that sovereignty shall reside in the people and it is from them that the government derives all its power and authority and that the government shall be accountable to the people, in practice it is the people who seem to be accountable to the government.

W.E. Murphy in an article "Constitutions, Constitutionalism and Democracy" published in 1993 says "A Constitution may thus function as a uniting force, the only principle of order, for there may be no [other] shared moral or social vision that might bind together a nation."

He further urges that "a constitutional text may guide as well as express a people's hopes for themselves as society...If a constitutional text is not congruent with ideals that form or will form its people and so express the political character they have or they are willing to try to put on, it will quickly fade." Happy New Year 2022!

Today's legal maxim: "Latent ambiguity of words may be supplied by evidence, for ambiguity arising upon the deed is removed by proof of the deed."

The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Journalists face relentless, targeted attacks, with 293 imprisoned in 2021



Journalists in Zambia protest against attacks on the media. Credit: Kelvin Kachingwe/IPS

NEW YORK

This past year, uncertainty blanketed our world. The COVID-19 pandemic, the rapidly advancing climate crisis, the pervasive nature of new technologies, and encroaching authoritarianism have all shown that our world is changing fast and in ways that fundamentally affect how we live.

As conspiracy theories laced with facts have spread to the general public, it is clear that we need reliable, independent information. We need journalists - the kind who hold the powerful to ac-

count and whose reporting serves as a bedrock for democracy. Yet, such journalists often face relentless, targeted attacks.

For 40 years, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has assessed the state of press freedom worldwide and in 2021, the data speaks for itself. A record number of journalists were imprisoned: at least 293. CPJ also found that at least 24 journalists were killed in 2021 because of their coverage.

Eighteen more died in circumstances too murky to determine whether they were specifically targeted for their journalism. In tandem with expert partners, brave journal-

ists, and allied public officials, we are pushing the boundaries of change for a free and fearless media.

Our #FreeThePress campaign, which is ever more vital, will be revamped in 2022 to push for a stop to these jailings. You can preview the at RiskLegal Network for Journalists, launching fully early next year to protect independent media from the lethal blows that deplete news organizations' finances and stymie critical reporting.

We know it is possible to win when we fight together. Last year, CPJ helped win the release of 101 imprisoned journalists, the most we have ever helped

free. This includes nearly 40 journalists released from prison in the Middle East and North Africa and 21 freed in Europe and Central Asia - specifically, in Turkey.

Part of our work is getting to the truth about journalist killings and advancing justice. In response to persistent impunity, together with partner groups we embarked on the first ever People's Tribunal on the Murder of Journalists, a means of alternative justice to hold governments and perpetrators to account.

In 2022, we look forward to case hearings and six investigations into cold cases that can open

a path toward justice. We need a Safer World for the Truth, as our project is called. Watch this short documentary to learn why it matters.

Among the victories that give us hope are the steps taken to halt the unfettered use of spyware to target journalists and others. Shortly after CPJ briefed the U.S. State Department on this threat, the administration placed export controls on several purveyors.

The EU also adopted a regulation on the export of dual-use surveillance technology by EU-based companies to prevent the undue targeting of journalists and others. We will continue advocating to stop the weaponization of tech across the world.

The historic crisis in Afghanistan required the collective effort of everyone at CPJ. We knocked on every door and strived to win the support of diplomats the world over, sometimes to our deep disappointment.

Yet, we are gratified by the successful evacuation of many journalists and our continuous work to keep the remaining Afghan press corps safe. Our experience with the Afghanistan crisis holds valuable lessons for our future advocacy.

A year that began with journalists viciously attacked at the Capitol riots in Washington, D.C. on January 6, culminated in a celebration of two journalists CPJ has long defended and cherished

- Dmitry Muratov and Maria Ressa - who were honored with the Nobel Peace Prize.

Change takes time but it is essential. We are grounded in gratitude and hope.

In a polarized and frightened world, solid journalism - journalism that helps us to make informed decisions and to choose leaders who best represent our interests - shall prevail.

Thank you for standing with journalists and working alongside us to protect and uphold our vital freedoms.

Gypsy Guillén Kaiser is Advocacy and Communications Director at Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to provide psychosocial service to her Staff.

Therefore, the Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo request the consultants to submit their prices for the above services.

The bidding documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 5th January, 2022 during the working days and hours. 8:00 Am to 4:30 Pm in the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. You can call on: +255627 428 470 or through email jackson.maseke@drc.ngo to receive the soft copy by email.

The closing date for the submission of the bids is 18th January, 2022 at 4:30 Pm.

The ITB will be opened on 20th January, 2022 at 10:00 AM at DRC Kibondo Office by DRC Tender opening committee only because of pandemic disease vendors will not be allowed to participate, PO Box 177 Kibondo by the DRC Tender Opening Committee.

You can return your bid form through RFQ.TZA@drc.ngo OR DIRECT TO THE DRC OFFICE otherwise is void

Once tossed and abused, human trafficking survivor finds solace

Goa, India

For over two decades, Nina tossed around like a leaf in a storm. While a teenager, she was lured into the sex trade, and pimps kept a huge chunk of the money that she earned as a sex slave. Nina was often bruised. Once, she refused sex with a man who did not want to use a condom. He beat her so severely that she had found it difficult to breathe.

One day the police raided the premises where Nina and other girls were kept as prisoners and arrested the pimps. The girls were taken to a protective home run by the local government. She like many other trafficked women abused alcohol and smoked to drown her sorrows.

Nina is now in her thirties and cured of her addictions. Her life is comfortable compared with her twenties when she was forced to live in the company of traffickers and pimps.

Lisa Pires of the Presentation Sisters Order told IPS that she had first met Nina in 2019. However, Pires declined to share Nina's name and whereabouts. Today both government officials and social activists jealously guard the identity of all trafficking survivors who struggle to lead normal lives.

The survivors need help to deal with post-rescue trauma, and the experience they go through during identification interviews and legal proceedings is painful. Some face re-victimisation and are punished for crimes traffickers force them to commit. Others are stigmatised and don't have a support system.

"We are happy to share stories of victims without revealing their exact identity as society needs to listen and to learn from those who have survived trafficking," adds Amala Kulandaisamy, 40, social activist and administrative head at the Nagoa centre.

The Nagoa Centre opened in 2001 in the ancestral home of Pires. Her parents gifted the 110-year-old house to the Order of the Presentation Sisters.

Pires joined the order in 1958 and shares her concerns about what is happening to young women today.

Nina's story is similar to that of countless Indian women from poverty-stricken parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh (UP) trafficked to Goa for commercial sexual exploitation, Pires says.

Surrounded by half a dozen starving siblings, a mother with mental health issues and an alcoholic father, Nina had fled her village when she was barely 15 years old. Soon after, a gang of boys picked up the vulnerable Nina.



Nina has found peace after being rescued from human traffickers and pimps in Goa, India. Credit: Mehru Jaffer/IPS

They promised her a job in Goa.

Goa is considered a significant destination in India for human trafficking and related commercial sexual

work. Girls and women are trafficked to Goa from most states in India, including the countryside near Goa. They are also trafficked from Nepal, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan,

Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Russia, and Thailand. While fewer women are trafficked from Nepal, the number of those sold and bought from Bangladesh increased.



Amala Kulandaisamy and Lisa Pires from the Nagoa Centre for the rehabilitation of trafficked persons in Goa. The centre is run by the Order of the Presentation Sisters. Credit: Mehru Jaffer/IPS

The sex work is primarily concentrated in the coastal belt of North Goa, with maximum rescue operations by the police taking place around the stunningly beautiful beaches of Calangute and Arjuna. Now commercial sex work is said to be spreading from the tourist areas of the coastal belt of North Goa to the mainland and away from tourist hubs.

Throughout last year, Pires worked to reduce trafficking. The theme for 2021 was Victims' Voices Lead the Way, with social activists spending time with human trafficking survivors counselling them. The survivors are seen as key in the fight against human trafficking. The theme focused on preventing the crime, identifying, and rescuing survivors, and supporting them on the road to rehabilitation.

Local people are encouraged to check the background of those wanting to rent accommodation and ensure that tenants are not part of any human trafficking activity.

The Presentation Sisters are diligent in their work against the trafficking of women and children and sensitive to their sexual exploitation. They provide alternative employment opportunities to survivors and constantly raise awareness against this organised crime.

A vital exercise today is to document the experience of survivors without revealing their identities.

The idea is to turn the suggestions of survivors into concrete action - a more survivor-centred approach to combat human trafficking and encourage lawmakers to pass legislation that will better protect citizens vulnerable to sexual exploitation and ensure they receive justice.

They say that there is a need for stricter regulation of massage parlours and dance bars where sexual exploitation of the vulnerable is high.

ARZ, based in Vasco, Goa that recommends women engaged in commercial sexual activities be rescued and not arrested by the police. It recommends, among other things, the speedy trial of offences under the Immoral Prevention Act and the establishment of a special court that will convict offenders - who generally get away unpunished.

ARZ is the publisher of Beautiful Women, a book about ten inspiring stories of women who survived the sex trade and some of whom are employed at Swift Wash, a laundry founded by the organisation.

Nina is fortunate. She survived the exploitation and has recently visited Potta, a well-known temple town in Kerala. Here she experienced spiritual calm and has returned to Goa to find a regular job as a caretaker in a private home.

This is part of a series of features from across the globe on human trafficking. IPS coverage is supported by the Airways Aviation Group.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Africa's 'Great Green Wall' could have far-reaching climate effects

By Carolyn Gramling

AFRICA'S "Great Green Wall" initiative is a proposed 8,000-kilometer line of trees meant to hold back the Sahara from expanding southward. New climate simulations looking to both the region's past and future suggest this greening could have a profound effect on the climate of northern Africa, and even beyond.

By 2030, the project aims to plant 100 million hectares of trees along the Sahel, the semiarid zone lining the desert's southern edge. That completed tree line could as much as double rainfall within the Sahel and would also decrease average summer temperatures throughout much of northern Africa and into the Mediterranean, according to the simulations, presented December 14 during the American Geophysical Union's fall meeting. But, the study found, temperatures in the hottest parts of the desert would become even hotter.

Previous studies have shown that a "green Sahara" is linked to changes in the intensity and location of the West African monsoon. That major wind system blows hot, dry air southwestward across northern Africa during the cooler months and brings slightly wetter conditions northeastward during the hotter months.

Such changes in the monsoon's intensity as well as its northward or southward extent led to a green Sahara period that lasted from about 11,000 to 5,000 years ago, for example (SN: 1/18/17). Some of the strongest early evidence for that greener Sahara of the past came in the 1930s when Hungarian explorer László Almásy – the basis for the protagonist of the 1996 movie *The English Patient*



The southern edge of the Sahara is bordered by a semiarid zone called the Sahel (shown here in Mali). The "Great Green Wall" project aims to stop desertification by planting a massive line of trees in the Sahel. Those trees, new research shows, could also have a powerful effect on the region's climate.

– discovered Neolithic cave and rock art in the Libyan Desert that depicted people swimming.

Past changes in the West African monsoon are linked to cyclical variations in Earth's orbit, which alters how much incoming solar radiation heats up the region. But orbital cycles don't tell the whole story, says Francesco Pausata, a climate dynamicist at the Université du Québec à Montréal who ran the new simulations. Scientists now recognize that changes in plant cover and overall dustiness can dramatically intensify those monsoon shifts, he says.

More vegetation "helps create a local pool of moisture," with more water cycling from soil to the atmosphere, increasing humidity and therefore rainfall, says Deepak Chandan, a paleoclimatologist at the University of Toronto who was not involved in the work. Plants also make for a darker land surface compared with

blinding desert sands, so that the ground absorbs more heat, Chandan says. What's more, vegetation reduces how much dust is in the atmosphere. Dust particles can reflect sunlight back to space, so less dust means more solar radiation can reach the land. Add it all up, and these effects lead to more heat and more humidity over the land relative to the ocean, creating a larger difference in atmospheric pressure. And that means stronger, more intense monsoon winds will blow.

The idea for Africa's Great Green Wall came in the 1970s and '80s when the once-fertile Sahel began to turn barren and dry as a result of changing climate and land use. Planting a protective wall of vegetation to hold back an expanding desert is a long-standing scheme. In the 1930s, President Franklin Roosevelt mobilized the U.S. Forest Service and the Works Progress Administration to plant walls of trees from the Great Plains to Tex-

as to slow the growth of the Dust Bowl. Since the 1970s, China has engaged in its own massive desert vegetation project – also nicknamed the Great Green Wall – in an attempt to halt the southward march of sand dunes from the Gobi Desert (SN: 7/9/21).

Led by the African Union, Africa's Great Green Wall project launched in 2007 and is now roughly 15 percent complete. Proponents hope the completed tree line, which will extend from Senegal to Djibouti, will not only hold back the desert from expanding southward but also bring improved food security and millions of jobs to the region.

What effect the finished greening might ultimately have on the local, regional and global climate has been little studied – and it needs to be, Pausata says. The initiative is, essentially, a geo-engineering project, he says, and when people want to do any type of geoengi-

neering, they should study these possible impacts.

To investigate those possible impacts, Pausata created high-resolution computer simulations of future global warming, both with and without a simulated wall of plants along the Sahel. Against the backdrop of global warming, the Great Green Wall would decrease average summertime temperatures in most of the Sahel by as much as 1.5 degrees Celsius.

But the Sahel's hottest areas would get even hotter, with average temperatures increasing by as much as 1.5 degrees C. The greening would also increase rainfall across the entire region, even doubling it in some places, the research suggests.

These results are preliminary, Pausata says, and the data presented at the meeting were only for a high-emissions future warming scenario called RCP8.5 that may not end up matching reality (SN: 1/7/20). Simulations for moderate- and lower-emissions scenarios are ongoing.

The effects of greening the Sahara might extend far beyond the region, the simulations suggest. A stronger West African monsoon could shift larger atmospheric circulation patterns westward, influencing other climate patterns such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and altering the tracks of tropical cyclones.

Chandan agrees that it's important to understand just what impact such large-scale planting might have and notes that improvements in understanding what led to past changes in the Sahara are key to simulating its future. That the Great Green Wall's impact could be far-ranging also makes sense, he says: "The climate system is full of interactions."

By Ryan Truscott

THE Dakatcha Woodland is home to Africa's tiniest owl; a long-legged shrew with golden fur found nowhere else on earth; and weaver birds so rare it took Kenyan ornithologist Colin Jackson 13 years to track down their breeding grounds.

The East African habitat, which stretches over about 465,000 acres north of the coastal town of Malindi, Kenya, are under constant threat from climate change, expanding farms, and charcoal production.

"We're fighting against a huge wave of destruction," said Jackson, who is also head of A Rocha Kenya.

There are only so many things you can do to save a forest. You can lobby for environmental laws. Buy land and place it in a trust. Raise money. Raise awareness. Promote scientific research on the importance of the habitat for biodiversity.

And, according to Jackson, you can pray.

"There have been times when things have looked pretty desperate and yet we've managed to break through and things have improved," he said.

A Rocha Kenya, the local branch of the international network of environmental organizations with a Christian ethos, has set up a "wall of prayer" to protect the Dakatcha Woodland and other key sites. It consists of a What-

Conservation group tries one more thing to preserve African woodland



Endangered owls

sApp group of about 80 or so Christian conservationists around the world that A Rocha Kenya can call on for intercession when faced with a crisis.

Many people are skeptical of the power of prayer, and there is especially fierce criticism of those who invoke "thoughts and prayers" as a way not to take action on pressing social issues. But Christians who care about the environment have been increasingly turning to intercession as a spiritual tool commensurate with great need.

Believers from Asia, Europe, and North America gathered monthly ahead of the United Nations climate change conference in Scotland to intercede for the governments negotiating emissions targets. At the

conference, Christian observers prayed for "a godly outcome."

And the Christian conservation group in Kenya is organizing believers who will pray for the protection of the forest that is home to many rare creatures.

The combination of the spiritual and the practical in conservation is not something new in Kenya. Many of Jackson's colleagues either are Christians or have a Christian background. Government meetings in the area often open and close with prayer.

But some conservationists are sharply critical of the approach—and opposed to any effort to care for the environment that puts an emphasis on Christian convictions.

Mordecai Ogada, executive director of Kenyan non-

profit Conservation Solutions Afrika, told CT that the model of conservation currently practiced in Kenya "is steeped in racial bias and the dominance of 'whiteness.'" Instead of attempting to decolonize, it draws its traditions and ideas from people like Theodore Roosevelt, the US president who was a noted conservationist, and John Muir, the Scottish American naturalist and "father of the National Parks."

"In African societies, spirituality is closely tied to stewardship of the environment, but this African spirituality has always been vilified by missionaries and Christianity," Ogada said. "The Christian basis for conservation instantly excludes those who do not subscribe to the Christian faith."

But as a researcher at

the University of Manitoba's Natural Resources Institute Joanne Moyer spent 11 months looking at the role of religious organizations in sustainable development and environmental protection in Kenya, and that's not what she saw.

"While A Rocha was one of the more overtly Christian of the organizations I studied, in terms of integrating prayer, Bible study, and worship in the regular rhythms of their organizational life, I would describe their approach toward non-Christians to be respectfully invitational," said Moyer, who is now an associate professor of environmental studies and geography at The King's University, Alberta. "There was an atheist volunteer while I was there, and she was never pressured to attend any of the overtly Christian activities. I think I asked her about how she felt working there as a non-Christian, and she said it was just fine."

Moyer also believes the religious approach to conservationism may connect with Kenyans more than the Western academic and scientific environmental and conservationist programs.

"Faith-based groups like A Rocha could connect with local people in a language they understood," she said. "An uneducated farmer might not understand things like biodiversity, habitat, endangered species, and their role

in the larger ecosystem. But most Kenyans are Christian, and A Rocha could articulate a fairly simple and straightforward faith-based conservation message that I think made sense to people and resonated with them in a way that made them more motivated to respond."

That has been Jackson's experience. He first started connecting with the local community in Dakatcha during his quest to locate the nesting site of a small black-and-yellow bird called Clarke's weaver, found only there and in Arabuko-Sokoke, a forest reserve to the south of Malindi.

Like the Sokoke scops owls, the weavers are endangered due to deforestation, and their nesting habits were unknown to science until 2013 when Jackson and colleagues discovered a breeding colony in a wetland in Dakatcha. In a scientific paper published in *Scopus*, they described the colony, which was filled with hundreds of Clarke's weavers building ball-shaped nests from sedge fibers and filling the air with their buzzing and sizzling calls.

During the surveys for the nesting site, Jackson and his team had discovered most people they met were church members. The churches became the conservation group's gateway into the community.

Today, A Rocha is also helping train some of Dakatcha's farmers in

methods that protect the forest, while also promoting soil health, boosting crop yields, and minimizing water usage. Through the churches, it is able to give biblical teaching on why God cares about the earth and all things in it—including the farms people work, the birds they see and hear, the air they breathe, and the water they drink.

But while Jackson agrees that faith-based arguments for protecting trees, owls, and shrews are effective, he also has a most straightforward reason to prioritize prayer at A Rocha. He's a Christian, and Christians are supposed to pray.

"God is sovereign, and he works his purposes out," he said. "But we do know that God loves us to talk to him and to bring our requests to him and he does answer prayer."

He also believes that prayer is powerful.

Seven years ago, for example, Jackson and his colleagues saw large yellow earth-moving equipment arrive at Arabuko-Sokoke, a coastal forest that is home to not only many elephants and buffalo but also overlooked rarities like the golden-rumped sengi, a shrew that's found only there and in Dakatcha. A US-based oil firm, CAMAC Energy, wanted to cut lines through Arabuko-Sokoke to carry out seismic surveys. This would involve planting and detonating explosives.

For that, he believes, the best tool is prayer.

Ecstasy as Zimbabwe's small-holder farmers secure European pineapple market

Harare, Zimbabwe

In her wildest dreams, small-holder farmer Sarudzai Sithole never imagined that her pineapples could someday stock the produce section of Europe's finest supermarkets.

Now, the 34-year-old mother of five is part of a group of 45 farmers in Rusitu Valley in Chipinge, a district in Zimbabwean eastern province of Manicaland, who from December 2021 would be exporting nearly 50 tonnes of their pineapples to the Netherlands.

"This is the best experience I have heard in the fourteen years that I have been growing pineapples. I have been selling my pineapples locally to buyers from Mutare, Harare and Bulawayo during this period, but it has been for a small profit.

"I will be selling two tonnes, and at the price of 70 cents that we have been promised, the exported crop will greatly improve my life and that of my family," an excited Sithole tells IPS.

She says pineapple farming has enabled her to build a house, buy various household goods and send children to school. She is increasing her crop hectareage, hoping that the rewards from the exported crop will empower her to electrify the family home, among other major home improvements.

When growing the pineapples, Sithole says they do not apply fertilisers or chemicals but manure only.

Dudzai Ndiadzo, the Rusitu Fruit



Zimbabwean pineapple smallholder farmers now can sell their organically-produced pineapples on the European markets. Farmers are hopeful this will bring wealth to a region recently devastated by Cyclone Idai. Credit: Tonderayi Mukeredzi

Growers and Marketing Trust administrator, says the farmers' dream to export their produce to Europe became a reality in August (2021). Their pineapples got organic certification from Ecocert Organic Standard, a French quality control body whose certification allows the farmers to send their organic products to international markets. The 45 villagers belong to the trust.

Farmers in Chipinge and most of Zimbabwe's prime farming areas incur heavy post-harvest losses because their produce often rots by the roadside as they struggle to secure markets or transport their produce to the markets.

Chipinge farmers formed Rusitu Fruit Growers and Marketing Trust to market their crops. It represents over 1 300 farmers.

The farmers were victims of Cyclone Idai. This tropical cyclone hit their home area of Chipinge and Chimanimani in 2019, killing over 180 people, destroying 7,000 households and infrastructure and leaving 4,000 people food insecure, but their pineapple crop was not destroyed.

Ndiadzo said most farmers have been growing pineapples but not on a commercial scale because the market for pineapples wasn't that good.

"We are excited to be exporting because the local market for pineapples is poor. The money from the export market is better - it is double or more than what we would have gotten here," he tells IPS.

Confronted with market access challenges, Rusitu Fruit Growers and Marketing Trust engaged the country's export promotion body, Zimtrade, which offered training and technical expertise to the farmers on how to grow pineapples organically.

In 2017, the farmers started working with Zimtrade to get organic certification and have been supported in the certification and export quest by organisations such as COLEACP, Em-

bassy of Netherlands in Zimbabwe, and Netherlands based PUM and RVO International.

Zimtrade has a long-standing partnership with PUM, where experts offer technical interventions to Zimbabwean exporters in different sectors to improve their quality and production processes for export. Through the collaboration with PUM, Zimtrade developed links with food companies in the Netherlands that have made it possible for smallholders to export their crops.

Admire Jongwe, Zimtrade's manager for Eastern Region, says the organic certification is a critical milestone in reaching the lucrative organic fruit market, especially in the United States of America, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany and other emerging markets such as the United Arab Emirates.

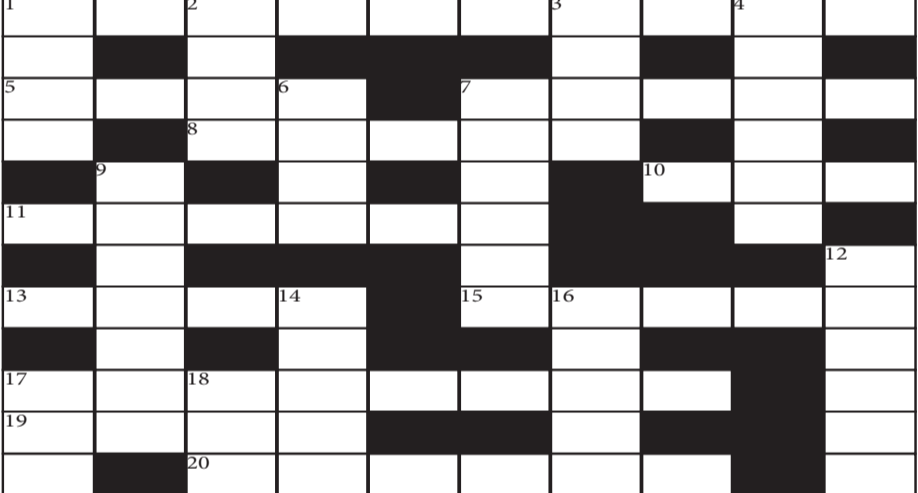
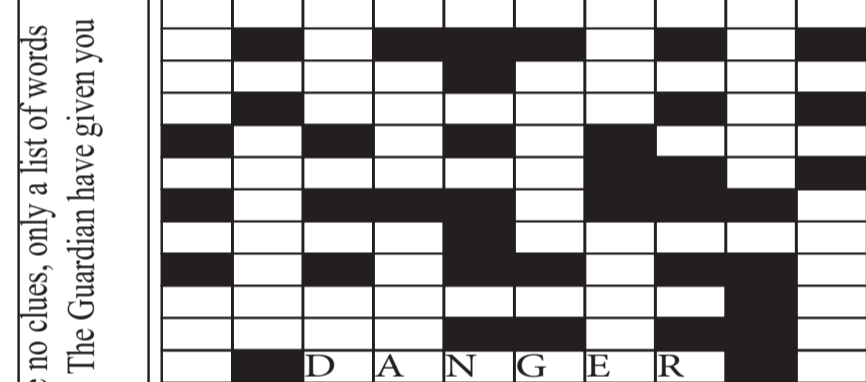
"The organic certification will enable the farmers to fetch as much as 30 percent premium on their produce in most supermarkets in Europe. This will improve their returns as well as boost their livelihoods from producing the pineapple," he tells IPS.

Jongwe says with organic standards, the smallholder pineapple farmers will access the global pineapple market, which has grown from US\$2.3 billion in 2011 to US\$2.5 billion in 2020, according to Trade Map.

Zimbabwe averages US\$18 million per year in the total trade value of fruit and vegetable exports. Figures from Zimtrade shows that during the first half of 2021, Zimbabwe's horticulture exports topped US\$30 million with tea, macadamia nuts, fresh flowers, leguminous vegetables, largely contributing to the revenue.

The country used to be one of Africa's biggest exporters of horticulture, but horticulture exports have been tumbling over the years. Europe is currently the largest export market for the Zimbabwean horticulture sector, with the Netherlands and the United Kingdom leading the pack.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 197 00--



- 3 LETTERS: SAY, MAY, LUD
- 4 LETTERS: BABA, ACID, ALUM, ROOM, INKY, MAID, (7 WORDS)
- 5 LETTERS: SKULL, ASIDE, DRAMA, SMILE, MALAY, (5 WORDS)
- 6 LETTERS: GANDHI, SALIVA, NILGAI, DANGER LEDGER (5 WORDS)
- 7 LETTERS: PASCHAL
- 8 LETTERS: MALAYSIA
- 10 LETTERS: BARBARIANS

- Clues: Across**
- 1 Urodela is their scientific name
 - 5 a large number of people
 - 7 a ring-shaped reef or chain of Islands formed of coral
 - 8 the subject on which one writes
 - 10 to utilize
 - 11 calm, tranquil
 - 13 the connective tissue of the nervous system
 - 15 out of the way
 - 17 follow a winding course
 - 19 largest continent
 - 20 the lowest layer of ionosphere, able to reflect low frequency radio waves.
- Down:**
- 1 an amount of, not all
 - 2 the end, final
 - 3 an observation stuck in the mind
 - 4 to sign up
 - 6 a covering for the foot
 - 7 amoeboid
 - 9 a maize plant in South Africa
 - 12 Mexico city is her mother city
 - 14 a record of the events of one year
 - 16 a rush, a flow
 - 17 a diagrammatic representation of an area showing features
 - 18 help or support

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

1: LUD
2: END
3: SKULL
4: BABA
5: MALAY
6: GANDHI
7: PASCHAL
8: MALAYSIA
9: MAID
10: BARBARIANS
11: TRANQUIL
12: MEXICO CITY
13: NERVE TISSUE
14: YEAR
15: ALONG
16: FLOW
17: MAP
18: SUPPORT
19: ASIA
20: E

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANIKYO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 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05.00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANIKYO	



BUSINESS

DIGITIZATION

Africa shifts to online shopping

LAGOS

The impact of Covid-19 on the global supply chain on Africa has led to a shift to shopping online becoming more pronounced on the continent.

In this extract on Africa and South Africa from the World Retail Congress end of year review report it found that in sub-Saharan Africa, where retail is more fragmented, informal and largely import-dependent, the effect of the global supply chain crisis was more marked in the early part of the year. But with the promise of contactless shopping and contactless payments coupled with established customer support processes, this led to consumers making the shift to shopping online easily.

A key trend was the shift from buying discretionary items to more everyday staples, such as food and groceries, online. A survey by Statista in Q1 2021 showed that 17% of Nigerian consumers say they purchased staples such as food and drink online. In 2015, a similar study by BCG indicated this number was around two percent.

Food and consumer goods brands have noticed, with several partnerships with ecommerce companies and relying on them for product listings as well as last-mile logistics deliveries to consumers.

On 30 November, 2021, Unilever announced it had awarded Jumia Nigeria Best Logistics Partner for its last-mile logistics services to consumers in Northern Nigeria, a particularly challenging environment for any logistics operations. A young and mobile-first population means more and more consumers are comfortable with shopping and engaging in many other activities online.

Informal sellers and mom-and-pop stores are increasingly digitising their front-end and back-end operations, either through integration with ecommerce or as standalone initiatives. All these trends will push savvy retailers

to offer consumers a seamless, boundaryless experience and leverage partnerships to expand into more services where retailers' brand equity positions them well.

Newness, newness, newness

In South Africa, where modern trade and hypermarket formats dominate and there is a strong local supply base, retail was less exposed to the global supply chain crisis.

Despite the additional disruption to stock levels and supply lines caused by the unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng in July 2021, South African retail was relatively resilient to supply shocks due to well established market concentration and maturity.

Simon Susman, honorary chairman, Woolworths, says in the report that retailers looking ahead to 2022, now must have "being even better about what we do" as a key priority. "It is about going where your customers are going, simplifying digital shopping and all processes. It is about great store design." He says it is about "newness, newness, newness."

"What I have seen and experienced is that having "newness" is more important than ever before. We need new formats and concepts coming in because that is what shoppers are looking for and attracted by," he explains.

"It is also about knowing what you stand for in your customers' minds. Don't confuse them and be even more true to your brand and your values," he adds. South Africa, because it is less advanced in online sales, it is going to be even more critical that the focus is on both the on and offline offer as well as understanding the consumer needs retailers serve.

"Many of the best pureplay retailers exist to "save me from doing X", whilst I firmly believe that great stores exist to "excite me to do Y"," he says. The World Retail Congress will take place in Rome, Italy in April 2022.



Simon Susman, honorary chairman of Woolworths.

BULLISH

New Luika gold mine in Mbeya making windfall profit for Shanta Gold

By Guardian Reporter

NEW Luika Gold Mine located in Chunya district of Mbeya region has continued to generate windfall profits for Shanta Gold Plc which as of November 2021 had US\$24.7 million (over 56.9bn/-) plus operating cash flow from unhedged gold sales.

In its latest operational update, the East Africa-focused gold producer, developer and explorer said its negligible debt stands at US\$14 million (over 3.2bn/-) and provides significant additional liquidity on the balance sheet.

"Whilst operationally we had very much remained on track to meet our 60,000-65,000 ounces guidance for 2021, the challenges wholly relating to our emulsion product and production charging units supplier means we've had to temporarily change our underground mining sequence to prioritise ore development headings with lower grades rather than mining from stope that were available," said Shanta Gold's CEO, Eric Zurrin.

"Positively, following increased grade control drilling at New Luika underground deposits over the last six months, reconciliation of mined ounces has been pleasing and averaged plus four percent versus the grade control model. This continues to point to the long-term value opportunity created by New Luika in the Shanta portfolio," Zurrin added.

In its report, the company said



Shanta Gold's CEO, Eric Zurrin.

due to operational difficulties relating to the supply by a third party vendor of an unreliable emulsion product and underground production charging units during the fourth quarter, production guidance for 2021 has been reduced from a range of 60,000 to 65,000 ounces to a range of 55,000 to 57,000 ounces.

Shanta Gold further stated in its report that the emulsion product quality has been restored and the underground production charging units have been fixed. "Growth projects at Singida and West Kenya continue on track and we look forward to providing a resource update in early 2022 for the latter," the Shanta Gold CEO noted.

Shanta which is listed on the alternative market of London Stock Exchange, owns the New Luika Gold Mine which is a low cost, established, cash generative operation boasting high grade resources rarely found around the world.

Shanta is focused on delivering maximised sustainable value for shareholders from this mine, and other assets in its portfolio, through meticulous expert management throughout the business. Alongside New Luika, Shanta owns Singida, an exploration and development stage project. A portion of the Singida asset is held in a joint venture of which Shanta has a 90 percent interest.

Shanta also holds exploration

properties covering over 1,560 square kilometres in the under explored ex-colonial mining areas of the geologically rich Lupa Goldfield surrounding New Luika as well as 12 km2 of prospecting licences in Songea.

"Shanta has established a solid operational track record which has allowed it to embark on an exciting exploration campaign across its large and highly prospective licence areas. This exploration programme is targeting new resources to extend the mine life of New Luika as well as increasing resources at Singida project," the company said on its website.

GROWTH

Used car imports up 21 pc despite Covid price rises

NAIROBI

Kenyans imported an extra 13,753 second hand vehicles in the nine months to September last year shrugging off price increases of the units in source markets.

Latest data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows that imports for used cars in the nine months to September stood at 78,304 units, 21 percent jump from 64,551 units in similar period in 2020.

The increase in the number of units shipped came despite prices increasing in the wake of the Coronavirus disruptions that led to supply hitches in the source markets, mainly Japan. KNBS data shows that the average price of a used car rose to Sh940, 395 from Sh868, 780 and the increases were anticipated to slam brakes on orders as buyers reduced spending due to the economic hardships of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Dealers have linked the increase to overflows of the orders that were made in 2020 when Coronavirus-travel restrictions disrupted shipments and led to late arrival of the units. "The increase of the



Second hand cars being offloaded from a cargo ship at the Port of Mombasa.

13,000 plus units is mainly due to overflows from 2020 to 2021. Remember the disruptions when restrictions were imposed, these led to delayed arrivals of orders made," said Charles Munyori the secretary-general of Kenya Auto Bazaar Association, which represents used car dealers.

Shipments were for the larger part of 2020 disrupted when Ports in source markets like Japan remained closed due to the ban on travel and social gatherings prompting delays in shipments for months.

The Asian nation had suspended operations at its Ports as it battled to contain a spike in Coronavirus infections. The closure also

led to increase in shipping costs as importers raced to secure the limited spaces for their cargo. Vehicles from Japan dominate the Kenyan second-hand car market, taking more than 80 percent of the market share.

Mazda Demio, Toyota Fielder, Toyota Rav 4, Toyota Vanguard and Nissan X-Trail are some of the popular models whose yard prices increased in the wake of the supply hitches in the source markets and increase in shipping costs.

Supply hitches, rise in shipping costs and the weakening of the shilling forced dealers to pass the increased costs to buyers in an economy that was still struggling

to regain its footing in the wake of the coronavirus fallout.

The number of second-hand cars imported in the first nine months had dropped 15,506 units last year from 80,057 shipped in 2019, highlighting the adverse effect of the disruptions. Last year's rise in the number of second-hand car imported coincided with the ongoing recovery of businesses and workers resuming jobs.

Small businesses and households are the biggest buyers of used cars and the Coronavirus economic fallout had depressed their spending ability including purchase of the units. The KNBS data shows that the average cost of a used car last year was the highest since 2017 highlighting the impact of the supply hitches and weakening shilling.

Used car prices in Kenya rose by up to 33 percent between March and September last year on costly imports and a weak shilling. The shilling has taken a beating from the dollar from mid last year when it stood at Sh106.40 on the combination of weak inflows and strong dollar demand across sectors.

DIVESTITURE

Digital Realty acquires majority stake in Teraco

JOHANNESBURG

Teraco Data Environments, Africa's leading carrier-neutral data centre and interconnection solutions provider, announced today that Digital Realty, global provider of cloud and carrier-neutral datacentre, colocation and interconnection solutions, has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a majority stake in Teraco from a consortium of investors, including Berkshire Partners and Permira.

Teraco's datacentres allow clients

to connect directly to each other, to the onramps of all major cloud providers, as well as to the continent's largest and fastest-growing Internet Exchange Point, NAPAfrica.

According to a statement released by the companies, the Digital Realty transaction will result in a powerful combination providing Teraco continued access to capital to grow. The Teraco and NAPAfrica brands will continue. Teraco will also gain access to skills and knowledge from the Digital Realty global platform and continue to grow its ecosystem.

"We are excited to enter our next

chapter by joining forces with Digital Realty to create a truly global, scaled platform serving our customers in Africa and beyond," said Teraco CEO Jan Hnizdo. "Our combined platform will be uniquely positioned to serve the full customer spectrum with the ability to support their growth around the world. We look forward to working with the Digital Realty team to extend our state-of-the-art data centre and connectivity solutions to capitalise on the favourable industry trends and tremendous market opportunity."

Digital Realty CEO A. William

Stein added, "This highly strategic transaction immediately cements Digital Realty as the leading colocation provider in Africa, a region experiencing rapid digital transformation. Teraco is the industry leader in South Africa and the continent's connectivity hub. This investment will enhance our ability to serve customers on a global basis by adding significant regional scale with a premier, network-dense portfolio in South Africa's most strategically important metro areas. Teraco will also advance our strategy of increasing exposure to highly

connected, network- and carrier-dense facilities to enhance our global coverage and connectivity capabilities."

The Teraco management team will remain in place and maintain day-to-day responsibility for operations in South Africa. The Teraco management team is led by Hnizdo, a long-time team member who has helped drive Teraco's significant growth over the last decade. Hnizdo is supported by an experienced and highly qualified local management team with over 100 years of combined experience.

In addition, Teraco's existing investors, including several leading global digital infrastructure investors with significant experience investing in Africa, are rolling forward a significant portion of their equity interests, demonstrating their conviction in Teraco's future growth prospects. The continuing involvement of management and the existing investors is consistent with Digital Realty's new market entry strategy of partnering with strong local management teams and experienced regional capital partners.

GENEROSITY

Airtel TZ donates groceries to St John Paul orphanage in Mpanda

By Guardian Reporter

AN assortment of consumables including wheat flour, cooking oil, sugar, maize flour and rice were donated by Airtel Tanzania Limited to a Mpanda district based Saint John Paul Orphanage Center.

Through its 'Let them smile' campaign under 'Tunakujali' initiative, the telecommunications company said the donation was meant to cheer up orphans being hosted at the orphanage as part of activities to mark the end of year festive season.

Speaking after handing over the groceries, Airtel Zonal Manager for Katavi region, Bartholomew Masatu said that for a number of years, the telco has been supporting needy groups in the society by donating various humanitarian items to show love and care.

"Late last year, Airtel Tanzania launched a festive season campaign aimed at supporting 12 orphanage centers in the country amongst which is St. John Paul orphanage," Masatu said while noting that the donations are also meant to help solve challenges facing such vulnerable groups in the community.

He said as a good corporate citizen, Airtel Tanzania believes that people living in such destitute conditions are human beings just like many other children living with well of parents hence the need to support them.

"I extend a congratulatory message to our company's senior management for deciding to support communities in areas where we operate. What we are donating here today will add some value to the family at St John Paul Orphanage Center," he added.



Airtel Tanzania's zonal sales manager for Katavi, Bartholomew Masatu (L), presents groceries to St John Paul orphanage's manager, Rose Sungura (C) at a ceremony held in Mpanda District at the weekend. Second right is a social welfare official from Katavi Region, Anna Shumbi. Photo courtesy of Airtel.

In a vote of thanks, St John Paul Orphanage Center's Manager, Sister Rose Sungura commended the telco for the support saying it means a lot to the orphanage which is facing a lot of challenges. "We truly appreciate the humanitarian assistance that you have just given us. I understand very

well that we have many other orphanages in the country but you chosen to come to us. This is a blessing to us and we say thank you," Sister Sungura said.

She said all children at the center are orphans who need to be well fed just their peers coming from better off families.

"These children also need to dress well, have a good quality education, love and care and most importantly, medical treatment whenever they fall sick. We alone cannot afford to offer such services without assistance from individuals and institutions like Airtel," she noted.

RELIEF

Kenya resume livestock exports to Oman after 16-year



Kenya's Ambassador to Oman, Sheikh Mohammed Dor.

NAIROBI

The first batch of more than 40,000 head of livestock worth more than Sh200 million left the Port of Mombasa on Monday afternoon to Oman as Kenya resumed direct exports of animals to the country after a 16 years ban.

A ship carrying more than 14,000 goats and sheep from different livestock keeping zones left Mombasa for Salalah Port, Oman as the two countries agree to boost livestock trade in the coming years.

Kenya's Ambassador to Oman, Sheikh Mohammed Dor said Kenya has the potential to export more than 500,000 heads annually. Sheikh Dor said Kenya will be exporting livestock every month to Oman and Gulf region.

"Today we resume exporting livestock to Oman and this is a wonderful business opportunity apart from the on-going vibrant exports of Kenyan horticulture, floriculture among other

products," said the ambassador.

Mr Dor, who witnessed the loading of the animals, said the resumption of export is due to measures put in place by the Kenyan government to ensure the livestock are free from diseases. "The economic blueprints of the two countries; Kenya's Vision 2030 and Oman's 2040 Big Four Agenda have placed food security as a top agenda," said Sheikh Dor.

Oman's meat commissions department chief executive Dr Al Saidi said his team will cooperate with local suppliers to ensure there's steady supply of livestock to his country. "Oman is a food hub of Gulf region. This opportunity of livestock export is providing a win-win trading environment for both Kenya and Oman," said Dr Saidi.

Kenya is working with two local suppliers; Zuridi Africa and Najib's Livestock International to collect animals across the country for export. The livestock sector has previously been handicapped by rampant cases of foot and mouth

diseases.

However, the government has empowered the Kenya Veterinary Vaccine Production Institute, through which they will be able to provide to the farmers, cheaper vaccines to produce disease free livestock for export.

The national and county governments are developing a livestock bill that will, in the long run, create registered producer associations to help livestock owners aggregate their produce and sell them in bulk so as to eliminate middle men from the value chain, and in turn maximize on profits.

Kenya has already signed a number of export agreements with countries in the Middle East to facilitate sale of livestock products. In the coming months, Kenya intends to use a new Lamu Port for livestock and meat exports. The Lamu port is also ideal for livestock exports because it is closer to the key animal production areas in the Northeast part of the country.

CONCLUSION

Mozambique: Financial close for Cuamba solar power project

MAPUTO

The London-based independent power producer Globeleq (an institution formed by Norwegian and British funds) on Tuesday announced that it has reached financial close on the 19 megawatt peak Cuamba Solar photovoltaic project in Mozambique.

This will include the country's first grid-scale battery storage system with a capacity to store two megawatts (seven megawatt hours). The 36 million US dollar project will be constructed in the town of Cuamba, in the northern province of Niassa and is being developed in partnership with Mozambique's publicly-owned electricity company EDM and the company Source Energia.

Once operational, it will provide enough electricity for EDM to supply 21,800 consumers over a 25 year period. According to a statement from Globeleq, over the life of the project, it is expected to avoid the equivalent of more than 172,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

The Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF) will provide 19 million US dollars in debt funding, with the Private Infrastructure Development Group giving a grant of seven million US dollars and CDC (the British state development finance institution) contributing a one million US dollar grant towards the battery storage system.

EDM chairperson Marcelino Gildo pointed out that "this project is a demonstration of EDM's commitment to providing sustainable solutions to speed up energy access to Mozambicans. In compliance with the Government's five-year plan to introduce 200 megawatts of renewable energy, EDM is at the forefront of the energy transition in line with the Paris Agreement."

This sentiment was echoed by the chief executive of Globeleq, Mike Scholey, who stated, "We fully support the Mozambican government in their initiatives to support the Paris Agreement and provide its citizens with reliable and clean alternative energy options."

The construction of the power plant began earlier this year and will be the third solar power station in the country. The first was built in Mocuba, in Zambezia province, and has been in operation since 2019, whilst the second, at Metoro, in Cabo Delgado, is still under construction.

The first power from Cuamba is expected to flow in the second half of 2022. Globeleq is 70 per cent owned by CDC and 30 per cent owned by the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries, Norfund.

CENSURE

R1.5-billion IT tender: Home Affairs to seek blacklisting, damages

JOHANNESBURG

Home Affairs minister Aaron Motsoaledi has welcomed a constitutional court judgment dismissing an application challenging the cancellation of a R1.5-billion electronic document management system contract.

The minister has now instructed the department of home affairs to pursue legal costs against technology companies New Dawn and Valor IT, which date back to 2010 when the initial claim was filed. He said he also plans to write to national treasury to request that the two companies be blacklisted from doing business with the state.

"This is not vindictiveness but is a warning to individuals and companies who believe that they can receive millions in public funds via spurious litigation," said Motsoaledi. The department of home affairs said the matter started when it wanted to digitise its records.

"In terms of the law, the State IT Agency (Sita) had to issue a tender looking for a service provider on behalf of the

department," it said. The tender had initially been awarded to three companies: New Dawn, Valor IT and Ideco.

"But before any contract could be signed or service-level agreement could be finalised, national treasury warned that there was no money for such a huge tender. As a consequence, home affairs could not go ahead with this contract," said the department.

It said that Ideco understood the position of government and "let matters rest there". However, said home affairs, "New Dawn and Valor IT somehow decided they were entitled to state money in this regard and litigated against the department for R602-million and R28-million respectively".

Dismissed
The constitutional court last week dismissed the application after it found that the application "lacks reasonable prospects of success. Consequently, it has decided that the leave to appeal must be refused with costs."

"Because of litigation by these two companies, the department's audited

contingent liability shot up to R2.1-billion in the 2019/2020 financial year," home affairs said. This, it said, was automatically flagged by the auditor-general as a risk.

The department said if it had not successfully defended the litigation and the money had become payable, the budget of the department would have been severely impacted. However, the department said in this case it "vigorously defended the matter and contended that there was no contract signed".

The minister said: "It baffles the mind that the two companies could pursue the state for this huge amount of money, going right up to the constitutional court, despite knowing that they had never provided any service to the department."

"We are aware that it is the constitutional right of individuals and companies to utilise the various courts of the country in pursuit of justice. However, we believe it is sheer opportunism, bordering on theft and corruption, for anybody to demand state money when they didn't provide any services. We strongly discourage this kind of behaviour."



SA Home Affairs minister Aaron Motsoaledi.

WORLD

Donald Trump Jr, Ivanka Trump subpoenaed in New York probe

NEW YORK

New York's attorney general has subpoenaed two of Donald Trump's adult children, Donald Trump Jr and Ivanka Trump, as part of her civil probe into the former US president's business practices and namesake company.

The subpoenas from the office of Attorney General Letitia James were disclosed in a Monday filing with a New York state court in Manhattan.

James has also subpoenaed Trump. Lawyers for the Trump family are seeking to block her from questioning the former Republican president and his children, the filing said.

Lawyers for the family were not immediately available for comment.

The subpoenas were first reported by the New York Times, which cited a person familiar with the matter.

Last month, Trump sued James to block her civil probe into the Trump Or-



Ivanka Trump (right) and brother Donald Trump Jr

ganization, accusing the Democrat of partisan politics.

James has been investigating whether the company fraudulently inflated the values of its real estate holdings to obtain bank loans, and reduced the values to save on taxes.

Her probe is related to but separate

from a criminal probe by the Manhattan district attorney into the Trump Organization's business practices. James joined that probe last May.

Eric Trump, another of Trump's adult children, was questioned by James' office in October 2020.

Agencies

Wang Yi heads to Africa for first visit of year

DEFEATING the pandemic, achieving economic recovery and dovetailing new measures for practical cooperation between China and Africa will be high on the agenda as State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi kicks off his first overseas visit of the new year to the continent on Tuesday, officials and experts said.

The four-day trip to the continent will take Wang to Eritrea, Kenya and Comoros. He will also visit the Maldives and Sri Lanka afterward.

Since 1991, Africa has been the first overseas destination of the year for China's foreign minister.

Noting that it is a fine tradition of China's diplomacy, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said earlier that it fully demonstrated the priority China gives to China-Africa relations and the growing profound friendship between the two sides.

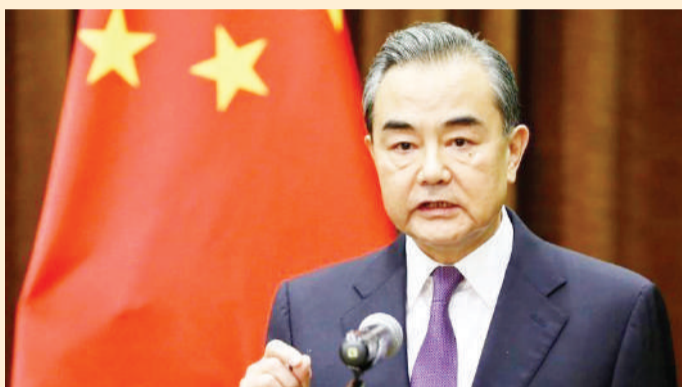
It also showed China's firm support for Africa as it seeks strength through unity, development and revitalization, he added.

"Neither the evolving international landscape nor the raging COVID-19 pandemic can weaken the will and determination of China and Africa to maintain friendly exchanges, enhance strategic communication and render each other firm support or diminish China's attention and support to Africa," Zhao said.

The past year was a milestone in Sino-African ties as it marked the 65th anniversary of the start of China-Africa diplomatic relations. Also, the year marked the 21st anniversary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

The eighth Ministerial Meeting of FOCAC was held in November, during which President Xi Jinping proposed the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation for the first time.

Li Wentao, deputy director of the Institute of African Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said the spirit was the upgraded version of the principles of China's Africa policy sincerity, real results,



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

and good faith, and pursuing the greater good and shared interests, adding that it would provide a source of strength for furthering China-Africa ties.

Zeng Aiping, deputy director of the Department of Developing Countries Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, said China and Africa had become an important strategic force by both being committed to upholding equity and justice and supporting each other. The two sides had upheld the rights and interests of developing countries, he added.

Li said every item of the

demic. "China not only lends hope to Africa in bridging the immunization gap, but also enhances its public health capacity building through varied means including the joint production of vaccines and technology transfer," Li said, adding that China had taken the lead and was a model in terms of helping the continent.

According to the scholars, China not only consolidated its traditional spheres of cooperation with African countries, but also fostered new growth drivers including the digital economy and climate change cooperation.

Li said practical cooperation in the digital field is a highlight of bilateral cooperation, which would help the continent seize the opportunity presented by the information revolution, bridge the digital divide and build a digital Africa.

In August, China and African countries formulated and implemented a plan for China-Africa digital innovation partnership.

Xinhua

Leaders of Russia, China, US, UK, France adopt joint statement on preventing nuclear war

MOSCOW

LEADERS of Russia, the United Kingdom, China, the United States and France have released a joint statement on preventing a nuclear war and avoiding arms races, according to the document published on the Kremlin website on Monday.

"The People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America consider the avoidance of war between Nuclear-Weapon States and the reduction of strategic risks as our foremost responsibilities," the joint statement says.

"We affirm that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," it reads.

Against further spread of nuclear weapons

Leaders of five nuclear powers pointed out that as nuclear use would have far-reaching consequences, they affirm that "nuclear weapons - for as long as they continue to exist - should serve defensive purposes, deter aggression, and prevent war."

"We believe strongly that the further spread of such weapons must be prevented," said the leaders of the nuclear powers and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

"We reaffirm the importance of addressing nuclear threats and emphasize the importance of preserving and complying with our bilateral and multilateral non-proliferation, disarmament, and arms control agreements and commitments," the document says.

In particular, the major nuclear powers "remain committed to our Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obligations, including our Article VI obligation 'to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on gen-

eral and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control'."

Not targeted at each other

"We each intend to maintain and further strengthen our national measures to prevent unauthorized or unintended use of nuclear weapons. We reiterate the validity of our previous statements on de-targeting, reaffirming that none of our nuclear weapons are targeted at each other or at any other State," the five leaders assured.

The joint statement underlines their "desire to work with all states to create a security environment more conducive to progress on disarmament with the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons with undiminished security for all."

"We intend to continue seeking bilateral and multilateral diplomatic approaches to avoid military confrontations, strengthen stability and predictability, increase mutual understanding and confidence, and prevent an arms race that would benefit none and endanger all. We are resolved to pursue constructive dialogue with

mutual respect and acknowledgment of each other's security interests and concerns," the statement emphasizes.

NTP Review Conference

The Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was scheduled for January 2022, but was postponed to a later date over the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. At the end of 2021, Kyodo reported citing diplomatic sources that the conference may be held on August 1-26, 2022.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, also called Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, was signed in 1968. It made the nuclear arsenals of the United Kingdom, Russia, China, France, and the United States legal, confirming their status as nuclear-weapon states.

Other states agree to "forgo developing or acquiring nuclear weapons." The treaty has been signed by more than 190 countries. India, Pakistan, and Israel remain outside the treaty. In January 2003, North Korea withdrew from it.

Haitian prime minister survives weekend assassination attempt

PORT-AU-PRINCE

GUNMEN unsuccessfully attempted to assassinate Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry during an event on Saturday commemorating the Caribbean country's independence, his office said in a statement.



Henry's office said on Monday that "bandits and terrorists" had tried to shoot the prime minister at a church in the northern city of Gonaïves where the ceremony marking the 218th anniversary of independence was taking place.

Video footage broadcast on social media showed Henry and his entourage scrambling toward their vehicles as an armed group began shooting outside the cathedral in Gonaïves.

Local media said one person was killed and two were injured in the gunfire. National police were unable to immediately confirm the casualties.

The prime minister's office said arrest warrants had been issued for the suspects who fired on Henry's convoy.

The attack has renewed concerns about the safety of officials in Haiti, which has been mired in political turmoil since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July.

Henry, whose administration is facing mounting challenges to its legitimacy, was sworn in as prime minister barely two weeks after Moïse's killing at the hands of suspected mercenaries. The country has yet to set a date to elect Moïse's successor.

Brazil's Bolsonaro hospitalized with obstructed gut

SAO PAULO/BRASILIA

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro was hospitalized on Monday with an intestinal blockage and may need to undergo surgery in the latest complication from a 2018 stabbing.



Bolsonaro (pictured) said he started feeling unwell on Sunday afternoon after lunch and doctors have inserted a nasogastric tube.

"More tests will be conducted for a potential surgery on an internal obstruction in the abdominal region," Bolsonaro posted on Twitter, along with a photo of himself giving a thumbs-up in his hospital bed.

Bolsonaro said it was the second hospitalization "with the same symptoms" since he was stabbed during a September 2018 campaign event and underwent a series of emergency operations.

Vila Nova Star hospital confirmed in a medical note that Bolsonaro has been admitted to the hospital in the early hours of Monday with an intestinal blockage.

"He is in stable condition, undergoing treatment and will be re-evaluated this morning by Doctor Antonio Luiz de Vasconcelos Macedo's team. At the moment, there is no forecast for him being discharged," it said.

TV network Globo showed images of Bolsonaro, who had been vacationing in the southern state of Santa Catarina, walking down the stairs of the presidential plane after landing in Sao Paulo around 1:30 am local time (0430 GMT).

In July 2021, he was taken to the Vila Nova Star hospital in Sao Paulo due to an intestinal blockage after suffering from chronic hiccups.

The far-right Bolsonaro has been in power since 2019 and plans to stand for re-election as president in a vote scheduled for October this year.

Calls for anti-Russian sanctions, Ukraine's accession to NATO harm US interests - expert

WASHINGTON

THE initiatives implying the introduction of more US anti-Russian restrictions, as well as weapons supplies to Ukraine and that country's accession to NATO run counter to US security interests, the publisher and editorial director of The Nation magazine, Katrina vanden Heuvel, said on Monday.

"The hawkish outcry for more sanctions, more weapons, NATO membership for Ukraine, and an even more confrontational stance toward Russia is exceedingly dangerous and is not in our security or national interests," reads her commentary uploaded to the website of the Washington-based non-governmental organization Institute for Public Accuracy.

"While there is no question that Russia has contributed to tensions, the West should have understood that an attempt to bring Ukraine into NATO would spark deep, historical divisions within Ukraine and escalate Russian concerns.

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) recently published a report titled "The State of Food and Agriculture 2021", calling on countries around the world to strengthen agricultural cooperation to transform agrifood systems to make them more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable and jointly safeguard global food security.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerability of agrifood systems to shocks and stresses and led to increased global food insecurity and malnutrition, according to the report.

Focusing on the theme of making agrifood systems more resilient to shocks and stresses, the report assesses the capacity of countries' agrifood systems for responding to and

China continuously promotes international agricultural cooperation for global food security

recovering from shocks and stresses and offers advice and guidance on how to boost the resilience of agrifood systems.

Measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted global and national supply chains and caused economic downturns in many countries, and loss of purchasing power harmed the food security and nutrition of billions of people, particularly in low-income countries and among the poorest, the report points out.

Low-income countries have generally encountered severe challenges posed by COVID-19, and Upper-middle income countries are also faced with risks brought by the pandemic,

according to the report.

"This year's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World estimates that between 720 and 811 million people were affected by hunger in 2020, up to 161 million more than in 2019, with the increase largely propelled by the COVID-19 crisis," says the report.

The report estimates that an additional one billion people are at risk as they would not be able to afford a healthy diet if a shock were to reduce their incomes by one-third.

The ongoing pandemic, local conflicts and climate change, among other factors, have compounded the vulnerabilities in the food systems around the world, said World Food

Program (WFP) Executive Director David Beasley. Efforts must be made to create a brand new global food system that benefits people around the world, pointed out UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"Food systems can and must be critical engines for economic recovery: for ending poverty and reducing inequalities; for decent work; and for addressing the planetary emergencies of climate change, pollution and shocking biodiversity loss," Guterres said. As the world's largest developing country, China has made continuous efforts to promote international agricultural cooperation and done what it could to help more countries improve

their agricultural technology levels while speeding up agricultural development at home.

So far, China has sent more than 2,000 agricultural experts and technicians to over 70 countries and regions in the world, including Africa, Asia, the South Pacific region, and the Caribbean region, providing training for nearly 100,000 foreign farmers.

Besides, the country has held approximately 500 training sessions at home, which have been attended by 11,000 foreign experts and professionals in the agriculture sector.

In addition, the country has promoted and demonstrated over 1,500 technologies to many countries in

crop production, animal husbandry, aquaculture, farmland water conservancy, and agricultural products processing, which has increased the production of project areas by 40 percent to 70 percent on average and benefited more than 1.5 million farming households.

On Nov. 25, a South-South and triangular cooperation project supported by China and the WFP kicked off in China with the purpose of providing agricultural technology training for Sri Lanka. More than 160 officials from Sri Lanka's Ministry of Agriculture, technicians from agricultural research institutes, and representatives of farmers in the country have taken part in the training sessions under the project.

People's Daily

4,400 migrants lost at sea bound for Spain in 2021

BARCELONA

MORE than 4,400 migrants, including at least 205 children, were lost at sea trying to reach Spain in 2021, a monitoring group said on Monday - more than double the figure from the previous year and the most since the group began counting in 2018.

The group, Walking Borders, or Caminando Fronteras, blamed increasingly dangerous routes, inferior boats and the fear of some vessels to help migrants at sea for the surge in deaths. According to Spanish official statistics, 39,000 undocumented migrants successfully reached Spain by sea or land last year, a similar figure to the previous year.

Walking Borders said more than 90 percent of those missing or dead were lost on 124 shipwrecks en route to Spain's Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean as of Dec 20. Since 2020, the islands off the coast of Africa have become the main destination for migrants trying to reach Spain, with a much smaller share

trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to the Spanish mainland.

Helena Maleno, founder of Caminando Fronteras, told Reuters the group gathered its data from hotlines set up for migrants on vessels in trouble to call for help, and from family members seeking information.

The group investigates the fate of each boat. It presumes those missing at sea for at least a month to be dead. Close to 95 percent of the figures represent people who are missing.

The United Nations International Organization for Migration counted 955 people who died or went missing in 2021 trying to reach the Canary Islands by Dec 22, the highest figure it documented since 2014.

The IOM obtains its data from officials records, media reports and other groups including Walking Borders, but says its numbers are conservative and the real toll is probably higher.

Spain does not keep figures for people who die trying to reach its shores, and an Interior Ministry spokesperson declined to comment on the latest figures.

Agencies

Japan PM cancels plan to visit US, Australia due to COVID-19

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Tuesday that he will abandon provisional plans to visit the United States and Australia for summit talks prior to the start of a regular Diet session in mid-January to focus on tackling a resurgence of COVID-19 cases here.

The Japanese prime minister said at his first news conference of the year that he will not travel overseas before the regular Diet session, but will stay in Japan to oversee the government's challenges, including those related to tackling a sharp spike in COVID-19 cases.

"I will make this year a year where we boldly take on any challenge and open up a new era. On the other hand, I will keep in mind the need for humility and handle situations delicately," Kishida said.

Kishida said that in the year ahead he had been hoping to enhance diplomatic talks with US President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

Owing to the rise in COVID-19 cases

here, particularly the local transmission of the Omicron variant of the virus, Kishida said that a decision as to whether to apply more stringent border controls on entry to Japan would be decided next week.

He went on to say that there was a need for the government to provide free polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests to more comprehensively detect positive COVID-19 cases.

He also referenced the importance of the ongoing rollout of booster shots for senior citizens and a newly-approved oral COVID-19 drug.

On Dec 24, the Japanese government green-lit the use of a pill developed by US pharmaceutical firm Merck called Molnupiravir.

The pill can purportedly prevent the COVID-19 virus from multiplying in the body and is effective against the Omicron variant.

Official figures showed Monday that 782 new COVID-19 cases were reported nationwide, with Tokyo's tally on the same day topping the 100-mark for the first time in about three months.

Agencies

Libyan parliament urges elections commission to set new date for presidential election

TRIPOLI

LIBYA'S House of Representatives, the parliament, urged on Monday the High National Elections Commission to propose a new date for the presidential election as soon as possible.

The House of Representatives made the call in a statement after a parliament session, during which 80 of its members gathered to hear the briefing of the Commission's head on the failure to hold the presidential election on schedule.

"The High National Elections Commission should communicate with all departments and agencies involved in the electoral process in order to lift the state of force majeure and set a new date for the elections," said the statement.

According to Emad al-Sayeh, head of High National Elections Commission, "conflicting legal rulings that were not released on time, and threats made to the Commission against publishing the

final list of presidential candidates containing certain names" were among the factors that prevented the presidential election from taking place on time.

Presidential election in Libya was scheduled for Dec. 24, 2021. However, along with the parliamentary elections, it was postponed indefinitely over technical and legal issues, according to the Commission.

The elections are part of a roadmap adopted by the UN-sponsored Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, which aimed at restoring peace to the country after years of political turmoil and violence.

The High National Elections Commission should communicate with all departments and agencies involved in the electoral process

NEW YORK

ENTERING the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States finds itself still trapped in chaos with variant surge, impaired businesses as well as flight and train cancellations, while there have surfaced some unexpected achievements as people try to tame the scourge with their wisdom and determination.

"The pandemic brought seismic changes," reported The New York Times (NYT) on Monday. Out of the tragic deaths and hospitalizations, "from new forms of medicine to less wasteful business practices, many have adapted to

Into 3rd year, COVID-19 pandemic leads to chaos, innovations in US

COVID-19 in ways that have improved them, and society."

BUSINESSES DAMAGED

"The rapid spread of COVID-19's Omicron variant is weighing on U.S. businesses, keeping more workers home sick or quarantined and leading some companies to cut services and reduce hours," reported The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) on Monday.

The rise of U.S. COVID-19 infections to record levels in recent days has resulted in thousands of canceled flights, prompted retailers to train available employees on new

jobs or close some stores altogether, companies were quoted as saying.

"The rapidly spreading Omicron variant is hitting businesses at a time when consumers' demand for products and services has surged, and many companies already are struggling with staffing and supply-chain challenges," said the report.

AIRLINES WEAKENED

Airlines over the weekend canceled thousands of flights, capping a week in which carriers scrapped more than 1,000 flights each day, according

to flight-tracker FlightAware. Nearly 1,500 Monday flights were canceled as of late Sunday.

In addition to snowstorms that snarled up airports in the Pacific Northwest and Midwest, airlines said that rising COVID-19 infections among crew members hampered their abilities to staff flights while holiday travel was rebounding from 2020 levels.

A case in point is New York-based JetBlue, which trimmed its flight schedule through mid-January as more crew members have contracted the virus, a problem that has

become "harder to navigate than when the pandemic first emerged in early 2020," said WSJ in its report.

SHOPS AFFECTED

Supermarket operators said that they anticipate the Omicron variant's spread will drive increased absences among cashiers, stockers and other employees in the days ahead, deepening staffing problems the grocery sector has faced for months.

Increasing infections have led some retailers to temporarily close stores, such as Apple Inc., which limited access

to New York City-area locations, including its iconic Fifth Avenue flagship. Apple closed all of its stores to in-person shoppers in New York City on Dec. 27.

Toyota Motor Corp., with 48,000 people across over 20 facilities in the country, has generally been carrying extra staff in anticipation that a certain number of workers might be quarantined. The company can test workers on site and has been tracking cases.

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Book sales rose during the pandemic's first year of lock-

down, and today, reading habits seem to have stuck: from January to November 2021, sales of consumer books increased 13 percent over the same period the year before, according to the Association of American Publishers.

A furloughed restaurant kitchen manager powered through "1984," "Macbeth," "A Raisin in the Sun" and more during the pandemic; now back at work, he kept the habit, reported NYT.

In correspondence with the surging public choice, at least 172 new independent bookstores opened in 2021, said the American Booksellers Association.

In Egypt's new capital, Chinese firm races against COVID-19 to raise skyscrapers

CAIRO

AMID the raging COVID-19 pandemic, a security manager at a construction site needs to care more.

Some 50 km east of the capital Cairo, where a Chinese firm has been building a vast business district in Egypt's new administrative capital, Liu Jingkun inspects the staff accommodation every day, ensuring the anti-coronavirus precautions are observed by all.

Before the inspection, as the project's security manager, Liu tours the beehive-like building site. His daily routine also includes morning meetings with security staff to instruct them to guarantee the safety of workers and the implementation of precautions, and to check the increasing number of vehicles accessing the site.

A veteran of security work for nearly 20 years, Liu joined China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) Egypt in 2019.

The firm has been carrying out the 20-tower Central Business District (CBD) project, a task made even more complicated by the pandemic. "Although it's somehow tiring, it makes us more relieved and safer in the end," the 39-year-old man from China's coastal Shandong Province told Xinhua.

Over a dozen of towers have appeared high in the sky since the project started in January 2016. Back then, Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi, and said that China was willing to participate in Egypt's key projects including the development of the Suez Canal Corridor and the construction of a new administrative capital.

Xi also proposed in the talks that the two countries work together to build



Photo taken on June 17, 2021 shows the construction site of a skyscraper in a vast business district in Egypt's new administrative capital. (Xinhua/Sui Xiankai)

Egypt into a pivot of the Belt and Road and that China and Egypt should conjoin their development strategies and visions and focus on cooperation on infrastructure construction and production capacity.

Al-Sisi said Egypt was willing to connect its own development plans with the Belt and Road Initiative and expand infrastructure cooperation with China under the framework of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

The new administrative capital is one of the mega projects in Egypt through which the country hopes to leap towards development and modernization. Liu remembers how colleagues got sunburned at the early stage of the project, as they worked outdoors in blazing hot and dry days, with their food and drinking water delivered to the site from outside.

Part of the CBD project is the 385-meter-high 80-floor Iconic Tower, which will be the tallest skyscraper in Egypt and in Africa upon completion.

In August, the tower's steel structure

was roofed as the last beam was accurately docked. "This project has set a number of construction records," said Wei Jianxun, general manager of the Iconic Tower project, noting that many technical problems need to be overcome to build skyscrapers in the desert area, such as preventing gradual settlement of buildings.

Waleed Salah, one of the CBD project's Egyptian engineers who was trained by Liu, is impressed by China's skyscraper construction techniques and finds his participation an opportunity to exchange expertise with and learn from his Chinese peers.

"I like the Chinese people's punctuality and dedication to professionalism," he said, noting that he respects and maintains the preventive measures against the virus. The CBD project once had more than 9,000 Chinese and Egyptian work-

ers living and working together.

Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, who visited the CBD site several times over the past couple of years, said during a visit that the architectural project was a miracle.

"It's a wonderful project that will be a landmark in all Egypt and a symbol for modern Egypt."

The ongoing COVID-19 challenges did not slow the progress of the project, said Chang Weicai, general manager of CSCEC Egypt.

"Our staff will keep on working to accomplish our mission, and we're looking forward to seeing the beautiful skyline of Egypt in the future," he said. Xinhua



The firm has been carrying out the 20-tower Central Business District (CBD) project, a task made even more complicated by the pandemic

Intelligent supply chain benefits fruit growers in NW China's Shaanxi

By Yuan Taoxiang.

"Thanks to the intelligent supply chain center, I was able to sell all of my 40,000 kilograms of kiwifruits in a short period of time," said You Changjiang, a fruit grower in Zhouzhi county, northwest China's Shaanxi province, adding that the smart supply chain center could send off his kiwifruits to customers three to five hours after they placed orders.

You, who has been growing kiwifruit for 21 years, was always snowed under with work during the harvest season. This year, he has finally been able to take it easy as the smart supply chain center has made it much easier to sell his fruits.

The planting area of kiwifruit in Zhouzhi county has reached 28,800 hectares and the number of kiwifruit planting cooperatives in the county exceeded 1,000. A total of more than 300,000 local people are engaged in kiwifruit-related industries like You.

"When I first started to plant kiwifruit, I found no local market, so I had to ask people to truck the fruits to east China's Shandong province, Shanghai and other promising markets. After a few years, I found that I had even sustained considerable losses," You recalled.

Later when e-commerce came into sight, You invited distributors of e-commerce platforms over to seek cooperation, which still couldn't solve the poor sales of his kiwifruits.

You was not the only fruit grower in Zhouzhi that was troubled by poor sales. Local fresh fruits had generally faced sales difficulties accompanied by low added value.

On the one hand, the sale of fruits lacked standardization.



A fruit farmer picks kiwifruits in Zhouzhi county, northwest China's Shaanxi province. File photo

Instead of grading their fruits according to size and quality before selling them, fruit growers used to mix all their products together.

On the other hand, the local warehousing and cold-chain facilities couldn't satisfy people's demand, which led to short shelf life for fruits. Even with superiority in quality, local fruits still couldn't sell at a higher price and their sales were hindered.

To address the pain points in the sale of kiwifruits, Shaanxi province has continuously explored ways to upgrade industrial chain of agricultural products in recent years.

As regards production, the province has enhanced the research and development of machinery and equipment as well as high-quality pollen. Meanwhile, it has increased input into the construction of relevant infrastructure to accelerate the improvement in fruit sorting and storage capacities, advancing the high-quality development of the

entire industrial chain concerning farm produce.

In September this year, the local government of Wugong county of Shaanxi province, 20 kilometers away from where You lives, and Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com jointly established an intelligent supply chain center that integrates fruit purchasing, refrigeration, processing, sorting, packaging, logistics and delivery services in the county.

Covering an area of 36,000 square meters, the intelligent supply chain center is equipped with cold storage, intelligent fruit selecting center and flow direction-based sorting center. After automatic sorting and grading, kiwifruits directly transported from the orchards are stored at the cold storages, which help keep the fruits fresh in a constant temperature.

After consumers place orders, the intelligent supply chain center can package products and send them off directly. It can han-

dle as many as 160,000 orders a day.

At the center, boxes of kiwifruits are taken out from the cold storages and then put on modern automatic sorting equipment, where each fruit is cleaned, dried, and assessed under infrared cameras that can automatically determine the weight, size, appearance flaws and internal injuries of each fruit within seconds.

Then the fruits are put into corresponding containers based on the results of the automatic assessment for manual inspection and automatic packaging. The whole process takes less than half an hour.

"With the intelligent supply chain center, our work becomes easier. All we need to do is keeping in touch with fruit farmers and focusing on online sales on JD.com and other platforms," Luo Xiangfeng, manager of a fruit distributor in Shaanxi, told People's Daily.

People's Daily



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) drives to the basket against Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. (AP Photo)

Jordan Poole scores 32 points off bench, Warriors beat Heat

SAN FRANCISCO

JORDAN Poole spent a quarantine period in Boston doing jumping jacks, burpees, mountain climbers and anything else he could to keep his conditioning up while stuck in a hotel room.

Poole scored 32 points in his new reserve role, Andrew Wiggins added 22 points and a key driving dunk with 4:34 remaining on a quiet night for Stephen Curry, and the Golden State Warriors held off the undermanned Miami Heat 115-108 on Monday night.

"It was huge, we needed all of his 32 points, and the early foul trouble with Steph it changed our rotations," coach Steve Kerr said.

"What a luxury to be able to come off the bench with a guy who's just started the first 35 games or whatever it was. Jordan has turned into just a critical player for us and he will remain to be critical with all the guys coming back coming off the bench."

Heat star Jimmy Butler was helped off the court with 3:14 left in the third quarter after hurting his right ankle going down awkwardly, leaving coach Erik Spoelstra with a worried look on his face given his team's already depleted roster. Butler had 22 points, five rebounds and three assists.

Curry had a season-low nine points. The reigning scoring champion scored his first points on a 3-pointer at the 7:45 mark of the second quarter and quickly had seven points.

He wound up 3 for 17 – 1 of 10 on 3s – and contributed 10 assists. Wiggins made his initial three field goals and scored 12 of his points in the first quarter.

Kyle Lowry had 16 points and 11 assists for the Heat playing in foul trouble, whistled for his fifth personal with 43.2 seconds remaining in the third.

Tyler Herro scored 18 points for a Miami team down 10 players in all, five because of the COVID protocols.

Draymond Green dished out 13 assists returning from a two-game absence in the league health and safety protocols while Poole came off the bench in his second game back from being sidelined for six games in the protocols.

"That's the one thing about him, he loves the competition, he loves the game of basketball, and he's always ready," said Wiggins, who will now challenge the third-year guard to use his athleticism and get a couple of blocked shots.

Curry picked up his second foul at the 9:18 mark of the first and took a seat with Poole entering and immediately knocking down a 3.

Gary Payton II started and scored in double figures in a career-best seventh straight game with 14 points. He also had four of the Warriors' 11 steals.

P.J. Tucker was still listed as questionable before going through his warmups

then deemed available after being in the health and safety protocols. He came off the bench after missing the previous six games.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Anthony Edwards scored 28 points to lead six players in double figures and the Minnesota Timberwolves routed the Los Angeles Clippers 122-104 on Monday night to end a three-game skid.

The Wolves gained a split in LA after losing by five to the Lakers a night earlier.

The Clippers struggled mightily in their first home game of the new year. They had 39 made shots and 21 turnovers in the game. They got dominated in the paint, 64-42.

Serge Ibaka tied his season high with 17 points for the Clippers, who have dropped four of six.

Reserves Jaylen McDaniels added 18 points and Taurean Prince had 17 points for the Wolves.

"It's probably one of my best games of the season," said Prince, playing his second game since returning from the league's health and safety protocols.

Patrick Beverley tied his career high with 12 assists against his former team. "He just told us he needed this game," Prince said. "It was just perfect how it played out."

The Clippers went entirely to their bench in the fourth and clawed back within 12 points on consecutive 3-pointers by Xavier Moon and Stanley Johnson.

But the Wolves answered with back-to-back 3s from McDaniels and Edwards that kept them ahead by 18 points. Minnesota later ran off nine unanswered points, including five by Beverley, for a 111-84 lead.

"Pat Beverley did a great job really setting the tone, whether it was his intensity, defense and focus," Wolves coach Chris Fitch said.

"We outworked them for the most part. We did a good job of being focused playing on the back-to-back. We got great bench production which is what you need on the back-to-back," Fitch said.

The Clippers closed within 15 early in the third only to have the Wolves hit three straight 3-pointers – two by Edwards and another from Michael Beasley – for a 78-54 lead.

The Wolves all but put the game away in the second when they outscored the Clippers 38-25. Minnesota built its first double-digit lead of the game with a 17-4 run, including 10 straight points, early in the period. The Wolves led 64-46 at halftime.

"You got to learn from it like any game, figure out what we could have done better," said Justise Winslow, who had 15 points off the Clippers' bench.

"You got to bring it every night in this league, all the guys, even guys that aren't playing." AP

Simba SC midfielder happy with improvement in form

By Correspondent Faustine Felliciane



Pape Ousmane Sakho

SIMBA SC midfielder, Pape Osman Sakho, has said that he now feels he is getting back to his best and he believes he has already begun settling in well.

Sakho said that initially he was not yet used to the environment and injuries he had sustained were making it difficult for him to settle.

"I am here to help my team achieve its goals, I did not have a good start at the beginning for various reasons especially injuries, but now I'm in good shape and I will continue to fight for my team whenever I get a place in the squad," the player said.

He said that Simba SC has many talented players so it is easy for him to do his job in collaboration with his teammates to see if the club reaches its goals.

"We are working together as a team, I believe we can see to it Simba SC realizes the success," he said.

Sakho showed great form in last weekend's NBC Premier League pitting his outfit against Azam FC held in Dar es Salaam.

He was a constant menace to Azam FC's defense in the tie which ended with Simba notching a 2-1 win.

The skilful footballer netted a goal and had Simba SC winning penalty when he was fouled within the opponents' box.

The opportunity though was wasted given midfielder Larry Bwalya's attempt from the spot-kick was easily saved by Azam FC shot-stopper.

Simba SC had roped Sakho in from Senegal's Teungueth, sealing a three-year contract with the midfielder.

Last season Sakho was voted as Senegal's Premier League Player of the Year, a success that happen to be one of the reasons for his move to Simba SC.

Young scores NBA season-best 56 points; Blazers beat Hawks

PORTLAND, Ore.

PORTLAND's Anfernee Simons played through his grief over his grandfather's death with a career night that tempered an NBA season-best 56-point outburst by Atlanta's Trae Young.

Simons scored a career-high 43 points and the Trail Blazers snapped a four-game losing streak with a 136-131 victory over the Hawks on Monday night.

"I came in with a heavy heart, but obviously a clear mind for what I needed to do," Simons said. His grandfather, who had pancreatic cancer, passed away Sunday.

Young shot 17 for 26 from the field, 7 for 12 from 3-point range – including a 3 from the center-court logo late in the first half – and 15 for 15 from the line for his career-high scoring total, and added 14 assists.

His 56-point game eclipsed Kevin Durant's 51-point perfor-

mance for the Nets at Detroit on Dec. 12. Golden State's Stephen Curry and Boston's Jaylen Brown have had 50-point games this season.

Young became the first player with 50-plus points and 14-plus assists in a game since James Harden with the Houston Rockets on Dec. 31, 2016.

"I don't care about nothing besides the fact we lost, so it sucks I had this type of night on a loss because at the end of the day that's all that matters to me," Young said. "I just wish we would have won."

Simons had a career-high nine 3-pointers, the most for a Portland player this season.

The 22-year-old Simons is the youngest Portland player to score more than 40 points in a game.

After missing Portland's last game, Simons started in place of All-Star Damian Lillard, who was out because of injury management.

"This is all him, honestly," Simons said afterward about his grandfather, who he called Papa. "I give credit to him, dedicated this whole game to him."

Portland trailed at the start of the final quarter, but took a 112-107 lead after Ben McLemore's layup and Nassir Little's 3-pointer with 7:43 left. Simons' floater extended the lead to 118-111, but the persistent Hawks kept it close down the stretch.

Young came down hard on the court after an attempted layup with less than a minute left, but recovered to make a pair of free throws that closed the gap to 127-125.

Jusuf Nukic made a layup and added a free throw to make it 130-125 and Portland held on for the win.

Atlanta coach Nate McMillan entered the league's health and safety protocol on Saturday.

But six Hawks players were available to return from protocols for the game against

the Blazers, including Sharife Cooper, Danilo Gallinari, Kevin Huerter, Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot, Onyeka Okongwu and Delon Wright.

Five Hawks, including Bogdan Bogdanovic, remain in the protocol. At one point, Atlanta was without a league-high 12 players.

"We're just trying to fight through it and weather the storm," Young said. "Last year, we were 14-20 at this point, so we made progress; we're 16-20. But we gotta find a way. We gotta find a way to turn it back around like we did last year, and I think we will. I think once we get guys back and guys start to get back in their rhythm we'll turn it around."

Joe Prunty took over in McMillan's absence. The Hawks were coming off a 121-118 win in Cleveland on Friday that snapped a three-game losing streak.

The Blazers were without Lillard because of abdominal tendinopathy, which has bothered him since the Olympics. The team was also still missing backcourt teammate CJ McCollum because of a collapsed lung.

But Nurkic, the starting center, returned from the protocols for the game against the Hawks, announcing his availability personally via Twitter. He finished with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Blazers coach Chauncey Billups also was back on the sideline after missing three games.

Portland jumped out to a 18-7 lead midway through the opening quarter. Atlanta perked up after its sluggish start, taking a 37-36 lead on Delon Wright's 3-pointer.

The Blazers reclaimed the lead and went up 58-46 on Nassir Little's 3-pointer. Portland led 70-65 at the break.

Young had 29 points and nine assists in the first half. He has scored 29 or more points in 16 straight games to tie Dominique Wilkins' team record, set between December 1985 and January 1986.

The Hawks took a 91-90 lead on Huerter's layup and held on for a 105-100 lead going into the final quarter.



Portland Trail Blazers guard Anfernee Simons, left, dribbles around Atlanta Hawks center Clint Capela during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. (AP Photo)

DJ denies giving Messi COVID after death threats

ROSARIO, Argentina

ARGENTINE DJ Fer Palacio has denied accusations he infected Lionel Messi with COVID-19.

Paris Saint-Germain confirmed on Sunday that Messi is among four club players to have tested positive for COVID-19 during the holidays.

Messi spent the Christmas break in his native Rosario and attended several parties, including one at which DJ Fer Palacio was invited to perform as a disc jockey.

Fer Palacio, 31, who had in previous days attended several parties where people were later tested and confirmed to have positive cases, said in a video on Sunday that he has received death threats and insults on social media by people who believe he was responsible for Messi getting the virus.

"I am a trend on Twitter because Messi tested positive for COVID-19," said the DJ, who even showed his test with a negative result to end those rumours. "They relate this to me saying that I infected him. They have even called me 'murderer.' I have a lot of very bad private messages. Yesterday I got tested because I have to travel to Uruguay, and I do not have COVID-19."

Fer Palacio had posted a photograph last week proudly posing with Messi at a party and wrote: "I got the greatest to dance -- Thanks to all the Messi family for the invitation."

Messi, who is isolating in Rosario, posted a message ahead of the new year and wrote: "I can only give thanks for everything that I had to live in this 2021. Even more so when many people had a really bad time because of the s---ty virus that never ends. Hopefully 2022 brings a lot of health, which is what I wish you all for the new year. Hug to everyone!!!"

PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino said on Sunday that Messi will return to Paris only after he tests negative.

Argentina Football Association (AFA) president Claudio Tapia sent his best wishes to the Argentina captain, who contributed to the Albiceleste winning the Copa America in July.

"Dear Leo, I wish you a speedy recovery and that you can navigate this virus in the mildest possible way. Here we wait for you, to enjoy your magic again, with this shirt that we love so much," he said.

(Agencies)

Laporta warns rivals: Barcelona are back

BARCELONA

JOAN Laporta has said "Barcelona are back" and added that they will be able to compete for the game's best players next summer after presenting new signing Ferran Torres on Monday.

Barca let Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann leave before the season started due to financial problems, but the Catalan club's president has now warned their rivals they're ready to spend big to get back to the top.

After completing the signing of Torres from Manchester City for €55 million last week, Barca have been strongly linked with a move for Borussia Dortmund's in-demand striker Erling Haaland.

"Allow me not to talk about individuals because it doesn't benefit anyone," Laporta said at Torres' presentation amid a barrage of questions about whether the club could afford Haaland.

"We're working on the summer window. Everything is possible if it's done well. I am sure things will go well. Barcelona are still a reference. Every player considers the possibility of coming here.

"We still have our status in the transfer market. Everyone can get ready because Barca are back; the arrival of Ferran shows that. We're a reference. Barca's resurgence is a reality and the football world has realised that."

Nonetheless, Torres and fellow senior side teammate Pedri tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday, the latest cases confirmed by the club after an outbreak at the LaLiga side. The Catalans were already missing 14 players, eight of them due to COVID-19: Sergino Dest, Philippe Coutinho, Ez Abde, Jordi Alba, Alex Balde, Ousmane Dembele, Gavi and Dani Alves. Samuel Umtiti and Clement Lenglet also tested positive during the week but were cleared after their latest test came back negative on Sunday morning.

Laporta's optimism over the transfer market contrasts with the situation at Camp Nou. The club's gross debt stands at over €1 billion and their LaLiga-imposed spending limit for the season is just €97m. They can only spend 25% of anything they save.

Barca, therefore, who sit fifth in LaLiga and were knocked out of the Champions League in the group stages, are not able to register new signing Torres with the Spanish league.

"The reality is when we signed him we knew we didn't have the salary limit," director of football Mateu Alemany, seated alongside Laporta, explained.

"Since then, we've been working hard and we're convinced we will be able to register him before Sunday. We want him available for the coach [Xavi Hernandez] as soon as possible.

"We have room to register Dani Alves, which we will do today or tomorrow. We made an exception with Ferran to sign him [without the room]. We will decide with Xavi on any more [January] signings, but there will need to be exits first. We have until the end of the month."

(Agencies)

Wolves loss shows how far off the pace Man United are

MANCHESTER, England

IT says everything about Manchester United's opening game of 2022 that Phil Jones returned for his first appearance in 708 days and was, by some distance, their best player.

It's no disrespect to Jones, without a game since January 2020 as he came back from a serious knee injury. He did his bit admirably, but if you had to pick out the United player who hadn't played for two years, he would have been well down the list.

Ralf Rangnick's team slumped to a 1-0 defeat on Monday -- Wolves' first win at Old Trafford since 1980 and his first loss since taking over as interim coach -- but without Jones it would have been far more comprehensive. The only surprise was that Joao Moutinho's winner didn't come until the 82nd minute. Wolves, dominant throughout, ended with 19 shots and eight corners. United had nine and three corners, two of which came in stoppage time.

"We didn't play well



Ralf Rangnick

at all individually or collectively," Rangnick said. "We're very disappointed about the result and parts of our performance. "Wolves were the best team we've played. We have more problems today than in other games.

"We didn't press at all. We tried but we were not able to get into those

pressing situations. In times we played well but today we have to admit they're better than us."

Rangnick has spent his first month talking about the need for "control" in games but United had none of it against Wolves. Their bright spell lasted all of two minutes when Bruno Fernandes, on as a second-half substitute, hit the crossbar

and Cristiano Ronaldo had a header ruled out for offside. Other than that, it was wave after wave of gold shirts flooding forward.

Wolves have averaged 10 shots a game this season but here they hit that mark after just 27 minutes. By half-time, it was up to 15 -- the most for a visiting team at Old Trafford in the opening 45 minutes of a Premier League game since the statisticians began counting such things in 2003.

David De Gea made a wonderful save at full stretch from a Ruben Neves volley and more than once Jones was on hand to mop up the danger. Francisco Trincao would have scored right at half-time had Jones not been in the right place at the right time to bundle away Nelson Semedo's cross, and he has every right to ask why, once he had headed clear Adama Traore's cross. Moutinho was free on the edge of the penalty area to take a touch and shoot past De Gea into the corner of the net.

"The goal we conceded, we had enough play-

ers in the box," Rangnick said. "The cross had been defended by Jones but the goal we conceded was like too many this season. Moutinho could shoot unmarked with no problems, no pressure."

As United chased a late equaliser that would have been undeserved, their final chance -- a Fernandes free-kick well saved by Jose Sa -- only came about because Jones showed the fight and desire to risk a boot in the face to win the ball ahead of Fabio Silva on the edge of the box. A few of his team-mates could learn something from that alone.

With Harry Maguire, Eric Bailly and Victor Lindelof ruled out through injury or illness, Rangnick perhaps hoped Jones could enjoy a quiet comeback against a Wolves side who arrived having scored just 13 goals this season, a total bettered by 18 of the 19 other teams. Instead, however, United made them look like 1970 Brazil with Moutinho and Neves strolling around in midfield like two older boys playing keep-away in the school playground.

"It is one more victory," said Wolves boss Bruno

Lage, who watched his team score for just the third time since Nov. 1. "Lovely stadium, a place with a lot of history but the most important thing is how we played.

"We played in our way, we controlled the first half and missed a lot of chances. We win three points and have more chances than goals. We deserved the three points."

Rangnick wrote in his programme notes ahead of kick-off that "it may look and feel like there is a lot of work to be done but I hope everybody is looking forward to the coming months with excitement" -- but it was another night when optimism was in short supply. There have been plenty of those over the past 12 months.

Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool spent the weekend serving up games filled with intensity and entertainment but there was none of that on display at Old Trafford. The result leaves United four points adrift of those teams in the table but after a chastening evening against Wolves, the gap feels far greater.

ESPN

How Lukaku's dream return to Chelsea quickly turned sour

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

CHELSEA broke their transfer record in August to sign Romelu Lukaku in the expectation he would fire them to the Premier League title. Yet in the first week of January, the Blues find themselves 10 points behind leaders Manchester City and with their €115 million acquisition facing a decidedly uncertain future.

Head coach Thomas Tuchel wrote himself into Chelsea folklore by galvanising a squad with palpable fault lines last January, transforming them into European champions, and now he must do so all over again. The task is harder this time because more is demanded of him. Upon taking over from Frank Lampard almost a year ago, Chelsea were in ninth place and 11 points off top spot.

Hardly anyone anticipated a title challenge and nobody foresaw a second Champions League success, beating City in the final to cap a remarkable transformation. But signing Lukaku was supposed to be the next step in their evolution, the expensive-yet-ideal final piece of a jigsaw transforming a profligate team into one with a clinical edge sufficiently sharp to become champions.

However, the reality is Lukaku has never looked a natural fit in this Chelsea team, despite the homecoming narrative as he returned to the club he first joined 10 years earlier, this time as one of the most complete forwards in world football following two hugely impressive seasons at Inter Milan, the second of which ended with a Serie A title and recognition as the division's MVP.

Rather than being the missing piece, he has struggled to fit in -- and



that falls as much on the manager as it does on Lukaku himself.

Tuchel initially explained some of this away by claiming in October that Lukaku was "overplayed" and "mentally tired" from his exertions with Belgium at Euro 2020 and in the UEFA Nations League. Yet Chelsea have struggled to find much attacking cohesion with Lukaku in the team all year, a lack of appropriate service compounded by a sticky patch of form prior to suffering with injury and, later, COVID-19.

The Blues' record with and without Lukaku shows what little difference he has made: They have scored more goals without Lukaku in fewer games (29 in 13 as opposed to 23 in 18 with him) and registered a better expected goals figure (29.95 vs. 22.32).

There are mitigating factors on both sides, but the combination of Lukaku's price tag and Chelsea's ruthlessly high standards means judgements are quick and harsh.

And so it is against this backdrop that Lukaku's comments in that ill-judged Sky Sport Italia interview made things decidedly awkward for Tuchel, so much so that he felt compelled to leave the 28-year-old out of his matchday squad for Sunday's 2-2 draw against Liverpool.

Rather than accepting

sole responsibility or offering a vague answer avoiding controversy, Lukaku claimed he was "not happy," that Tuchel was playing "a different formation" to the one expected and even went as far to suggest he wouldn't have left Inter had the club not suffered economic difficulties.

Furthermore, he mooted a possible return to Inter "not at the end of my career, but when I'm still at top level." Lukaku will be 29 next year; his years at the "top level" are finite and such a provocative statement in what, significantly, was an interview not granted by the club, fired the starting pistol on speculation of a January exit.

There are choppy waters ahead. Tuchel will meet with Lukaku on Monday to discuss the motivation behind his interview after taking a strong stance by omitting him completely against Liverpool.

"We took a decision to delay the decision and to have a process to look deep [at it] and also to protect Romelu from a rash decision because we need to speak," Tuchel said after Sunday's game. "We need to read the full interview. We need to stay calm and not lose our heads. It was simply a decision to protect the preparation for a match like this because there

was too much noise."

There was little doubt it would have been more than useful to have Lukaku off the bench in the second half against Liverpool as both sets of players tired towards the end of a gloriously chaotic affair. Christian Pulisic may have scored, but neither he, Kai Havertz nor substitute Callum Hudson-Odoi -- who all occupied the centre-forward position at times -- appeared naturally suited to the role in the manner Lukaku manages with aplomb when at his best.

Throw in Timo Werner's ongoing struggles, and Chelsea's misfiring forward line remains one of the key issues explaining why their title challenge has faltered.

Tuchel's success at Chelsea has been founded on a remarkable defensive record, conceding just 26 goals in his first 52 games. Since -- and including -- losing 3-2 at West Ham United on Dec. 4, they have been breached 13 times in 11 games.

That loss of stability exacerbates problems at the top end of the pitch, a disconnect that has left Lukaku with the modest record of seven goals in 18 games. Tuchel's 3-4-2-1 shape facilitated a huge improvement in Chelsea's defending, but Lukaku is appearing to hint

at a preference for Antonio Conte's 3-5-2 employed to great success at Inter. The main difference is rather than operating with two No. 10s in behind, Lukaku has a strike partner to act as a foil, thereby changing the angles of attack.

Extracting the best from Lukaku continues to feel like the task that could define the length of Tuchel's tenure. It is notable that the supporters stayed with the team in Lukaku's absence on Sunday, rallying behind Tuchel, who acted as a conductor on more than one occasion in the second half, urging more from the home crowd as his team searched for a winner.

Managerial tenures can unravel alarmingly quickly at Chelsea -- perhaps faster than anywhere else in England -- but Tuchel still has credit in the bank from that Champions League success and requires support from the club's hierarchy in the coming days as he manages the fallout from Lukaku's interview. Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta has taken a decisive stance against his own star striker, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, albeit for different reasons of club discipline, but the early signs of success in that decision are born from senior figures at the club

acting in unison rather than undermining the manager's authority.

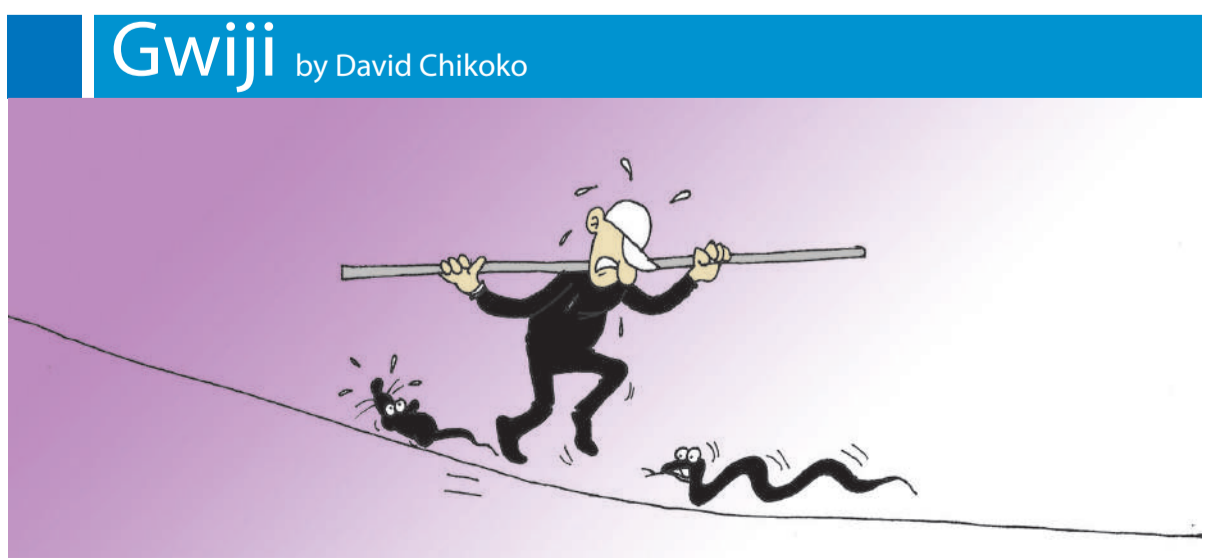
It is why Tuchel consulted the more experienced players in the dressing room before dropping Lukaku. That togetherness must remain, especially as Lukaku may be tempted by the winds of change drifting in through the open transfer window.

Tuchel, for his part, appeared adamant Lukaku will not depart this month.

"When we take decisions like this, first we need to evaluate the situation and not listen to the media, not listen to the pressure but understand what he said, why he said it and this is the meeting on Monday," Tuchel said. "From there we will take the decision. If the decision is he is good to go for Wednesday (a Carabao Cup semi-final against Tottenham), this is the decision.

"I cannot tell you right now because we need to talk and understand the situation better and from there on we go. Once the situation is clear, there is no doubt he will stay our player and we will also protect our player."

All will quickly be forgotten if Lukaku is back in the team and scoring goals. The problem is, that prospect looks no closer to reality than it did in August.



Gwiji by David Chikoko

SPORT

Wolves loss shows how far off the pace Man United are

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Mbeya City FC's newly recruited goalkeeper, Deogratias Munishi.

Mbeya City FC ropes in new keeper

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THIS season's NBC Premier League club, Mbeya City FC, has sought to strengthen its defense via roping in an experienced goalkeeper, Deogratias Munishi.

This season's mini registration window, which offers Premier League, Championship, and First League clubs a chance to reinforce their respective squads, opened on December 15, 2021, and will come to an end on January 15, 2022.

Munishi was seen attending training with the rest of his new side's players at a gym located in Mbeya. However, the club's manager, Mwangi Yeya, despite opting out of directly confirming Munishi's signing, said the keeper may be one of their squad's footballers as they continue to prepare for coming Premier League fixtures.

Yeya said they believe the presence of the veteran shot-stopper will help the team get good results.

The official noted his outfit expects to recruit about for players during the period.

"We believe he will help us achieve goals, we do not expect to add many players, so far we will sign four players, two defenders, a midfielder, and a striker."

The manager also said they do not expect to leave any player.

According to Yeya, the outfit's footballers, who have failed to prove their worth and convince the technical bench, will be sent to other outfits on loan.

Munishi's arrival at Mbeya City FC brings the club's number of keepers to three.

Ibrahim Isihaka and Haroun Mandanda are the other shot-stoppers.

Mbeya City FC has had a good run in 2021/22 top flight, sitting sixth after featuring in 11 matches.

The outfit has notched three wins, a draw in seven games, and conceded one defeat.

Munishi that had in the past stood between the posts for, among others, prominent local sides, Simba SC and Yanga, turned out for Ihefu SC in the 2020/21 Premier League.

Ihefu SC was relegated to this season's Championship.

Nasreddine opens up on new winger's role at Yanga



Yanga's newly recruited winger, Denis Nkane. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA'S head coach, Nasreddine Nabii, says the arrival of winger, Denis Nkane, at the club means a lot and he will now have a wide range when it comes to choosing players that will feature for the side in Premier League and Federation Cup.

Nabi, however, made it clear that Nkane's presence would bring the number of wingers at the side to five.

The situation, the tactician noted, will force him to drop one of the wingers so that his squad would have a good balance for each department.

"Nkane is a player who has proved his worth at Biashara United and I have been following him since I came here to Tanzania, he knows how to fight, attack through his energy and he has good speed," Nabi noted.

"We have a lot of competition, this is a young player who has proved he can fight

in a difficult environment... I would love to work with youngsters."

Coach Nabi added: "At the moment there are a total of five wingers."

Yanga's other wingers are Deus Kaseke, Dickson Ambundo, Farid Mussa, and Ducafel Moloko.

Ambundo, roped in from Dodoma Jiji FC, has yet to feature for Yanga in this season's NBC Premier League.

Moloko, signed from DR Congo's AS Vita, is a regular starter that has so far

netted three goals.

The wingers have been competing for a place in the side's starting squad in various matches.

Moloko has turned out to be one of the key players in the first team alongside Mussa.

Ambundo had an injury in a friendly tie against Zanzibar's KMKM last year and he was consequently sidelined.

The winger has regained fitness

and has headed to Zanzibar with the rest of the outfit to battle it out in this season's Mapinduzi Cup.

Kaseke who was one of Yanga's mainstays last season alongside Yacouba Songne has lost his place in the first team.

The winger is regularly used as a substitute in Premier League.

Azam FC winger Tepsi Evans wins plaudits

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC winger, Tepsi Evans, has impressed French's Third Division League club US Creteil-Lusitanos' coach, Emmanuel Da Costa, due to the youngster's outstanding talent.

Da Costa said he has been impressed by the winger's performance that he compared the latter to Jeremy Doku of Stade Rennais due to his skills and pace.

The French tactician, aged 44, said: "There are qualities that I think are similar to Doku, if you do not know the player then it is better to take your time and make follow up on him."

"There are qualities that he should add to be better than the one I compare him to," he said.

"Evans is an outstanding talent. I watched him play for his club, he has a chance to progress and hopefully go for international trials soon."

In the six Premier League games he has played for Azam FC, 19-year-old Evans has scored one goal against Ruvu Shooting and provided two assists, including one in the previous game against Simba SC.

The skilful winger picked Zambian striker, Rodgers Kola, with a well-executed assist and the latter made the most of the assist.

Da Costa got Evans' video from a

football scout from Tanzania, who has opted for anonymity, intending to see Tanzania's gifted footballers and find ways to recruit them.

Despite praising the winger, he asked the player to keep on working hard and fight for the chance to go to Europe because top-level football could make him better.

"He has the opportunity to continue to grow, the size of the league can help a player grow, he should have a far-sighted attitude," Da Costa noted.

Azam FC is currently featuring in this season's Mapinduzi Cup, which is taking place in Zanzibar and is scheduled to climax on January 13.

Da Costa played football at an amateur level in the French lower division.

An intelligent midfielder, his career was plagued by injuries.

Da Costa began coaching at Rouen, and eventually became a professional coach when he promoted Quevilly to the Ligue 2 in 2017.

Da Costa left Quevilly-Rouen in May 2020. A few days later, he was announced as manager of Lyon Duchère.

He was sacked from the job on 18 December 2020, after just one win in 16 games. On 15 March 2021, he was announced as manager of Créteil.



Azam FC winger Tepsi Evans. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Flexibles by David Chikoko

