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# Minister: Tourism numbers rise fast



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Abubakari Kunenge (L) and special zone police commander Lazaro Mambosasa inspect the wreckage of a Toyota Hiace commuter minibus that was involved in a crash with a truck at the Chang'ombe Road/Mandela Road intersection at dawn yesterday, leaving six people dead and several injured. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

**By Henry Mwangonde**

MORE foreign tourists have been coming to Tanzania since the country re-opened its skies for international flights in May, as the COVID-19 pandemic diminished and paled in its intensity. The Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla, said yesterday that statistics from June showed that the number of foreign tourists had increased compared to April and May.

In July, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCAA) received 1,972 tourists compared to 202 tourists in April, he told a news conference in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Kigwangalla noted that the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) received 3,666 tourists in July compared to 517 tourists received in April, multiplying six-fold the latter figure.

"Tanzania welcomes all visitors to its attractions while observing our guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19," he said.

In 2019, Tanzania received 1,527,230 tourists and generated 2.6bn dollars. The tourism sector supports about 1.6m direct and indirect jobs, he said.

The government set aside funds in the 2020/21 budget to support tourism institutions

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## TIC, AfDB, TCCIA agree on boosting working capital

**By Guardian Reporter**

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has called on indigenous investors to make use of the African Development Bank (AfDB) for loans to beef up working capital capacities.

TIC Executive Director Dr Maduhu Kazi (pictured) issued this appeal at a stakeholders' meeting with the AfDB country manager Dr Alex Mubiru and the president of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA), Paul Koyi, convened at TIC offices in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Kazi said the government has made great strides in the quest to improve the business and investment environment to woo more foreign and local investors.

These efforts have registered considerable success, enabling Tanzania to attain lower middle income status globally, he affirmed.

These efforts as include the war against corruption and the use of electronic devices in issuing various licenses, along with removal of nuisance taxes that were a burden to investors, he stated.

"The presence of AfDB facilities helps achieving development projects in various sectors," he stated.

AfDB loan services are vital to investors faced with challenges of capital inadequacies, he said, urging Tanzanians to grab such opportunities.

For his part, Dr Mubiru said the bank will continue working together with the government and the private sector to ensure efficient economic activities resulting in the nation's economic development by providing loans and budget support grants.

Funds provided by AfDB as loans for

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## Five dead, ten admitted after bus-truck collision

### DC vows to get speeding driver who ignored concerned passengers

**By Guardian Reporter**

FIVE people died and ten others injured following a head-on collision, involving a truck and a commuter bus in Temeke suburb in Dar es Salaam.

Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Lazaro Mambosasa said the collision occurred along the Mandela Highway, as the bus was heading to Muhimbili from Buza on the outskirts of the city after the bus driver ignored traffic lights at the Chang'ombe road junction.

Four of the injured people were in a critical condition and are admitted to the Muhimbili National Hospital, and others are receiving treatment at the Temeke District Hospital, he said, noting that the police are conducting further investigation on the incident.

Aminiel Eligaisha, head of MNH Communications Unit said that the hospital received five casualties from the accident, three men and two women.

Temeke district commissioner Godwin Gondwe said the commuter bus driver

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**Passengers said that the driver didn't listen to them when they urged him to reduce speed**

## UK, Pakistan, Swiss envoys to cultivate business links

**By Guardian Reporter**

ENVOYS from the United Kingdom, Pakistan and Switzerland yesterday pledged to cement economic cooperation, enhance good governance and support implementation of development projects in Tanzania.

Speaking after presenting their credentials to President John Magufuli at the Magogoni State House in Dar es Salaam, they assured the president of their intent to promote Tanzania's tourist attractions and purchasing Tanzanian exports, including crops and minerals.

Those presenting papers of accreditation were UK High Commissioner David Concar (pictured), Muhammad Saleem of the Pakistan High Commission and Swiss Ambassador

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## UK, Pakistan, Swiss envoys to cultivate business links

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Didier Chassot.

In various remarks, the envoys promised to enhance business activities between their countries and Tanzania, facilitate trade links with the Tanzania business community, and motivate investors from their countries to set up projects in the country.

"We have had a good conversation with President Magufuli; we are expecting to further strengthen our relationship with Tanzania in business and economy," Concar noted.

He said trade between the United Kingdom and Tanzania approximates 380bn/- per year, while the UK contributes 800bn/- annually to support various development projects.

Concar commended the president for the good leadership which has seen Tanzania attaining World Bank lower middle income status.

He said the fifth phase government has spearheaded the fight against corruption as well as ensuring free and compulsory education, improvement of road infrastructures and fast tracking implementation of electricity projects across the country.

In November 27, 2015 the government issued Circular number 5 of 2017 which directed the taking up of the Education and Training Policy of 2014 where public bodies offer free primary and secondary school education to ensure that children in the country enjoy eleven years of free schooling.

Free education includes the removal of fees and contributions, supporting government efforts to attain the second Millennium Development Goal (MDG 2) relating to primary education and Sustainable Development Goal no. 4 which requires countries to ensure that everyone completes free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education.

Pakistan envoy Saleem said he was impressed with Tanzania's development speed. "I will work to strengthen business links between Tanzania and Pakistan traders to further expand our cooperation."

He pledged that his country will buy even more crops such as coffee, cashew nuts, cotton and tea.

Switzerland Ambassador Chassot said that his country has a four year strategy which he will use to bring about expected changes in priority areas like job creation, income generation, improvement of health services and good governance.

President Magufuli assured the envoys full government support in executing their responsibilities, appealing to the diplomats to prioritize economic cooperation by motivating investors and the business community in their respective countries to initiate projects in Tanzania.

Dr Magufuli asserted that investing in Tanzania is profitable as investors are guaranteed of raw materials, reliable markets and a conducive investment climate.

He used the occasion to invite Heads of States of the particular countries to visit Tanzania, in an event also attended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi.



**We have had a good conversation with President Magufuli; we are expecting to further strengthen our relationship with Tanzania in business and economy**



President John Magufuli receives credentials from the newly arrived British High Commissioner to Tanzania, David William Concar, at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

## Five dead, ten admitted after bus-truck collision

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escaped soon after the accident, citing remarks from the bus passengers that they severally warned the driver about speeding but he ignored them.

"The passengers said that the driver didn't listen to them when they urged him to reduce speed. He was responding that he knows his job very well and there was no one to teach him how to drive. We will hunt him wherever he is," the DC intoned.

Traffic police reports show that 80 percent of accidents are caused

by reckless drivers, 12 percent of such mishaps arising from mechanical problems, a further six percent from unforeseen weather changes, while only two percent of road accidents are caused by poor infrastructures.

Global figures provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2018 indicate that each year 1.35m people die as a result of road traffic crashes, and millions more are injured or disabled. Head injuries remain the leading cause of death and disability among motorcycle riders, the report underlined.

## Minister: Tourism numbers rise fast

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that were badly hit by the stoppage of tourist flows during the global coronavirus travel lockdowns.

When tabling the 2020/21 budget estimates for the ministry, Dr Kigwangalla said revenue collections from the sector dropped by 75 percent in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2019/2020 from over 132bn/- the previous year to 33bn/-.

He told MPs that collections from the tourism sector will drop further in the current financial year due to global

recession due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

During this fiscal year, TANAPA had projected to collect 363.9bn/- but the figure has now been revised to 64bn/-, he stated

Collections from NCAA were projected to drop to 58bn/- from the estimated 162.7bn/-. Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) slid to 121bn/- expectations from 153.6bn/- projected earlier, while the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) expects 22bn/- collections, from earlier projection of 58.1bn/-.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein cuts ribbon yesterday to inaugurate Zanzibar Mall at Michenzani in Zanzibar. He is assisted by (from-L) Zanzibar Finance and Planning minister Mohamed Ramia Abdiwawa, CCM's Zanzibar presidential candidate Dr Hussein Mwyni, Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi and former President Ali Hassan Mwyni. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## African Union urges removal of non-tariff barriers to help continental trade area flourish

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Union (AU) Commission called for addressing non-tariff barriers in order to realise the major aspirations of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement.

The AU said that the African continent is about to become the world's largest free trade area. But that effort might be slowed down if non-tariff barriers are not addressed.

According to the AU, although the negative impact of non-tariff barriers on intra-regional trade is recognized, "so far there has been limited success in addressing them."

"The success of the AfCFTA depends in part on how well governments can track and remove non-tariff barriers," an AU statement quoted Albert Muchanga, AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry, as saying.

Amid the urgent need to remove non-tariff barriers towards the success of the continental free trade deal, the AU has launched a new campaign to spotlight and remove non-tariff barriers in intra-continental trade launches this week.

According to the AU, the "Trade Easier Campaign" envisions promoting the uptake and use of the African Union's trade barriers platform, a non-tariff barriers reporting mechanism tool, it was noted.

The tool, developed by the AU in partnership with UNCTAD, supports efforts to make continental trade easier and less costly by helping African businesses report such barriers and supporting their elimination with the help of governments, it was noted.

Noting that non-tariff barriers slow down the movement of goods and costs importers and exporters billions of dollars annually, the AU also stressed that non-tariff barriers

"stand in the way of the success of the AfCFTA."

"If we want the AfCFTA to thrive, we have to ensure operational barriers are dropped and businesses and traders, especially small ones; don't suffer from undue limitations placed on them as they try do the basic thing that makes economies work – trade," Muchanga said.

The AU, however, stressed that trade barriers require bold solutions.

"Every day many African traders and businesses face barriers to trade. From quotas to excessive import documents or unjustified packaging requirements, these barriers are a big hindrance to trade between African countries and make it complicated and expensive to move goods across the continent," the AU said in a statement.

According to the AU, regulatory and procedural barriers include customs operations and border documentation requirements, rules of origin documentation and pre-shipment inspections.

According to a UNCTAD report, if these barriers are removed, the African economy could gain US\$20 billion- much more than the us\$3.6 billion it could recover by eliminating tariffs.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) also estimated that the AfCFTA has the potential to boost intra-African trade by 52.3 percent by eliminating import duties and could double trade if non-tariff barriers are also reduced.

The AfCFTA, which was launched in March 2018 in Rwandan capital city Kigali, has so far garnered 54 signatories, offering new hope and continental exhilaration in terms of boosting intra-African trade, and eventually facilitating Africa's development and industrialization.

## TIC, AfDB, TCCIA agree on boosting working capital

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development projects reach the people in various ways through the government, other banks or corporations for small or medium scale loans for projects costing upwards of 30m dollars, he elaborated.

Smart projects with chances of being considered for AfDB loans are those that concentrate in investments in product value chains, technology, agriculture for industrial raw materials, internally or for export, he pointed out.

The TCCIA president said at present

the private sector makes deals and investments in a transparent environment. "In the current environment, the private sector is greatly mobilized to launch and implement business deals and investment projects," Koyi said.

He welcomed Dr Mubiru to work with stakeholders in the private sector by holding meetings and convening forums aimed at educating TCCIA members to enhance their understanding of the workings of the AfDB for ease of accessing its funds.



# Govt embarks on soil mapping to support smallholder farmers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IN effort to support smallholder farmers to increase their production, increased food security and contribution to the national economy, the government has embarked on soil mapping.

This was said yesterday by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Gerald Kusaya, adding that the government had already collected over 30,000 soil samples in 18 different regions across the country.

"The target is to collect 100,000 samples from every ward in the country by the end of this year

and we have resolved to establish a classic soil database capturing all important soil property information up to village level."

He was speaking shortly after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Alliance for Green Revolution Africa (AGRA). The MoU which was signed here harmonizes the

existing agreement between the farmers-centred institution and the government. He said the ministry is currently championing agri-business and therefore understanding soil properties helps farmers to increase efficiency while lowering the cost of production. The new agreement, according to the PS will increase farmers' proficiency in the agribusiness, support technology and innovation development that can help propel productivity and subsequently contribute to national GDP.

It also seeks to enhance relations between the two parties, increase financial support and engagement in the development of the country's agricultural sector development program phase II (ASDP II).

"There is also need to establish a focal point in which it will help provide information about the farmers-centred institution in Tanzania," the PS said.

He directed officials in the ministry to create a small task force which will help monitor implementation of agreements

which are being said by the ministry with other institutions including AGRA.

Tanzania has had some close relations with AGRA receiving supports in researches for various crops, review of agriculture policy and in the writing process of the national agricultural sector development programme.

Vianey Rweyendela, country manager for AGRA Tanzania, speaking shortly before the ceremonial event he explained that the harmonization of the agreement is being done to align with the institution 2030 strategy which is expected to begin in 2022.

According to him, the AGRA's board of directors has so far endorsed the new strategy in which among other things update the existing strategy that comes to a good end next year. "It is critical to harmonize this agreement to align with our new strategy," he said. He reaffirmed his institution commitment to work with Tanzania in supporting the transformation of farmers across the country.



Young people gathered in the thousands outside the Ladariot Hall in Ubungo municipality, Dar es Salaam, yesterday to attend an interview for 6,700 positions as returning officers in the upcoming General Election in Ubungo and Kibamba constituencies. Photo: Beauty Mwakatobe/TUDARCO

## CCM uses its own funds on election campaigns - Bashiru

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally has said his party is well mobilised for the general election and all campaign funds are from their own coffers, they do not depend funds from donors.

Speaking to party elders at CCM's Kisiwandui Zanzibar headquarters on the ongoing election campaigns

in both Zanzibar and Mainland, he said the party had adequate funds to finance the elections.

He said CCM election campaigns were going on smoothly while stressing on the whole issue of peace and tranquility.

He said the party will never shake in its campaigns because it performs self-sufficiently and abides by the laws.

He said apart from CCM followers being subjected to acts of sabotage including killing and maiming them, the party will not revenge as it will continue to preach peace.

"We have been greatly abused in these elections in various ways on reasons that we possess the ability to lead this nation," he said.

He called on other political parties to prepare themselves for great

defeat after voting even though some of the parties have starts to cooperate against CCM.

He said CCM was strong it has no need to cooperate with any other parties to win the election as it has candidates acceptable to the people.

For their part, CCM elders said they will continue with their cooperation to ensure the party wins this year's elections.

## Road infrastructure quality best defends Revolution - Dr Shein

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR president Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said achievements being realised in the infrastructure sector is testimony to the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution that aimed to redeem Zanzibaris to be able to develop themselves.

Dr Shein was speaking at the weekend at Kombeni during the inauguration of Kombeni-Fuoni road that also saw the opening of the Koani-Jumbi road.

Dr Shein said the Revolution redeemed everything including road construction as every development project in both Zanzibar and Pemba began immediately after the 1964 Revolution.

He said many economic activities depend on quality road infrastructure, as well as in improving agriculture, tourism, investments and other economic sectors.

He said strengthening road infrastructure is a driving force of economic growth and the Zanzibar Government has vowed to improve the roads in effort to develop other sectors.

Dr Shein also congratulated the Ministry of Works, Communication and Transport for well implementing the 2015/20 CCM Election Manifesto and managing other pledges given at various times while also praising China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) for the good job

done.

He said construction work on the Ole-Kengeja road was now complete and will inaugurate it when he travels to Pemba next week.

He said all these achievements were in great part enabled from the decision by the government to purchase new road construction equipment at a cost of 14bn/-.

He said the government will continue building new roads in areas in need to strengthen social and economic activities.

He also said the government will continue refurbishing urban roads by widening them as well as building new roads to reduce traffic congestion.

The Minister for Works, Communication and Transport Dr Sira Ubwa Mamboya said the launching of the roads is a result of great achievements of Dr Shein's government.

### KUPOTEA KWA PASPORT



**DICKSON ELIAFIE LEMA**  
Mtajwa hapo juu amepotelewa na passport yenye no, TAE 222513 iliyootelewa na ofisi ya uhamiaji October 2019 Dar Es Salaam.  
Kwa yeyote atakayeiona atoe taarifa kituo chochote cha polisi  
KL/MOS/RB/700049/2020

## GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TANZANIA

### JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job Title:** Life Long Insecticide Treated Nets (LLIN) Advisor  
**Department/Unit:** Performance and Analytics.  
**Location:** GHSC - TA - TZ office Dar es Salaam.  
**Reports to:** Performance and Analytics Team Lead.

**OVERVIEW:**  
The Global Health Supply Chain Program Technical Assistance - Tanzania (GHSC-TA-TZ) project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides expert technical assistance to Tanzania to strengthen country supply chain systems across all health elements, e.g., malaria, family planning (FP), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH). In coordination with in-country and development partners, GHSC-TA-TZ assists Government of Tanzania health programs by providing strategic planning and implementation assistance; improving the delivery of health commodities to service sites; providing capacity building support to broaden stakeholders' understanding and engagement of the supply chain system; and strengthening enabling environments to improve supply chain performance.

**JOB SUMMARY:**  
The Life Long Insecticide Treated Nets (LLIN) Advisor will work under the administrative and technical guidance of the Performance and Analytics Team Lead and is responsible for leading Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN) commodity tracking and visibility both in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. He/She will work to revive the Chandarua Kliniki dashboard and link it with eLMIS and DHIS2 system including institutionalizing best practices on systems and data management. S/he will work in collaboration with national stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC), the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Medical Stores Department (MSD), and the Ministry of Health of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. S/he will champion collaboration with local available partners and leverage existing systems such as eLMIS and DHIS2 to improve ITN supply chain data visibility through dashboard and promote data-driven decision-making to improve the supply chain. This position will be based in Dar es Salaam, with occasional travel.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:  
• Work with local partners and institutions as needed to revive /develop Chandarua Kliniki Dashboard; monitor progress on developments of dashboard and report out to stakeholders.  
• Routinely track key ITN data and provide reports to stakeholders including USAID, ZAMEP, and NMCP  
• Advise on best practices on systems and data management.  
• Collaborate with project technical teams, the Central Medical Stores and Medical Stores Department, ZAMEP, NMCP and other stakeholders to develop SOPs, appropriate indicators and define data requirements where needed for tracking distribution of ITN through eLMIS and DHIS2 with visualization through Chandarua Kliniki dashboard.  
• Using Chandarua Kliniki dashboard, track and report on variances observed, causes for the variance, and advice on action to be taken to mitigate the variances in collaboration with key stakeholders.  
• Monitor changes on ITN delivery (such as alternate

distribution channel and data reporting requirements) and advise accordingly.  
• Prepare and share monthly, quarterly and annual reports including documenting success stories, best practices, and lessons learned  
• Elevate the use of supply chain data in programmatic decision making; identify barriers to data quality and use, and develop and implement recommendations for addressing them.  
• Ensure key stakeholders including NMCP and ZAMEP are engaged and oriented at all levels to promote commitment and ownership for the sustainability of established ITN dashboard.  
• Support the development of work plans, budgets and its implementation.  
• Perform other duties as assigned

**QUALIFICATIONS:**  
Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:  
• An advanced degree/ master's degree in health information management, statistics, public health, pharmacy, or another relevant field.  
• Skills in data visualization dashboards/tools and data requirement gathering.  
• At least 3 years of experience in public health implementation at the national level.  
• Knowledge of ITNs, and Tanzania health commodities supply chain.  
• Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including English.  
• Excellent analytical, problem-solving and decision-making skills.  
• Ability to work with partners in implementing programs in challenging environments.  
• Experience in working with MOHCDGEC-National Malaria Control Program, Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Program (ZAMEP) and USAID funded projects is desired.  
• Demonstrated ability to monitor and train health care workers.  
• Knowledge on the Tanzania health information systems including HMIS, eLMIS and DHIS2.  
• Proven inter-personal skills and ability to work well both within a team and independently.  
• Demonstrated ability to work effectively under pressure and to prioritize competing demands.

If you are interested in applying this position please send your resume, cover letter and copies of your academic certificate to [ghsc.recruitmentz@gmail.com](mailto:ghsc.recruitmentz@gmail.com). And kindly include title you are applying to and your name in the subject line.  
While we thank all applicants for their interest, only those selected for interview will be contacted. Deadline for submission shall be on **20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**. GHSC - TA - TZ is an equal opportunity employer.

## MARCAS DEBT COLLECTORS AND AUCTIONEERS (T) LTD

### PUBLIC AUCTION

We, MARCAS DEBT COLLECTORS AND AUCTIONEERS LTD, by the order of KCB BANK TANZANIA LTD, P.O. Box 804 Dar es Salaam, shall sell houses by public auction. The auction will be held on the date and time as stipulated in the table hereunder.

S/N	CUSTOMER NAME	PROPERTY OWNER	TYPE AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY	DATE OF AUCTION
001	LAITON EMILYO MWINUKA	LAITON EMILYO MWINUKA	HOUSE PLOT NO 192, CT NO.65293 L.O.NO.220151, BLOCK 4 TUANGOMA TEMEKE	26/10/2020 10:00 Morning - 04:00 Evening
002	MOLADI TANZANIA LIMITED	ABEID SALIM ZAGAR	HOUSE PLOT NO 338 BLOCK J, CT NO. 93004, L.O. 463768, MAPINGA AREA BAGAMOYO URBAN AREA	28/10/2020 10:00 Morning - 04:00 Evening
003	MWEMA DISTRIBUTORS LIMITED	THOMAS MARWA MTANA	HOUSE PLOT NO. 84 BLOCK P CT NO 36048 MSAITI TARIME	30/10/2020 10:00 Morning - 04:00 Evening
004	MWEMA DISTRIBUTORS LIMITED	ROSEMARY NCHAGWA JACKSON	HOUSE PLOT NO. 826 BLOCK S CT NO 49647 TABATA	01/11/2020 10:00 Morning - 04:00 Evening
005	ST. VIVIAN SCHOOL	CRISPIN MUGARULA	HOUSE PLOT NO. 531, BLOCK A CT NO. 43580 USA RIVER ARUMERU ARUSHA	03/11/2020 10:00 Morning - 04:00 Evening
006	AMALY INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED	JUMA MEHTA KIBONDEI	HOUSE PLOT NO. 140 BLOCK D, CT NO. 101225, L.O. NO 243656 SHARRIF SHAMBA DAR ES SALAAM	05/11/2020 10:00 Morning - 04:00 Evening
007	AMALY INVESTMENT COMPANY	JUMA MEHTA KIBONDEI	HOUSE PLOT NO. 2188 BLOCK D, CT. 145130, L.O. NO 484191 BUYUNI AREA DAR ES SALAAM	07/11/2020 10:00 Morning - 04:00 Evening
008	AMAL MEHTA KIBONDEI	AMAL MEHTA KIBONDEI	HOUSE PLOT NO. 104, BLOCK D, CT NO. 82950, L.O. 334758 SHARRIF SHAMBA, ILALA DISTRICT	09/11/2020 10:00 Morning - 04:00 Evening
009	EMMANUEL MLAPONI	EMMANUEL MLAPONI	HOUSE PLOT NO. 176, BLOCK D, CT NO. 62177, NJIRO ARUSHA CITY, COUNCIL	12/11/2020 10:00 Morning - 04:00 Evening

**CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION**

- The buyer shall be required to pay 25% of the auction price on the same day and the remaining 75% within (14) days failure by the buyer to pay the remained balance during the stipulated time will lead to forfeiture and re-auction of the property.
- All interested bidders are invited to visit and inspect the properties two days before auction date
- All costs of taxes & transfer of ownership will be borne by the buyer.
- The highest bidder is not necessary the winner, the auctioneer has the right to reserve the price.
- All properties will be sold on 'as is where basis'.

For more information please contact us through: Marcas Debt Collectors and Auctioneers Limited, Kiondoni, Tanzania, P.O. Box 105484, Dar es Salaam. Phone: 0752 72 22 22 / 0713 26 83 83

## MARCAS DEBT COLLECTORS AND AUCTIONEERS (T) LTD.

### MARCAS DEBT COLLECTORS & AUCTIONERS LTD, PUBLIC AUCTION

We MARCAS DEBT COLLECTORS & AUCTIONERS LTD by the authority signed to us by Hughes Agriculture (T) Ltd of P.O.Box 73544 Dar es Salaam will auction (10) new Holland Tractors at their premises in Tazara near Mfugale fly over) on **19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**.

All interested buyers are invited to inspect the tractors on **18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 from 10:00am to 3:00pm**.



**TERMS & CONDITIONS.**

- The buyer shall be required to pay 25% of the Auction price within the same day and the remaining 75% within (14) wday's failure by the buyer to pay the remained balance during the stipulated time will lead to forfeiture and the re-Auctioning of the property.
- All goods will be sold in the existing condition
- All interested bidders must present government issued photo identification
- All costs of taxes & transfer of ownership will be borne by the buyer
- The highest bidder is not necessary the winner, the auctioneer has the right to reserve the price

For more information please contact us through; 0752 722222/ 0713 268383





Songoro Marine Transport Ltd technical director Khalid Songoro (gesturing) briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the firm's boatyard at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the ongoing construction of Mafia Ferry, which is expected to operate between Nyamisati in Kibiti District and Mafia Island. Photo: PMO

## District plans to collect 7 billion/- levy from cashew nuts per year

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyoni

MANYONI District Council in Singida Region expects to collect an average of between 6bn/- to 7bn/- each year from cashew nuts levy in the next three years after farmers start harvesting the crop. Speaking at the opening of a training seminar of better cashew nuts farming for farmers from Manyoni and Itigi districts, Manyoni District Development Director Charles Fussi said the revenue follows his district

investing in cashew nuts growing by allocating more than 22,000 hectares distributed in small farms to farmers.

The training was organized by the Naliendele Centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Naliendele) in collaboration with Tanzania Cashew Nuts Board (TCB).

"Farming a new cashew nuts, Manyoni district Council is far ahead, we have invested by providing small farms totaling 22,000 hectares," he said.

He said what the farmers needed was training on technology for cashew nuts farming techniques.

He said after receiving the training, they will produce huge quality crops that will beef up Council coffers in the next three years.

The country's Cashew Nuts Coordinator Dr Geradina Mzena said TARI-Naliendele has already established a farm for cashew nuts seeds that will have the capacity to produce 15,000 tons of cashew nuts

seeds per year. He said the decision to establish the seed farm has come after realizing that the country's central regions, including Dodoma, Singida and Morogoro have responded well in cashew nuts farming hence they decided to bring closer to them quality seeds from TARI-Naliendele.

TCB Manager for Central and Western Zone Ray Mtangi said the aim in training was to ensure the crop they produce is of grade one to compete in both internal and external markets.

## RC: Tanzania ought to be self-sufficient in fertiliser

By Guardian Reporter Arusha

ARUSHA regional commissioner Iddi Kimanta has called on authorities dealing in fertiliser to come up with a permanent strategy to eradicate by 100 percent all challenges facing investment in fertiliser and fertiliser supplements (FFS) thereof to enable the country to become self-sufficient of the commodity and for export.

Kimanta issued the appeal here yesterday when speaking at a special task force sitting of the investors' Investors' Forum on options for increased market share of domestically manufactured FFS organized by Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA).

He called on TFRA to beef up cooperation with Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) to understand the correct types of crop specific fertilizer catalogues and soil specific fertilizer catalogue.

He said the government has been stressing in the building the industrial economy so that Tanzania becomes self-sufficient in goods we manufacture and stop importation.

"These goals will only be attained if farmers abide by irrigation farming, better farming practices as instructed by extension officers, correct use of farm inputs including fertilisers and supplements thereof and plant pesticides for increased crops yields," Kimanta said.

He said the government has stationed extension officers in every district, wards and villages to educate farmers on the use of various farming technologies for increased crops production, and called on farmers to utilize these agricultural experts.

He said Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro Kilimanjaro regions is home to over 70 percent of fertilisers factories and supplements thereof and produce more than 80 percent of the commodity in the country.

He said he was pleased to see new investors in fertilisers and supplements

that remove dolomite and lime as well as gypsum.

He called on farmers to abandon other misleading beliefs that home-made fertilizer was of low quality compared to the imported one, saying these fertilisers undergo chemical analysis and reach farmers only after TFRA's approval.

Prof Anthony Mshandete, TFRA Board Chairman said for a long time Tanzania has been depending on imported fertilizer by more than 90 percent of farmers' needs which as for now is more than 500,000 tons per year.

He said until 2015 the country had four fertilizer factories - Minjingu Mines and Fertilizer Ltd. In Manyara Region, Keen Feeders Ltd. and Sianga Intertrade Co. Ltd in Arusha region and Guavay Fertilizer Co. Ltd in Dar es salaam.

He said after the Phase V Government came to power a total of nine fertilizer factories were established including two for fertilizer supplements - Dodoma Cement Co. Ltd. in Dodoma and ABM Equipment Services Ltd. In Tanga.

"All in all there are 13 investors in the country - Arusha Region (4), Kilimanjaro Region (3) and Coast (2). The others are in one each in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

"Apart from the decision of these 13 to invest in fertilizer manufacturing, they are faced by various challenges including high energy cost and raw materials. Hence we are meeting here today to discuss how to solve these challenges," he said.

*"Apart from the decision of these 13 to invest in fertilizer manufacturing, they are faced by various challenges including high energy cost and raw materials. Hence we are meeting here today to discuss how to solve these challenges"*

## Model UN youth assembly underscores need for young people to crusade for peace

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE model United Nations' youth general assembly has just been concluded here, with four major resolutions, including empowering young people to hatch careers in environment and natural resources as well as playing roles in maintaining peace.

"There are ample opportunities that can be created from natural resources and environment conservation," reads part of the resolution document. The youth have also resolved to join hands in fighting gender inequality and related violence.

Yuel David Abraham, a representative from South Sudan said from where he comes from, people have started to learn the importance of peace and stability in society, insisting that the youth from other countries need to borrow a leaf from them.

The 23rd Model of the United Nations Assembly which was held at the Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) was attended by over 200 young people from Tanzania, Africa and around the globe.

The coordinator for the UN Mock General Assembly, Philemon Mweleka, said already the resolutions have been sent to the governments of countries where the youth participants came from, to be worked upon.

This version of Tanzania International Model United Nations (TIMUN) as usual is a simulation of the United General Assembly where young people around Tanzania and overseas countries around 15 and 25 years of age from different backgrounds get an opportunity to practice diplomacy, leadership and workings of the United Nations.

"There was the issue of peace and tranquillity which came in as paramount among young people in Africa where political, religious and even tribal conflicts keep occurring," explained the TIMUN Coordinator, Philemon Mweleka.

According to participants' resolutions, environment matters are also of paramount concern because in the wake of global warming and issues of climate change the youth are very much affected with related effects.

As for employment, it was pointed out during the mock UN General Assembly that Africa alone with a population of 1 billion residents has 50 percent of its people falling under the youth bracket.

"Young people need to be assisted to create employment opportunities for themselves as they seem to be well assimilated with digital technology development, a sector which now rules global job offers," stated the Arumeru District Commissioner, Jerry Muro who officially closed the Youth UN Assembly.

The youth in attendance debated issues around those topics with resulting resolutions to be later dispatched to respective governments to be worked upon.

Model United Nations serves as an authentic simulation of the United Nations - complete with Security Council, General Assembly, a wide range of sub-committees, a Secretariat headed by the Secretary General, and of course, you, the delegates!

For the duration of a Model United Nations conference, every participant or 'delegate' represents a member state of the United Nations in one of the committees of the UN system.

In their individual committees, delegates engage in debate on a wide range of topics, relating to issues as diverse as international peace and security, economic cooperation and development, human rights or the protection of the environment.

The ultimate objective of every committee is to pass a resolution that is both broad and comprehensive enough to provide an adequate solution to the question at hand, while at the same time being acceptable to as many member states as possible.



CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa (L) pictured in Zanzibar yesterday addressing members of the party's Zanzibar Elders Council yesterday on the ongoing General Election campaigns. He is with the party Deputy Secretary General (Zanzibar), Dr Abdallah Sadala Mabodi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

COFFEE producers have been challenged to come up with strategies to promote domestic consumption of coffee to boost the local market of the product.

Speaking over the weekend at the closure of a three-day coffee symposium dubbed: 'Kahawa Festival 2020', Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Gerald Kusaya, said promoting local consumption of coffee will ensure a reliable market for Tanzanian producers.

The festival went together with exhibitions of various coffee products, seminars and workshops on how to improve the quality of produced coffee.

The event was part of celebrating the International Coffee day (ICD) which is commemorated on every October 1st. The day is meant to recognize millions of people across the globe including farmers, baristas, coffee shop owners and several others who work hard to

## Kusaya to producers: Come up with new tactics to prop up coffee drinking culture

create and serve the beverage.

PS Kusaya said: "Local consumption of coffee in Tanzania is estimated to be 7 percent while in Ethiopia domestic consumption of coffee is more than 60 percent. We need to promote a coffee drinking culture among Tanzanians to at least 15 percent."

According to Kusaya, coffee is the first number one drink in the world after water, adding that though Tanzania is among countries that produce high quality varieties of coffees, more efforts are needed to promote local consumption.

He cautioned that it was dangerous for the country to largely depend on foreign markets because when disasters occur such as the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, producers fail to access markets.

Chairman of the Tanzania Coffee Association (TCA), Dennis Mahulu said the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) in collaboration with coffee stakeholders have formed a joint committee which will suggest the best ways of celebrating the day.

He added that the Barista Competition was organized specifically to advance the barista profession and recognize hundreds of baristas in the country. He said through the competition, more youth are being encouraged to engage in the Barista field.

Mahulu said they also had a Cupping Competition, the first of its kind in the country whereby all the cuppers across Tanzania participated and demonstrate their ability, speed, and accuracy in identifying different coffees

basing on cupping attributes such as Aroma, Acidity, Body, Aftertaste and Flavor.

TCB Acting Director General, Kamal Adam Katundu said that efforts are made to ensure Tanzania continues to produce high quality coffee as well as ensuring coordinated markets.

"I am happy that we have different coffee stakeholders in this year's Kahawa Festival 2020. They include those from Kagera Region which produces almost half of all the coffee produced in the country," Katundu said.

The annual event was also attended by various different coffee stakeholders including the high ranking government officials from the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) and the Prime Minister's Office.



# Board supplies 19.24 billion/- worth of milk to 210 schools

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

AT LEAST 12,023,186.83 liters of milk worth 19.24bn/- was freely distributed to pupils in 210 primary schools across the country in between 2006 and September 2020, according to the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB).

The friendly healthier support, under the auspicious of Heifer International aims toward supporting the country's school milk feeding programme which has so far benefited 89,922 pupils in ten regions namely, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Morogoro, Mwanza and Mara.

In Tanzania, the school-feeding programme was initiated in 2006 being implemented by the government in collaboration with stakeholders such as TDB, parents, milk processors, development partners as well as primary and secondary schools.

The programme, among others, aimed at improving pupils' health status, instilling milk drinking nature among the local population from grassroots, but also, expanding performance of the home milk market.

Speaking to The Guardian, Assistant Registrar of TDB, Noel Byamungu said that implementation of the scheme had seen major achievements including decline of absenteeism among pupils in many schools.

"Despite several challenges, we are working tirelessly to ensure the programme becomes sustainable and reach out to more children and schools," he expressed.

However, they are planning to reduce the number of schools registered for the programme from 210 to only 30 in the 2020/2021 financial year over lack of sponsorship. The main sponsor—Heifer International pulled out of the project in the 2018/2019 financial year.

Byamungu said they will remain with few schools in Kilimanjaro (24), Iringa

(2), and Mbeya (4).

"We have chosen the schools due to the presence of milk processing plants in the regions; this will make it easier for parents and stakeholders to financially contribute to milk producing factories for distribution of milk at schools," he noted.

He commended the Iringa based Asas Dairies Limited and Tangafresh milk factories for supporting the board's school milk feeding programme.

According to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel in the 2019/2020 Tanzania had at least 33.4 million cows, out of which, 1.95 million are hybrid dairy cows, and 31.45 million are domestic cows. During the period, the country produced a total of 3.01 billion liters of milk.



**We have chosen the schools due to the presence of milk processing plants in the regions; this will make it easier for parents and stakeholders to financially contribute to milk producing factories for distribution of milk at schools**



Dodoma District's CCM Chairman, Major (rtd) Saringo Risasi (2nd-R), campaigns for the party's parliamentary candidate for Dodoma Constituency, Anthony Mavunde (L), at a rally held at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Govt hails Foundation for Civil Society work

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma.

THE government has hailed the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) for establishing a Civil Society Organisations' (CSOs) Resource Centre, terming it a great step towards upholding transparency and accountability.

The centre situated in Dodoma city will act as a one-stop centre for CSOs' work and knowledge base where different stakeholders will have access to embrace, learn and support the work for the civil societies and philanthropy in Tanzania.

FCS argues that the centre will also provide advisory services to the civil society organisations and other stakeholders.

It will be a platform for mentorship, apprenticeship and coaching for smaller, grassroots CSOs and youths to practically build their capacity on the best practices and lessons obtained

from years of the evolution of the civil society in Tanzania.

During the event to mark official launch of the centre and FCS office in Dodoma, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr John Jingu appealed to CSOs in the country to uphold transparency and accountability in their activities, saying they are key partners in development.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Registrar of NGOs at the ministry, Vickness Mayao, he noted that by so doing they will win the government and public trust.

"Transparency and accountability are some of the key values that we must uphold as individuals, groups or organisations in our day to day activities for the development of our nation," he said, adding that if well maintained there will be no more conflicts or interferences.

Dr Jingu thanked FCS for the centre, stating that it will help the government and other stakeholders get the right information on the CSOs in the country.

He said there is need to invest such resource centres in effort to enable non-governmental organisations get the accurate information on the civil society organisations.

On the other hand, he said the government will ensure the CSOs operate in a conducive environment by having laws, policies, guidelines and procedures that can help develop their activities further.

Speaking at the same event, FCS President, Dr Stigmata Tenga said there is increased demand for some useful information but access is limited, calling on the government to look into the matter since CSOs are partners in development with the government.

She added that the resource centre will be useful in capacity building and access to relevant information in

accordance with the government and private sector guidelines.

There is a lot of information and publications in the government offices which are of great importance to this centre, we appeal to the government for support when we call at its offices," she said.

Earlier, Enock Nyanda, coordinator of CSOs at the ministry of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, said the government has no problem with CSOs working in accordance with the law.

He said cooperation between the two partners is the main thing to bring development to the people.

Nyanda also observed that establishment of the resource centre in Dodoma, the capital city and government headquarter will to a big extent reduce the struggle of travelling far to get services, reducing the costs spent on it.



Tanzania Animals Protection Organisation officer Abdumalik George (L) vaccinates a dog against rabies and worms yesterday, a service provided free in partnership with Kahama District Council. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Guardian Reporter

THE population of whale sharks in Mafia Island Marine Park has increased to 206 in December 2019 from about 100 in 2012, according to a report published by the WWF Tanzania.

The report said the increase followed an effective conservation jointly implemented by WWF and the government of Tanzania.

Since early 2012 WWF facilitated awareness raising to the stakeholders, including fishers, boat riders, tour operators, tour guides, district authorities, hoteliers and other investors on the importance of

## Mafia Island Marine Park's whaleshark population up

coordinated management of whale sharks on Mafia Island Marine Park, said the report published in WWF Tanzania's Conservation Bulletin.

The report said threats that put whale sharks at risk included entanglement in fishing nets, injuries caused by boat rides and hunting for meat and fins.

"Even if fishers are not trying to catch the sharks, but their large ring-nets can trap, entangle and injure the whale sharks. Sharks can get amputated especially the fins during untangling from fishing nets," said the report.

Mafia Island, located 20 kilometers offshore from the eastern extent of

the Rufiji delta on the southern coast of Tanzania, is the only home for the whale sharks in the country.

Whale sharks are protected and listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature red list of endangered, threatened and protected species.

## Simsim farmers in Songwe set to begin producing improved seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

MORE than 1,500 simsim farmers from five cooperative societies in Songwe District, Songwe Region expect to begin producing quality seeds for the crop after receiving training from Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) sponsored by Shanta, (New Luika) Mine.

Speaking during the training, the Public Relation Officer of Shanta, (New Luika) Mine, Daniel Kakuyu said the training involved farmers within the proximity of the Mine via their cooperative societies.

Kakuyu said they decided to provide the farmers with education on simsim farming so as to enable them to benefit from better farming practices including use of quality seeds they will produce themselves and even sell them to other farmers both within and outside Songwe district.

"We began this programme in 2017 through study farms and we saw they had benefited from the programme hence we decided to train them in order to add value to their crops," he said.

He said apart from sponsoring the training, Shanta Mine is also looking for the markets for the crop by involving

other stakeholders.

TOSCI Assistant Agricultural Officer Julius Bwire said after training the farmers will have the opportunity to grab the seeds market as it is plagued with fake agents who sell counterfeit seeds.

Some simsim farmers in Songwe District since the time Shanta Mine started sponsoring them with new farming practices have started seeing its benefits to their economic wellbeing.

Justini Lawala, a simsim farmer said when the farming season arrives they will use the methods they have learned and thanked Shanta Mine for their assistance.



**We began this programme in 2017 through study farms and we saw they had benefited from the programme hence we decided to train them in order to add value to their crops**



# Experts stress need for financial literacy among the citizenry

By Correspondent James Kandoya

INCREASING financial literacy is key in encouraging the public to imbibe a culture of investing in the capital markets, players in the financial sector have suggested.

They made the suggestion yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the commemoration of the World Investor Week.

Nicodemus Mkama, executive director of the Capital and Market Security Authority (CMSA) asked Tanzanians to invest in the capital markets.

He also called on the public to be careful on investment opportunities advertised on online platform which do not observe rules and financial regulations.

Mkama said further that the investors should always invest in financial institutions that are operated legally adding that failure to that might lead to huge loss.

He said during the commemoration, CMSA in collaboration with other stakeholders in financial sectors will conduct training to build the capacity of the executive directors to identify opportunities available when investing in the capital markets.

"Our duty is to increase the public awareness to know opportunities available in the capital markets and utilize them to increase their capital investment," he said.

For his part, the UTT-AMIS Executive Director Simon Migangala said financial literacy was very important if we want to embark in the long term investment like industry economy.

Migangala said the public awareness had increased noting that the number of investments increased to 12,000 last year from 2000 compared to the last two years.

Furthermore, the average growth rate grew from 22bn/- in the last two

years to 122bn/- last year adding that there were a number of opportunities that needed to be utilised.

Briton Kinemo Mkama from the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) said the number of new investments was increasing, noting that 27 companies had been registered so far.

Tanzania Stock Brokers Association (TSEBA) Gerase Kamugisha said: "We have planned to increase nation and individual incomes by encouraging them to use domestic products."

According to him, there was also a need to inform the public about the security of their capital investments.

From October 5 to 11 this year, the securities regulatory on six continents will promote investor education and protection through World Investor week, an initiative of International Organisation of Securities Commission (IOSCO).

It is a global campaign to raise awareness about the importance of investor's education and protection and to highlight the investor education and protection initiatives of securities regulators.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (national coordinator), Commodities Futures Trading Commission, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, National Futures Association, and supporters are working together with interested government agencies, localities, and organisations to promote World



**"Our duty is to increase the public awareness to know opportunities available in the capital markets and utilize them to increase their capital investment"**



Zanzibar's Minister for Labour, Empowerment, Elders, Women and Children, Maudeline Cyrus Castico, addresses nurses and midwives at a graduation ceremony held at the Vuga campus of the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

# NEC authorises Namtumbo-based NGO to provide voters' education

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

MCHOMORO AIDS Combat Group (MACG) a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) based in Namtumbo District in Ruvuma Region has been permitted by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to provide voters' education for this

year's General Election and so far it has covered more than 10 wards out of 21 in the district.

Speaking to reports here at the weekend, the NGO's Managing Director Shazir Malamaye said the method used is to hold various debates on voter's education, distributing leaflets and flyers,

traditional dances and songs with education messages to voters.

Malamaye said at all times his NGO has been mobilising people to go out and vote come October 28 the messages that are also disseminated via loud hailer from village to village.

He thanked NEC at the district,

regional and national level in general, defense and security, religious leaders and other stakeholders including journalists.

He appealed to the people, the youth in particular including people in various vulnerable groups to emerge in big numbers on October 28 this year to vote for leaders of their choice.



Mbarali district commissioner Reuben Mfune speaks during celebrations to mark International Day of Older Persons (October 1) held at district level in Ubaruku ward, Mbeya Region. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

# Dodoma city authorities set to construct modern pig slaughterhouse following increased demand

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

DODOMA city authorities are finalising processes to construct a modern pig slaughterhouse following increased demand of pork meat in the country's capital.

The capital city of Dodoma is currently harboring the country's top dignitaries with daily increased population, hence the need to establish a pig slaughterhouse to protect consumers from possible health risks.

A random survey by this paper established the presence of mushrooming pork selling points whereas most of the pigs are being slaughtered locally while the meat is certified by professional experts.

A Senior Livestock Officer in the city's Livestock and Fisheries department who preferred anonymity, said that pig meats contains high concentration of tape worms, cautioning that consuming the meat with such tape worms was dangerous as it can damage the brain system and cause serious mental illness.

"It is high time that we establish a pig abattoir to protect the health of consumers as well as ensure clean preparation of the meat. With the presence of abattoirs experts can easily check and certify the meat," he stated.

He said eating uncertified meat was more dangerous based on the fact that some animals (including pigs) are being marketed and slaughtered while under

drug doses.

"Principally, animals under drug doses must stay for between 14 and 30 days to allow drug residues before being slaughtered and consumed," he added.

Regional Medical Officer, Dr Best Magoma said that consuming uncertified meat poses serious health risks especially when it comes to zoonotic diseases.

Zoonoses are diseases and infections naturally transmitted from animals to humans. "There's an urgent need to ensure the construction of the abattoir in order to serve the public especially pork meat consumers from developing dangerous diseases," he insisted.

Head of the Livestock and Fisheries

Development Department in the city, Dr Gratian Mwesiga said that the department has already obtained at least 100 acres of land in Kizota for construction of a state-of-the-art pig slaughterhouse.

He said a total of 380m/- has been allocated for the major project.

As per the Animal Diseases Act (2003), all the animals meant for public consumption are supposed to be slaughtered at the official abattoirs after being inspected by relevant doctors.

To ensure professional slaughtering and selling of meats in the region, the Tanzania Meat Board (TMB) has slapped a ban on consumption of uncertified meat in the capital city.

# Avoid offensive words in election campaigns, clerics urge politicians

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

RELIGIOUS leaders in Kilimanjaro Region have cautioned candidates vying for various posts in the coming general election to avoid using abusive languages and giving inciting statements during the ongoing campaigns.

They were speaking here during a special meeting on the role of political leaders and clerics in maintaining justice, peace and love ahead of the October elections.

The meeting was also attended by Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Dr Anna Mghwira and aspirants of parliamentary and councillorship seats from all the districts in the region.

Secretary of the Muslim Council of Tanzania in Kilimanjaro Region (BAKWATA), Sheikh Awadh Lema explained dismay with some recent incidents which happened during campaigns in Hai and Moshi, saying the situation may cause chaos.

"Candidates should preach peace and put aside their political ideology differences for the country to have peaceful elections," Sheikh Lema insisted.

He however noted that most politicians are not prioritizing talking about human right issues during their campaign rallies.

Head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), Dr Fredrick Shoo warned his fellow religious leaders against involving themselves in politics and partisanship.

Dr Shoo urged them to abide with their ethics and ensure fairness to all people.

The cleric who is also the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Northern Diocese (ELCT-ND) cautioned that unity, peace and love will be put in danger if citizen are denied of their rights.

"Let us abide to ethics and promote peace throughout the campaign period. As religious leaders we should not engage in partisan politics. Our role is to support and uphold democratic principles and values," he said.

Dr Shoo added: "We need to respect each other when executing our duties, we must uphold peace since it is crucial for the country's sustainable development."

The cleric insisted that the country's peace will only be in danger if the majority's rights to live as well as economic rights are denied.

He also called upon the clerics to continue educating people on the deadly virus disease-Covid-19 as well as reminding them to adhere to the protocols of hygiene.



**The GBV network continues to persuade family members to take action to report the incidents to the police station where the GBV network also continues to support the two families which reported the incidents so as to track down perpetrators and report cases to law enforcement agencies**



# 31 CSOs drilled on civic and voters' education ahead of Oct. 28 polls

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THIRTY-ONE civil society organisations (CSOs) have benefited from civic and voters' education training, which was aimed at strengthening their understanding on key issues related to the October 28 general election. Organised by Legal Services Facility (LSF), the one-day training is part of implementation of the project focusing on providing awareness on civic and voters education, and election observance.

Lulu Ng'wanakilala, LSF chief executive officer told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the training was focused on expanding awareness on civil rights and responsibility of the organisation to enhance democratic issues as well as ensuring that election processes are conducted in accordance with rules and regulations governing elections.

"LSF who are key stakeholders in advocating human rights issues especially to women, consider it fruitful to provide awareness to increase the understanding to our stakeholders to let them execute their responsibilities in accordance with laws and governing principles," she said.

The training is meant to build capacity to organisation concerning the regulations, guidelines, directives and election laws.

"But also, we are preparing strategies on how better to reach more people and to provide mass education that will encourage them to vote, to make right decision and to fulfill their civic rights," the officer said.

According to her, the project is supported by Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) with total fund of 719m/- equivalent to US\$311.

"The Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that have been credited to provide civic and voters education as well as to observe general election are all our stakeholders who we have been working with closely," she added.

For his part legal officer from National Electoral Commission (NEC) Stabua Babiker commended the LSF efforts of extending the awareness on civic, voter's and election process that will help to strengthen the understanding of election to the public which enhances strong participation.

"Our aim is to see more people are reached with the civic education, but also to see these organisations are equipped with enough skills to operate election activities as per the law."

"The electoral commission has already issued election guidelines to all organisations, what we are doing is to emphasise specific issues," he said.

DANIDA representative Jamila Lugembe applauded the LSF for embarking on such initiatives which will help to awaken many citizens on matters of election.

She said the drive is part of an ongoing initiative seeking to encourage access to justice in Tanzania; the project is based on empowering poor communities to access their basic rights including education particularly voter's education.

The expected regions to be covered with voters' and civic education include Tanga, Ruvuma, Coast, Lindi, Morogoro, Mbeya, Rukwa, Njombe, Mara, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Pemba, Kigoma, Singida, Dar es Salaam, South Unga and Unga.

For his part executive director for Zanzibar Female Lawyers Associations (ZFLA) Jamila Juma said that they have been tasked by NEC to provide civic education to the public and to oversee the general election.

"Women are the main target in the training as they're cheaply used by politicians through little gifts; therefore we want them to have a strong decision over the kind of leader they want," she explained.

Juma said their organisation which is based in Zanzibar, is planning to operate its activities in the island to three districts including central, Unga town and southern Unga.



Tanzania Investment Centre executive director Dr Maduhu Kazi (C) engaged in talks in Dar es Salaam yesterday with African Development Bank managing director Dr Alex Mubiru (L) and Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture president Paul Koyi. Photo: Romana Mailya

# NBAA releases examination results

By Getrude Mbago

THE National Board of Accountants and Auditors Tanzania (NBAA) yesterday released results for the examinations held from August 4 to 7, this year, whereby 36.4 percent of candidates who sat for the exams failed.

According to a statement issued by the NBAA executive director, Pius Maneno, only 1,214 out of 5,827 candidates passed the exams. "In total 1,214 (20.4 percent) candidates have passed the examinations while 2,492 (42.8 percent) candidates passed some of the subjects in the respective examination level and 2,123 (36.4 percent) failed," he noted.

He said that the examinations were supposed to be conducted in May, this year but they were postponed due to

Covid-19 pandemic.

According to him, the examinations involved examination candidates at levels of accounting technicians' levels I and II, Foundation Level, Intermediate and Final level under the revised competence based syllabi.

Maneno said that in the examination results, 355 candidates qualify to be awarded the professional certificate of completion of the Certified Public Accountants (CPA) programme. The number makes a total 10,256 passed CPAs since the commencement of the Board's examinations in 1975.

He said that in accounting level I, a total of 18 candidates passed the examinations while 43 passed some of the subjects and 28 failed the exams.

In the Accounting Technician Level II, Maneno said that 28 candidates passed their examinations and will be issued

with certificates of completion of the Accounting Technician Certificates (ATEC) examinations.

The number of candidates who passed foundation level was 153 while 284 candidates passed some of the subjects. A total of 126 candidates in this group failed the examinations.

In Intermediate Level, some 658 candidates qualified while 1,457 passed some subjects as 988 candidates failed.

"In final stages, a total of 357 (18.6 percent) candidates have passed the examinations while 678 (35.6 percent) passed some of the subjects as 872 (45.8 percent) failed their examinations," Maneno said.

The NBAA boss further congratulated those who have passed their examinations and encouraged those who have failed to work hard in future attempts.

NBAA is an examining body for the accountancy professional qualifications. However, NBAA does not train candidates who are preparing to sit for its examinations, but is collaborating with a number of training institutions, both public and private institutions to train candidates for its examinations. Training can either be on full time or on part time basis, depending on one's choice.

Various reports have indicated that Tanzania has shortage of qualified accountants compared to other African countries. The qualified accountants are the ones who have passed the board's examination and awarded the Certified Public Accountants, CPA (T) certificate. Becoming a CPA (T) requires the candidates passing the NBAA's examination and obtaining practical experience.



WORSE THAN AN EYESORE: With sewage all over, this section of Kananzi Street in Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni B suburb has become impassable - as Correspondent Miraji Msala confirmed yesterday.

# Africa strives to control wildlife poaching made worse by the pandemic

By Special Correspondent, Mbarara

AS the world grapples with COVID-19, conservationists in Africa are striving to contain rising wildlife poaching, which has been worsened by the pandemic.

When the pandemic hit the continent about seven months ago, many countries closed their borders and limited domestic movement. This brought the tourism sector, a key foreign exchange earner to many economies, to a grinding halt.

"The biggest impact of COVID-19 on conservation was the shutdown of the tourism industry," Kaddu Sebunya, chief executive officer of African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), one of the oldest conservation agencies on the continent said.

"Over 30 million Africans that benefited directly from the tourism industry lost their livelihood overnight," Kaddu said, noting that national park services lost almost 50 percent of the revenues they use to protect wildlife while private conservancies lost all their revenues due to the shutdown.

In Uganda, according to Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), poaching during the pandemic has gone up. In Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, home to more than half of the world's population of mountain gorillas, poaching cases have risen from about eight suspects arrested in a whole year to eight suspects arrested in just a few months.

In June, the country lost a popular silverback gorilla, which was killed by a poacher as he went into Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to hunt for duikers and a bush pig.

Many other parts of Africa, according to Kaddu, face a similar situation whereby some who derived their livelihood from tourism have resorted

to poaching.

"Because of reduction in tourism, people were laid off, patrols in the park reduced. What that means is that the bad guys are waiting to recruit these people into poaching," said Kaddu. "We have seen a surge in poaching, not because these are bad people but because they have lost their livelihood."

Countries have put up countermeasures to stop the surge in poaching. In Ugandan national parks, foot-patrols have been increased. Other places have started community initiatives where scouts patrol the parks.

"I have just come back from Serengeti (national park in Tanzania)," Kaddu said. "I have seen community scouts still patrolling national parks without pay."

The AWF, through its Africa Response Fund to COVID, has also supported patrols, giving food rations and equipment to rangers.

While the pandemic has had a negative impact on conservation in terms of falling revenues from tourism, there has also been good news, Kaddu said.

"There are some good stories. Wildlife thrived everywhere we work during the COVID pandemic," he said. "The number of wildlife is increasing, and that tells us that when you leave wildlife alone, it thrives."

Since July 22, Uganda has registered the birth of eight mountain gorillas, seven in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and another in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, on the border with Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Conservationists are optimistic that as countries continue to ease COVID-19 restrictions and open up their economies, tourism will resume, bringing in revenue that can be used to protect wildlife.

# Amina Mohamed gets regional endorsement in WTO race

By Guardian Correspondent

The East African Community (EAC) has officially endorsed the candidature of Kenya's Amina Mohamed in the race to head the World Trade Organisation (WTO). This has become the latest boost to her bid.

The announcement came on Sunday, just two days before the global commercial regulator announces the final shortlist of two contenders for the final round of the race.

Rwanda's Foreign Minister Vincent

Biruta, the current chairman of the East African Council of Ministers, said on Sunday that Mohamed had received support from member countries following a request by President Paul Kagame for her endorsement.

"Reference is made to the favourable responses received from all states of the East African Community on the... request to support the candidature of the Republic of Kenya to the post of Director-General of the World Trade Organisation. I would like to inform

you that the Ambassador Amina C. Mohamed is endorsed as the candidate of the East African Community to the post of the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation," Biruta wrote to counterparts in Kenya, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan.

Mohamed is among five candidates competing for the next hurdle to be announced on October 6.

Her competitors include Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria, Yoo Myung-hee of South Korea, Mohammad

Maziad Al-Tuwaijri of Saudi Arabia and Dr Liam Fox of the United Kingdom.

The 164-member WTO will decide which two candidates from these five will compete in the final leg that will culminate in the announcement of a new director-general by December this year.

Members are supposed to reach decisions by consensus, which means endorsements like that of the EAC can help a candidate amass broad support among WTO member states.



# The Guardian

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Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Sunflower sub-sector SMEs merit all manner of support

WITH an annual output of around 350,000 tonnes of sunflower oilseeds, corresponding to about 90,000 tonnes of oil, Tanzania is one of the top ten sunflower oilseed producers in the world.

Sunflowers are grown all over the country, mostly by small-scale farmers. Therefore the development of the sunflower oil sector has a great potential for improving livelihoods and the welfare of relatively poorer households.

The Dodoma region in the country's central zone is a major producer, accounting for over 20 per cent of national production. About half of the region's farmers are engaged in sunflower oil production, but few small-scale producers have realized the full potential of this sector, either in terms of improved quality or higher volumes. Among the factors contributing to low productivity and quality are inadequate machinery and limited or no access to value-added services and markets.

Since 2012, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), in collaboration with Tanzania's Ministry of Industry and Trade, has been working to upgrade and modernise the country's agro-industry and improve the competitiveness of locally processed goods, including sunflower oil, on national and international markets.

Within the framework of the industrial upgrading and modernization project, a team consisting of UNIDO international experts and trained national consultants have provided enterprises with diagnostics services and assistance with implementing upgrading plans.

Micro- and small-scale oil producers in Dodoma were advised to form a cluster, invest in common facilities to store, clean and refine sunflower seeds, and to take joint marketing actions in order to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of their businesses. To this end, the project is currently helping relocate processors operating in residential areas to the Chamwino industrial park.

The project has also enabled producers to access affordable technology for sunflower oil refining. Recently, UNIDO teamed up with the country's Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) to help small businesses acquire modern machinery for refining and processing products. This has helped increase the competitiveness of the products and lead to a rise in incomes.

Farmers who have been using the now available technology to process their sunflower oil, said that the new machinery had helped them produce more refined oil, and as a result, they customers are happier and their product now had a chance to compete on a broader market.

According to Julius Mjelwa, acting director of research market, planning and development at VETA, more research will help improve the machines that are being used to upgrade the sunflower oil sector.

"With the technical services provided by UNIDO, these small businesses have more capacity for production and storage, and better market access. The Dodoma sunflower oil cluster is a model for developing oil and other crop processing clusters for SMEs, and we are going to see this being emulated in other sectors," said Janet Mbene, the Industry and Trade deputy minister.

Similar approaches have been taken in enterprises operating in the dairy, as well as in other edible oil and food processing sectors. So far, UNIDO has examined 19 enterprises. To assist with the implementation of the industrial upgrading and modernization project, UNIDO has trained a total of 50 national experts.

A recent survey suggests that companies involved in the upgrading have, on average, increased local sales by some 38 per cent. Two of them doubled the volume of their exports.

The project also helps strengthen the enterprises' capacities to monitor and better manage business by reducing resource losses during the processing process, generating total savings worth USD 1 million over the last three years.

## Protecting our water sources brings a wealth of benefits

THE journey of our water from source to tap is long, and not one we think much about.

For most of us, our water starts high in the mountains, hundreds of miles away. From there, water flows across natural and working lands until a portion is channeled to water pipes that move water to our faucets, to farms, and to various types of businesses. Most often we think of those pipes as being our main water infrastructure, but upstream lands play a key role in capturing, storing and moving our water. By conserving these lands, we can better protect our water and generate additional benefits for people and nature.

Today, approximately 40 per cent of the land in urban source watersheds of the world's largest cities show high to moderate levels of degradation. This degradation impacts the present and future quality and reliability of water flows. However, by investing in nature, we can reduce these impacts.

A new report released by The Nature Conservancy, *Beyond the Source: The environmental, economic and community benefits of source water protection*, shows that forest protection, reforestation, and the use of cover crops can help four out of five of the 4,000 cities analyzed reduce sediment and nutrient pollution in waterways by a meaningful amount.

For one in six cities analyzed in the report, the cost of implementing source water protection activities could be recouped through savings in annual water treatment costs alone. For half of the cities analyzed, these activities could be implemented for about US\$2 per person annually. These nature-based solutions also provide a number of co-benefits, including improving the health and well-being of people, preserving biodiversity, capturing and storing carbon and building more climate-resilient communities.

When cities "stack" the value of these co-benefits on top of the savings realized in water treatment costs, they can derive even greater value.

Maximizing the benefits of conservation activities will require collective action. Water funds, which enable downstream water users to jointly invest in upstream land conservation and restoration, are a successful mechanism for securing improved water quality and, in some cases, more reliable flows.

For example, in Nairobi, Kenya, high sediment levels in the Tana River from agricultural run-off and development in the mountains catalyzed the development of Africa's first water fund. Partners in the Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund jointly invest in providing upstream farmers with the training, resources and equipment they need to help keep the river healthy, conserve water and reap the benefits of higher crop yields and more stable farms. The fund also has downstream projected benefits including improved water yields and reduced sediment in the river. An analysis of the water fund structure showed that even by conservative estimates, the selected watershed interventions could deliver a two-to-one return on investment on average over a 30-year timeframe. During a recent trip to Kenya, the message from water fund investors and participants was clear: it's in their best interest to make this work.

Taking care of the land will ensure the longevity of the agricultural community and create a more sustainable water future throughout the watershed.

As cities and populations grow, and climate change adds undue pressure on vulnerable freshwater systems, maintaining healthy lands around our water sources will be increasingly vital to the future of our water security. By investing in nature, we also invest in our future.

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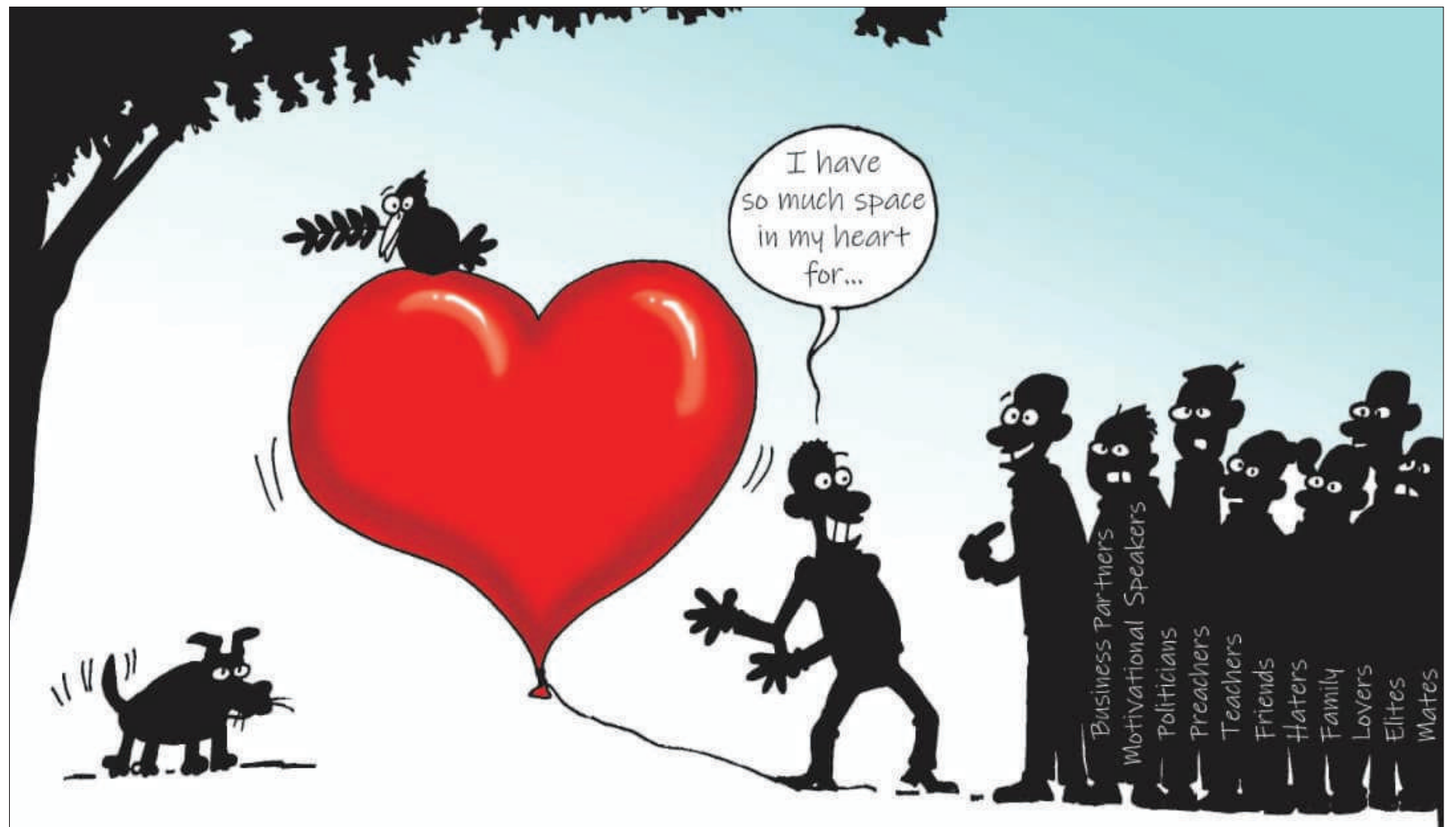
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

### Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com



By Lisa Garbe and Nic Cheeseman

FROM the mid-2000s onwards, the digital revolution raised hopes of democratic transformation and strengthening in Africa. But it hasn't quite turned out like that. Now, almost a decade after the "Arab Spring", techno-optimism has given way to techno-pessimism.

African leaders have proved able to blunt the transformative potential of smart phones through censorship and internet shutdowns. When the internet is on, social media attracts more attention for spreading fake news than preventing election rigging.

What was once thought of as "liberation technology" has turned out to be remarkably compatible with the maintenance of the status quo. Or has it? Does this more pessimistic reading overlook genuine progress?

A new publication I co-edited with Lisa Garbe - *Decoding #DigitalDemocracy in Africa* - draws together the latest research on the extent to which digital technology has changed Africa... and the ways in which Africa is changing digital technology.

The articles show that we should not miss the wood for the trees: despite disappointment, digital technology has had profound impacts on African politics and society. But, they also highlight how much more needs to be known about digital technology on the continent.

### Digital access and inclusion

A lot of recent analysis has focused on the digital divide in Africa, and the many people excluded from online access by poverty and lack of coverage.

Yet researchers have also found that closing this divide cannot be achieved by cheaper technology alone. Using digital technology to access information and resources is only possible when a set of political, legal, and economic conditions are in place.

For example, the content that citizens can access increasingly depends on giant tech companies, especially for poorer citizens. In his contribution on Facebook's Free Basics - a service that provides basic online services without data charges - Toussaint Nothias explains that tech corporations' dominant position enables them to shape how individuals use the internet under the pretence of making it more affordable.

This raises tough questions about whether multinational companies engage ethically in Africa. As Julie Owono's contribution points out, Facebook has been accused of "dumping" products such as Free Basics, stymieing the production of local alternatives. This has raised concerns of a fresh "scramble for Africa", with multinational companies expending more energy and resources in securing new users than tackling hate speech and misinformation.

## Digital democracy is still a long way off in Africa: It takes more than technology



### Social media, democracy and accountability

From the recent "virtual protest" in Zambia to #ZimbabweanLivesMatter, the potential of social media to empower dissenting voices is clear.

Idayat Hassan and Jamie Hitchen's analysis of WhatsApp and Facebook use ahead of elections in The Gambia shows that even in rural areas with limited connectivity, social media content contributes to offline political mobilisation.

It is important not to lose sight of this more positive impact amid the growing focus on fake news and hate speech.

Sadly, though, further problems are on the horizon. Azeb Madebo reveals how the Ethiopian diaspora has fuelled the polarisation between the Oromo community on the one hand, and the Ethiopian government and Ethiopian nationalists on the other.

Not all fake news is believed of course, but when stories play into widely held fears, prejudices and assumptions, they can exacerbate distrust and encourage a cycle of violence.

It is, therefore, significant that there is relatively little regulation of content moderation. Julie Owono shows that in part this can be attributed to the limited local capacity of content providers such as Facebook or Twitter. Neither has invested heavily in African experts capable of identifying fake news and hate speech circulated on their platforms.

In part, it is also rooted in the limited funding available for civil society groups, considerable linguistic diversity, and the volume of information being shared. As a result, organisations such as Africa Check highlight instances of fake news but cannot hope to cover all harmful content.

There are no easy answers to these problems though, because when governments do try and combat free speech, Ashwanee Budoo finds that misinformation is often abused as an excuse to clamp down on freedom of expression.

### Free speech, censorship and Internet shutdowns

While growing internet coverage has enabled citizens to challenge authoritarian rule, non-democratic leaders have also manipulated or disrupted online access. According to Lisa Garbe, internet shutdowns have become the "new normal" in some authoritarian states. This is especially so during politically contested periods such as elections or major protests.

Moreover, while internet shutdowns are important, they are the thin end of the wedge. A number of steps have been taken to prevent citizens from being able to express themselves online. There is a growing use of spyware across the continent to snoop on government critics.

In Tanzania, restrictive laws about what can be said online go hand in hand with government pressure. A prominent lawyer was recently fired because of her "activism".

Uganda, Benin and several other states have imposed a social media tax that has excluded many users.

Meanwhile, those who can afford internet access still face restrictions on governments information. Thus, Lisa-Marie Selvik argues that digital technology has done little to give many African citizens the right to basic government information.

### What we know and what we don't know

Some sixteen years on since the

creation of Twitter, it is becoming clear what we do and don't know about digital democracy in Africa. We know that digital technology is acting as a disruptive force that simultaneously has "liberating" and destructive potential.

The continent has yet to develop an effective way to stop the flow of fake news. And the full benefits of digital democracy are being thwarted by digital exclusion that is driven by the high cost of data, the strategies of authoritarian governments, and in some cases the approach of major tech companies themselves.

But, what we don't know is just as important. We urgently need more research in a number of areas.

To what extent has social media exacerbated ethno-regional tensions? How much online content is actually produced by governments and the trolls that work for them? Who should be responsible for content moderation and how can ethno-linguistic diversity be accounted for? What are the political and socio-economy consequences of restricting internet access, and how can this be resisted? Does the finding that how an individual behaves online does not dramatically change their offline political activity in Uganda hold more broadly? And is social media reinforcing existing gender norms rather than challenging them?

These questions should inspire the research agendas of the future. Idayat Hassan, Director of CDD-West Africa, contributed to the publication and is a co-author of this article.

Nic Cheeseman is Professor of Democracy at the University of Birmingham, while Lisa Garbe is Doctoral Researcher, University of St. Gallen.



# Tunduru lists 74 villages for forest reserves, community-based management

By Beatrice Philemon

**I**N a bid to save unreserved forests in village lands, Tunduru district has embarked on a new campaign aimed at encouraging 74 villages across the district to set-aside areas for Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFs) to have rights and take ownership over their forest resources and reap the benefits it has.

To start with, so far the district has carried out awareness campaign in eight villages for forest conservation, namely Mbungulaji, Kajima, Liwangu, Mischela, Mbatamila, Hulia, Rahaleo and Ndenyende. The villages are in listed for the Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) programme to exercise conservation and have rights on the use of those resources.

The idea is to provide room for villagers to conserve their village forests, carry out sustainable forest management, combat wildlife and timber poaching, preventing deforestation causing climate change, and protect water sources.

This also supports central government efforts to serve about 17.6m hectares of unreserved forests, approximately 80 per cent of around 22m hectares of forest cover located in village lands.

Illegal logging, timber and wildlife poaching, cattle grazing and agricultural activities are the main factors in deforestation, destroying village forest reserves and water sources.

Tunduru district has 157 villages, with 70 percent of local communities depending on forests for livelihood and incomes, with fuelwood needed to meet domestic energy needs.

Deputy District Director Jonathan Haule made these observations when briefing officials of the conservation

NGO, the Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA) and journalists who visited the district recently.

The visit was aimed at witnessing what has been done to support local communities to engaged in CBFM and how the district works in partnership with villagers to conserve forests in village lands.

"The district leadership decided to embark on this campaign after discovering that through CBFM right now our forests have now improved to the extent that some wild animals which had disappeared have started rebuilding in numbers and were attracting poachers hunting wild animals for the game meat trade," he says.

Right now Ligunga, Mindu, Mischela, Lukumbule and Somba villages are leading in wildlife and timber poaching threats, with poaching being pursued to cater for subsistence and commercial needs.

The district works closely with the Department of Natural Resources to carry out patrols in the forests. "We have so many areas that has been affected by poaching activities," the director noted.

Elaborating on poaching incidents, he says that since 2016-2020 a total of 30 poaching incidents were recorded and the suspects arrested. The district has booked a case against them in the court.

So far about 30 poaching case are still in court, relating to 38 elephant tusks that were collected, two weapons and 25 cases of illegal logging, timber production and wildlife meat.

The weapons were hidden in a forest and after interrogation, the suspects admitted to have used the weapons to kill animals in the forest.

"At the district level we will continue



Tunduru deputy district director Jonathan Haule reads out villages which are in the process of allocating village land forest reserves for the CBFM programme and forest conservation.

to support local communities who have been engaged in CBFM to ensure they operate their forest conservation more effectively. This will provide rangers with back up, to accompany them in conducting patrols in their village land forest reserve," he says.

The district has five forest experts and four wildlife officials who train local communities on forest resource conservation. "We invite them in patrolling the forest reserves within village lands," he says.

The district will continue to work in partnership with other stakeholders to see how they will stop poaching incidents completely.

He expressed thanks to MJUMITA, Tanzania

Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and WWF Tanzania for joining forces with the district to support villages in setting up village land forest reserve for CBFM and managing these for sustainable timber production, protecting their forests from illegal practices.

Also the villages were to undergo training on good governance, forest conservation, conducting forest assessment, developing sustainable harvesting plans and implementing community development projects.

So far Sautimoja, Ngapa, Songambe, Namakambale, Mindu, Nangupa and Msingi villages have been allocated village land forest reserves for the CBFM programme.

Villages that have been involved in the CBFM managed to build classrooms, pit latrines for schools, village government offices and purchasing office furniture, build a teachers' house and help villagers access loan services. Other benefits are increasing the land value, obtaining health insurance cards and certificates of customary right of occupancy (CCROS). Mihima and Sautimoja villages are major beneficiaries of CBFM, he stated.

The district will continue to seek more participants along with MJUMITA, TFCG, WWF Tanzania and the Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI), so as to train villagers in good governance, how to use funds generated from selling timber or other forest products, plus forest conservation.

Commenting on patrolling exercises at Chihuruka Forest Reserve in Sautimoja village, he says the district will liaise with the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to see how it will support Sautimoja residents to build a bridge to connect them to their forest reserve to make sure they operate their patrols more effectively. The Chihuruka Forest Reserve is located 92 kilometre from Tunduru district centre.

For his part, MJUMITA facilitator Shabani Hamisi said every year more than 469,000 hectares of forest are cleared countrywide, with most deforestation occurring on unreserved forests in village lands.

Shifting agriculture is the main factor in deforestation, accounting for 80 percent of the destruction.

"MJUMITA encourages villages to allocate VLFs to serve the 17.6m hectares of unreserved forests so that they are reserved and gazetted as forest reserve. This will help villages benefit from what they conserve and assist the government to eradicate harvesting of forest products in unreserved areas as provided by section 49 (4) (a) of the Forest Act No.14 of 2002," he says.

The National Resource Monitoring and Assessment of Tanzania Mainland (NAFORMA) indicates in recent research findings that more than 460,000 hectares of forest cover are cleared every year, mostly in unreserved forest cover within village lands. This results into emission of over 44m tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) into the atmosphere, impacting global climate.

Unreserved forests are exposed to illegal and unsustainable harvesting, leading to forest degradation and loss of potential government revenues due to this alarming loss of forest cover.

# How did President Trump get Covid-19 – and who else might he have infected?

By Dana G Smith

**I**T was the tweet heard around the world: President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump have tested positive for Covid-19.

Only hours later, there was rampant speculation about the timeline and source of the president's infection. How did he contract the novel coronavirus - and who else might he have infected?

Two epidemiologists shared with Elementa how they approach this question from a contact tracing perspective. Let the detective work begin.

## When was Trump exposed to the virus?

The current assumption is that after a person gets infected with the novel coronavirus, it takes at least 48 hours to produce enough viral particles to be contagious and to test positive. It can take another two days before the immune system kicks in and the infected person develops symptoms.

However, both of these timeframes can be extended, either because it takes more time for the virus to replicate and/or because the immune system needs more time to ramp up.

"50 per cent of people who are exposed and will go on to get symptoms get them by day five, which means that they could potentially have tested positive as early as day three post-infection," says Eleanor Murray, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Boston University, adding: "97 per cent have developed symptoms by day eleven."

Trump had a first positive test on Thursday (October 1) and the onset of mild symptoms the very next day, and it is easy to guess when he was exposed to the virus.

## How did the president get infected?

One theory is that he got the virus from White House aide Hope Hicks, who tested positive on either Wednesday (September 30) evening or Thursday morning (accounts are conflicting).

Notably, Hicks tested negative for the virus on Wednesday morning (White House staffers are tested daily). She then accompanied the President on an Air Force One flight to Minnesota for a rally and fundraiser with GOP state leaders. After reports that she wasn't feeling well that afternoon, she tested positive on a second test.

Celine Gounder, MD, an infectious diseases specialist at NYU Langone, says that if a person has a negative test, in all likelihood they are not infectious.

"The PCR test that they're using is very sensitive, and so if you're not positive on the test, it's very unlikely that you have enough virus around to transmit to other people," she notes.

That would mean that Hicks likely didn't infect the president earlier in the week because

if she was shedding too little virus to test positive, she was also shedding too little virus to infect someone else.

However, it is possible that her viral load was low enough to not be caught by the Wednesday morning test but then ramped up during the course of the day, making her infectious in time for the flight home on Air Force One with the president that afternoon. Reports say she quarantined on the flight back to Washington, though it's unclear what that involved.

Even more confusing is the fact that Hicks tested negative and developed symptoms on the same day (Wednesday), which is unusual. Remember, people typically have enough virus in their body to test positive and infect others a few days before they are symptomatic.

Murray says it's "solidly within the realm of possibility" that Hicks' test Wednesday morning was actually a false negative and she could have been infectious earlier. Reasons for a potential false-negative result include a bad swab that didn't pick up all the viral particles in the nose - or even just a faulty test.

PCR testing, also known as polymerase chain reaction testing, is a type of test that shows if someone currently has Covid-19. Unlike serology testing, which tests someone's blood to see if he or she have generated antibodies in response to Covid-19 infection, this primarily shows if someone previously had Covid-19.

Here's another possible scenario: Hicks could have been infected at the same time as Donald and Melania Trump, potentially during the Supreme Court nomination ceremony on Saturday (September 26).

It has emerged that (as of press time) two other attendees that day - Utah Senator Mike Lee and University of Notre Dame President Rev John Jenkins - also recently tested positive for the virus.

While the event was held outdoors in the White House Rose Garden, several hundred people were in attendance, few wore masks, and distancing was non-existent.

Another person infected on a similar timeline as the president is Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel. She tested positive for the virus on Wednesday and had met with the president at a fundraiser the previous Friday, just five days earlier.

It's unclear if McDaniel was also receiving daily tests, so she might have been asymptotically infected with the virus at their meeting but still had been shedding enough viral particles to expose Trump.

We may never know the true route of exposure. Murray says this type of detective work - called retrospective contact tracing - is tricky because it can take anywhere from two to 14 days from exposure to the virus to have a positive test.

She explains: "If he just tested positive yesterday, probably that means that an infection happened relatively recently... But it's also possible



that he could have been exposed as long as two weeks ago, and it could have taken that long for the infection to take hold."

## Did the President infect others?

An easier - and in many ways more important - form of contact tracing is to stop the chain of transmission from going forward.

Scientists think that people are most infectious during the two days before they develop symptoms, plus on their first symptomatic day. In Trump's case, that means that he could have been shedding a high enough quantity of virus to infect another person as early as on Tuesday or Wednesday.

In a normal situation, a contact tracer would work 48 hours backwards from the first positive test and recommend that everyone who had close contact with the infected person during that time quarantine for two weeks.

That would include everyone who was at the presidential debates on Tuesday. But Gounder says that, because the White House is conducting daily tests, the potential window of contagion narrows to just the 24 hours be-

tween tests.

"The situation at the White House is different from what it would be for the general public," she says, adding: "Because they're doing daily testing, you can really identify the 24-hour window when somebody was likely infectious to others or not."

If Trump tested negative on Wednesday, only those who had contact with him between that negative test and his positive test on Thursday would need to quarantine.

This is likely a relief to the Biden campaign following the debate on Tuesday, but less good news for the GOP (Republican Party) representatives and donors Trump met with on Wednesday and Thursday, who now have to quarantine for 14 days.

What about all the people, such as Vice President Mike Pence, who've had recent contact with the president but have tested negative for the virus? Unfortunately, Gounder says, they're not out of the woods yet.

"Just because you have a negative test result today does not mean that you will remain negative. For example, the vice president has

tested negative so far, but it can take up to 14 days from the time of exposure for a test to turn positive or to develop symptoms," she says.

She adds: "This is why you still need to quarantine for 14 days after the exposure even if you have a negative test because you could still turn positive on day two, three, four, five out to 14."

Murray and Gounder say that this scenario exemplifies why daily testing is useful and important - but not a guarantee against infection.

The daily tests can catch a case very quickly and prevent a person from spreading the virus further. However, there is always a window between the two tests when someone could turn from negative to positive and be spreading the virus.

That's why it's essential to combine testing with other safety measures like social distancing and mask-wearing, just in case.

**Dana G Smith is a senior writer for Elementa, a Medium publication about health and wellness.**



# Seeds agency trains staff to improve production, extension, farm management

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Tanga

**T**HE Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has embarked on strategies to improve seed production for crop based industrial raw materials and several priority food crops.

The timely initiative goes in tandem with efforts geared at effective resource management and performance improvement to generate value for money, curtailing gaps between seed availability and actual demand countrywide.

Actual demand for seeds stand at 186,500 tons annually but what is being produced is less than half, at 71,000 tons, a weak statistic showing the reason for weak agricultural performance, apart from diluting the impetus generated by the government towards an industrial economy.

Of the 71,000 tons of seeds, food crops take up 59,368MT, where 3500MT is cotton seeds and the remaining 21368MT distributed over some food crops.

As a state institution mandated to multiply and distribute seeds approved by the government, ASA contributes 21percent of locally produced seeds.

As part of preliminary stages in readiness to implement the said strategies professionally, the Agency conducted a special Performance Improvement Training (PIT) to its key staff, including farm supervisors managing seed farms across the country.

In her remarks to climax the five-



Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) officials pose for a group picture with their certificates after completion of first phase of training on performance improvement. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

day training at the Tanga-based Tanzania Public Service College, the ASA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Sophia Kashenge said that ASA was in a transformation stage to improve its general performance, to offer better services to resource limited farmers.

She further stated that towards an industrial revolution, the government is aiming at increasing availability of crop based raw materials. "In this regard, it is expected that

availability and distribution of improved seeds will be increased and the gap between seed availability and seed demand is altogether minimized," she affirmed.

For three consecutive seasons ASA has recorded positive changes and increased production of improved seeds.

"In order to have real transformation, the agency has decided to start rolling out performance improvement training for its officials. The

training will be conducted in phases with to further improve management aspects for seed farms," she said.

"In this first phase, farm supervisors as key people in production are trained on aspects of management, like roles and responsibilities of a public servant, managing human resources as well as basics of finances, infrastructures, public offices and other resources likely to be under their supervision," she elaborated.

The meeting attracted more than a dozen key officials from farm supervision and management departments. It was a useful clinic majoring on topics like procurement procedures, record keeping, time management and coping with stress.

"The target is to have improved capacity to cope with changes and challenges that occur in the seed industry," said Dr. Kashenge.

Participants who featured in the training were farm supervisors from ASA farms including Bugaga (Kasulu - Kigoma), Kilimi (Nzega - Tabora), Arusha and Tengeru seed farm, Mwele (Mkinga-Tanga), Dabada (Kilolo - Iringa), and Njombe site in Iringa.

Others are Mbozi seed farm (Songwe), Msimba and Kilangali seed farms (Kilosa, Morogoro), while others are members of ASA marketing, production and procurement units.

"These ASA farms are complete and complex units, each with human resources, machines, buildings like warehouses, staff houses, while some have potential industrial structures like seed processing plants. Managing all these government infrastructures needs commitment, knowledge and skills that cannot be undervalued," the CEO underlined.

ASA employees are its biggest asset, so investing in their talents is vital for sustainable seed business growth and success of the agency, she stated.

"The top benefit for driving employee development is to shape a more efficient, competitive and

engaged workforce. Dedicated training and development fosters employee engagement, and engagement is critical to our performance toward enhancing availability of improved seeds in the country," she pointed out.

Improved seeds are pivotal in enhancing food security and livelihoods in farm households, she said, noting that increased availability and quality of seeds can increase the yield potential of the crop several folds and is thus an economical and efficient input to agricultural development.

"But to achieve all this government needs to make sure of the proper and effective utilization of resources," she reiterated.

In their response to the training exercise as it was being finalized, ASA farm supervisors represented by the acting marketing manager, Eduard Mbugi and Kilangali farm supervisor Aneth Molela, lauded the CEO and the management for recognizing the potential gap and arranging that initiative which renews their confidence and energy in taking up commitments ahead of them.

"Though the time allocated for the training is limited, the training has imparted on us key awareness such that we even managed to discover and overcome diverse gaps we experience through issues outlined in the training," participants noted. Strong initiatives have of late been made by ASA for a real transformation in production and distribution of quality improved seeds to farmers countrywide.

# The silver lining of pandemic stress – it could be protective for the brain

By Dana G Smith

**L**AST week, I wrote about all the bad things that can happen to your brain when you're too stressed for too long, including seriously scary long-term consequences like depression and dementia.

I received some understandably concerned responses from people who are also living through the year 2020. But stress isn't all bad! In fact, some research suggests that stress can be protective for the brain.

A study conducted by researchers in the Netherlands found that people who had mild to moderate stressful life events in old age, like the illness - but not death - of a loved one, had less cognitive decline than people who experienced either no stress or a very stressful event.

Another study by epidemiologists at Johns Hopkins University (founded in 1876, the first research university in the US and home to nine world-class academic divisions working together as one university) found that people who were caretakers for a loved one lived 18 per cent longer than people who didn't have to take on that responsibility.

The theory is that these types of challenging, stressful situations in which you're forced to adapt and change (like the Covid-19 pandemic) cause neurons to grow new pathways in the brain.

Those new connections between brain cells, called synapses, are at the root of learning and memory, and they make the brain more resilient by offsetting the loss of other connections that typically occurs with old age.

The more synapses you have, the better protected you are against cognitive decline and dementia. In fact, research has shown that people with more of this so-called cognitive reserve don't show memory loss or other symptoms of dementia, even if their brains have all the signs of Alzheimer's disease.

The critical neurochemical in this process is noradrenaline, also called norepinephrine. This is the chemical that triggers the "fight or flight" stress response. In addition to all the physiological changes it causes (faster heart rate, sweaty palms, dilated pupils), it also helps brain cells create new connections.

My neuroscientist celebrity crush, David Eagleman, supported this idea in a recent interview with *Elemental*. He said that the stress and novelty of the Covid-19 pandemic is actually good for your brain.

This is the one silver lining of Covid-19. It knocks us all off our hamster wheels, of doing things in a particular way, and forces everyone to think of new ways of doing things. And this is actually, cognitively, quite good for you.

In that sense, all our brains are forced to be more exercised than normal. Challenging your brain with novelty appears to provide cognitive protection.

So, really, the stress tsunami that is the year 2020 could be beneficial for our brains! It still doesn't seem worth the trade-off, but I'll take any upside at this point.

## Try this to regain control of your stress

It's important to recognize that for many people, pandemic stress is hardcore. If you've gotten sick or experienced the death of a loved one, or if you've lost your job or your work is high-risk, the challenges you're facing are not in the mild to moderate category. If this is you, try not to let your stress overwhelm you - though it is easier said than done, I know.

One of the best things you can do to regain control over a stressful situation is to take a few slow, deep breaths. By now, you've probably heard this advice dozens of times - and, while it sounds overly simple, there is some seriously cool science behind why it works.

Irish psychologist Ian Robertson, author of the book *The Stress Test*, explains in a very helpful video on managing stress



and burnout during the pandemic that it all comes back to noradrenaline. Too much stress leads to too much noradrenaline, which can be overwhelming and lead to feelings of anxiety.

Breathing helps control levels of noradrenaline in the brain. A slow, deep breath - Robertson recommends breathing in for five counts and out for six - reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in

your brain, and that in turn lowers noradrenaline levels to back to their sweet spot.

I highly recommend checking out Robertson's video for other pandemic stress management strategies. Another

one of his tips? Well, it's celebrating little wins throughout the day with a cup of tea.

• Dana G Smith is a senior writer for *Elemental*, a Medium publication about health and wellness.



# Tanzania reaching out to stakeholders to promote STI

By Guardian Correspondent

SCIENCE Granting Councils (SGCs) in sub-Saharan Africa have strengthened their capacities in conducting research and evidence-based policies in a bid to contribute to the socio-economic development of their respective countries.

These councils play an important role of providing funds and promoting research and innovation thus strengthening national science systems. SGC play a critical role in supporting the consolidation of a country's national system of innovation, and are central to funding and catalyzing research and innovation.

However, a recent study by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) revealed various challenges faced by the Councils which in turn affected implementation of their roles. The challenges include limited capacity, inadequate funding, poor coordination with other agencies and

poor implementation of science and research funding policies.

It is against this backdrop that the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) in sub-Saharan Africa was established, with focus on strengthening the capacities of SGC in order to support research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to economic and social development in sub-Saharan Africa.

There are 15 SGCs participating in the initiative. They are Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia from East Africa and Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Ghana from West Africa. Others are Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe from Southern Africa. These are all developing countries where science, technology and innovation landscapes still suffer from, among others, low capacities in research and research management.

"The importance of strengthening the capacities of publicly funded SGCs in Sub-Saharan Africa,

important brokerage institutions for continued gains in STI development on the continent is an imperative," reads part of a brief by SGCI.

The five-year programme is jointly funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF).

The programme builds effective science granting councils that strengthen national science systems and lead to nationally directed research that contributes to development in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Tanzania the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has received support from the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) specifically in the areas of areas of research management as well as formulation and implementation of policies based on the use of robust science, technology and innovation (STI) indicators.

COSTECH has also gained support in transferring science and technology to the private sector with the view to enhance partnerships within the sector and with other science systems actors.

"Fifteen SGCs have benefited from the Initiative. Policy and decision makers and the general public are other beneficiaries of the Initiative," says Neema Tindamanyire who is the coordinator of the Initiative in Tanzania.

Former coordinator of SGCI in Tanzania, Dr Bakari Msangi says that COSTECH conducts dialogues with policy makers usually during its Annual Science Week.

"These dialogues involve a wide range of policy and decision makers and focus mainly on STI. There is a need for increased support to develop policy briefs that can inform dialogues," Dr Bakari says.

The Commission also convenes STI exhibitions for policymakers in Parliament to showcase the impact of research on economic and

social development. COSTECH staff also meets with members of the Parliamentary Committee on STI twice a year to appraise them about achievements and ongoing work. Policymakers occasionally accompany COSTECH staff to field visits in order to witness what is happening on the ground.

Besides improved management of research grants systems SGCI has promoted the relationship between the Government and the private sector as the two parties have been involved in preparing and implementing current research projects.

"We also have private sector from the East African Community as partners," notes the Coordinator, adding that the Tanzania Government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has participated in various events organized by SGCI.

While it is the Initiative's responsibility to reach out to the private sector and other stakeholders and engage them in pro-

moting STI, the IDRC also underscores the importance of enlisting the participation of the private sector as partners in formulation and implementation of projects.

Efforts are now being made to ensure that current and future benefits to be realised from the SGCI are sustained. One of them is to solicit funding from various sources so that projects are co-funded in order to improve implementation and get the best outcomes.

"We also undertake close follow up on activities of the grants beneficiaries to make sure that funds are spent on the intended activities and subsequent results reflect value for money," says Dr Amos Nungu, the Director General of COSTECH.

There are also efforts to solicit funds from other sources in order to expand and support research and innovation activities with the view to speed up economic and social development among Tanzanians.

According to Dr Msangi, funds allocated by SGCI to individual projects are very limited thus calling additional investments for research activities. "SGCI should also consider supporting Post-Docs in order to widen the scope of research activities.

Previous implementation of the project had faced challenges because implementation of activities was supported by the Collaborative Technical Agency (CTA) but this has changed since SGCs took over.

However, according to Tindamanyire, it would be too early to attribute the improved research, science, technology transfer and innovation in Tanzania to SGCI.

"It is difficult to trace these improvements to the Initiative as implementation of research projects under its umbrella began only two years ago, in 2018. However, its impact will surely be evident in the coming five years," concluded Tindamanyire.

## FAJ and UNESCO issue strong call for greater access to information in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Dakar

JOURNALISTS, media organisations, academics and press freedom campaigners have joined forces with UNESCO to issue a strong call for greater access to information across Africa.

The call came during a virtual conference organised by the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) in collaboration with UNESCO, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and media organisations across the continent recently to mark International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI).

The virtual conference, "Right to information in times of crisis: Saving Lives, Building Trust and Bringing Hope" brought together more than one hundred participants from throughout Africa to highlight how constitutional or legal guarantees for public access to information can save lives, build trust and help shape sustainable policies.

In delivering the opening remarks at the conference, the Director and Country Representative, UNESCO Addis/Liaison Office to AU/UNECA, Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, said she hoped the commemoration of IDUAI will encourage more countries to adopt access to information legislation and to develop policies for multilingualism and cultural diversity in cyberspace to ensure no one is left behind.

She noted that even though in Africa there is a Model Law on Access to Information, which was adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in 2013, "so far only 25 countries in Africa have put in place national laws on access to information. This means we have an obligation as media partners in Africa to work and support AU member states to put in place this legal framework that would ensure all citizens in Africa will have access to information".

Taking up the theme, the Head of Afri-

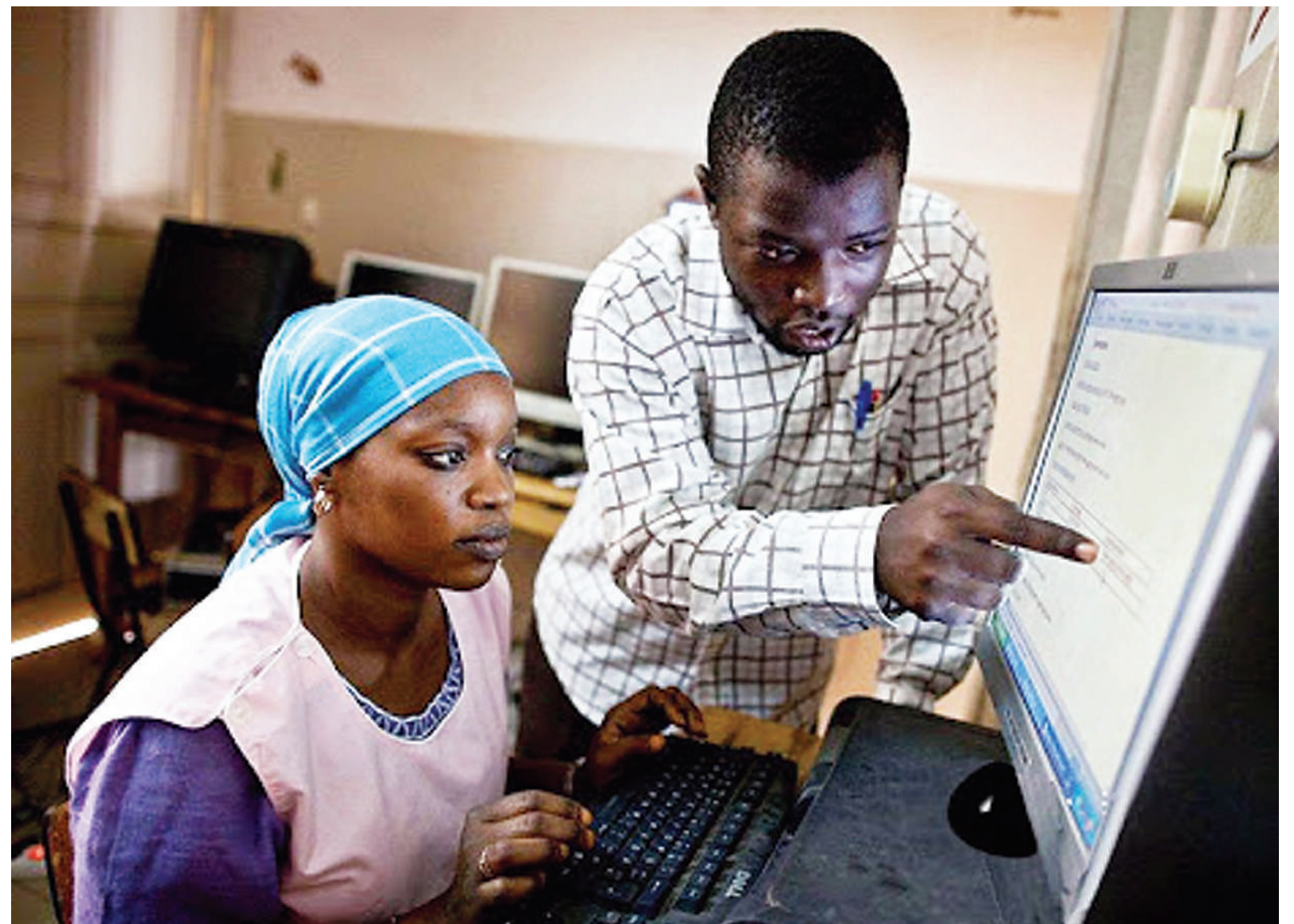
can Governance Architecture (AGA) at the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC), Ambassador Salah Saddig Hammad, said that access to information as part of the general framework of freedom of expression is a cornerstone of human rights.

Ambassador Salah said that freedom of expression and, in particular, access to information are essential in enabling participatory democracy. "Citizens cannot exercise their rights to vote effectively or take part in public decision-making if they do not have free access to information or ideas and are not able to express their views freely. Access to information is thus not only important for individual dignity, but also for participation, accountability and democracy".

He added that violations of freedom of expression often go hand in hand with other violations, notably the right to freedom of association and assembly.

The President of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Younes M'jahed, said that access to information is crucial to the work of journalists, especially those working on investigative stories. He urged more countries to adopt access to information legislation, noting that in Africa, almost 50% of countries are yet to do so. He called on FAJ and IFJ-affiliated unions and associations across the continent to work with civil society organisations in their respective countries in engaging their governments to promote access to information legislation as soon as possible where it does not yet exist.

The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), Jamesina Essie King, who delivered the Key Note Address, said that the right to access to information has never been so important. She criticised the failure to make timely, updated information available and reports of restric-



tions on accessing the internet, blocked social media platforms and other communication services. "These actions or lack thereof can have the deleterious effect of curtailing public access to crucial health information which may be needed not only to protect one from contracting the virus, but also from containing its spread".

The Special Rapporteur noted with concern that we cannot ignore the fact that at least 30 State Parties to the African Charter are yet to enact national level protection of the right to

access to information. She emphasised that there is need for African countries to take greater strides towards guaranteeing the right to access to information both in law and in practice.

The conference sessions discussed three major issues - access to information and the COVID 19 crisis in Africa; the gender dimension of access to information in Africa and the inequality gaps; and challenges in covering COVID 19 and policy guarantees for access to information implementation in time of crisis.

These topics were tackled by a wide range of panellists from various media organisations in the continent including, Article 19, Access Now, African Women in the Media (AWIM), the Ethiopian Media Council, The African Editors Forum (TAEF), IFJ, FAJ and UNESCO.

Panellist and participants emphasised that African governments must go beyond simply putting in place access to information laws but also ensure its effective implementation based on the principles of transparency, accountability and participation.

## SADC member states step up efforts to address impact of COVID-19

By Special Correspondent,

Windhoek

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) executive secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax has said the region has stepped up efforts to address the impact of COVID-19 on member states' health delivery systems, the business environment and to mitigate the impact on their economies and socio-economic environments.

COVID-19 has brought multiple challenges to the SADC member states and these include unavailability of drugs and equipment, food insecurity, gender-based violence and a negative impact on the economies of Member States.

In an interview with Dr Shaka Ssali on Voice of America's, Straight Talk Africa, recently, Dr Tax said when COVID-19 broke out at the beginning of the year, there was a feeling that it was only health-relat-

ed, but this turned out not to be the case and the region moved in quickly to mitigate the impact.

SADC has conducted a study on COVID-19 and has produced a report which details the extent of the impact of the pandemic on Member States. The study recommends the way forward for the region to mitigate against the disease.

The study shows that, while the initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been on the health sector in terms of infections, deaths and overstretched health systems, and that, measures implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19, such as lockdowns, and travel restrictions have helped in containing its spread, these measures, and COVID-19 in general have had adverse effects on a number of socio-economic sectors.

According to the study, COVID-19 has disrupted global supply chains as well as

lowering demand in global markets for a wide range of SADC's exports and hence undermined progress made in increasing SADC intra-trade. Moreover, SADC is likely to experience delayed or reduced Foreign Direct Investment as partners from other continents redirect capital locally. The study further indicates that, while the impact of COVID-19 on governance, peace and security is yet to be fully explored, the study urges SADC Member States to prepare adequately for imminent COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 scenarios which may present serious challenges to peace and security both nationally and regionally.

The study recommends suppressing and controlling the pandemic in the absence of a vaccine and urges Member States to invest in strengthening their health systems to isolate,

test, trace new cases and to treat them. Member States should also consider ways of ensuring that work resumes and continues. As such Member States need to invest in ICT infrastructure to ensure that work continues.

"It has been very clear that there are multiple challenges in terms of food security, increased GBV (gender-based violence), and on a number of economic sectors such as finance, tourism and trade, to mention just a few, indicated Dr Tax during the interview.

She further indicated that "what we have done as a region first was to quickly mobilize resources to address not only the health part of it, but also to put in place measures to address the socio-economic impacts. More significantly, and which was a major issue to address urgently, was facilitation of transportation and movement of goods and services".

"There were a number of lockdowns and movement of goods and services was constrained, including essential goods for COVID-19. So what we did quickly was to put guidelines to enable the region to facilitate movement of essential goods, we then realized that COVID is not a temporary phenomenon,

that will leave soon, the guidelines on facilitation of transport and movement of goods, were revisited to facilitate movement of goods and services overall. This has to a great extent contained the negative impacts of COVID-19 on trade, on the balance sheets of our economies," Dr Tax said.

COVID-19 had impacted a number of sectors in the 16 Member States of SADC, and this was not only confined to tourism, but the manufacturing and agriculture sectors, with food security heavily impacted on.

Recognizing the importance of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Cooperation, SADC, together with its tripartite partners, the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC), have also adopted harmonized Tripartite Guidelines on Trade and Transport Facilitation Guidelines for Safe, Efficient and Cost-Effective Movement of Goods and Services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The guidelines are aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19 while facilitating trade and movement of goods and services across the tripartite area during the pandemic. The guidelines have been adopted as minimum uniform regula-

tions, procedures and standards to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 and minimize disruptions in the supply chain and to facilitate movement of goods and services across COMESA, EAC, and SADC regions.

The COMESA-EAC-SADC TFTA stretches from Cape Town to Cairo, creating an integrated market with a combined population of almost 600 million people and a total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about US\$1 trillion. The specific objectives of the guidelines are to complement regional and national measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Asked on the impacts of COVID-19 on food security in the region, and measures put in place, Dr Tax said COVID-19 was not the only issue affecting food security in the SADC region, but also the impacts of climate change, which has affected with regional economies. A number of adaptations and mitigatory measures had been put in place to deal with effects of climate change.

She also indicated that a number of interventions had also been put in place in the financial sector and the region had reached out to its international cooperating partners to soften the arrangements so as to mitigate and cushion the consequences of COVID-19.



# Xiplomacy echoes call of the times at UN meetings

BEIJING

WITH the world beset with such grave challenges as a raging pandemic, continuing recession, surging isolationism and rising hegemonism, the recent series of UN high-level meetings represent the world's latest bid to find humanity's way forward.

In multiple speeches delivered at the most important international platform, Chinese President Xi Jinping expounded his approach to addressing the fundamental questions of the times and his vision on uniting all nations sharing the planet to build a better shared future.

"Peace and development remain the underlying trend of the times, and people everywhere crave even more strongly for peace, development and win-win cooperation," he said at the general debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). "COVID-19 will not be the last crisis to confront humanity, so we must join hands and be prepared to meet even more global challenges."

The Chinese leader drew the world together with a plan and a vision of how to work, said Stephen Perry, chairman of Britain's 48 Group Club. "He is a beacon of hope in a dark moment of the planet. I hope he can carry other national leaders with him and to focus on making the world work right."

## MULTILATERALISM AS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE

At a historic juncture 75 years ago, the United Nations, the epitome of multilateralism, was established following the scourge of two world wars to maintain lasting peace and promote common development.

"Today, we face our own 1945 moment," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at the opening of the 75th UNGA, warning about a new standoff as the multilateral system, the foundation for globalization and integration, is exposed to salient risks and challenges, such as treaty withdrawals and military and economic bullying



Members of the Chinese medical expert team pose for a photo with a local staff member at a nucleic acid testing center in Conakry, Guinea, Sept. 2, 2020. Photo Xinhua

practices.

Noting that the past 75 years has been a period of rapid development of multilateralism, Xi stressed at the High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations that "international affairs ought to be addressed through consultation among us all."

"Problems facing the world are big and many, and global challenges are on the increase," he said. "They should and can only be resolved through dialogue and cooperation."

This commitment to equality-based consultation has been an essential feature of Xi's diplomatic thought, now widely known as Xiplomacy. Since he took office as Chinese president in 2013, he has reiterated the principle on a variety of international occasions, steadfastly advocating multilateralism over unilateralism and win-win cooperation over zero-sum confrontation.

In his landmark UNGA address five years ago, Xi pointed out that all countries are interdependent and share a

common future, and called for global efforts to "renew our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter" and "build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation."

Over the years, China has demonstrated that it is not only an advocate but also a practitioner of multilateralism and defender of the UN-centered international system. China, said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a recent forum, has joined almost all universal intergovernmental organizations and international conventions.

Calling China "a pillar of multilateralism," Guterres said in a recent interview with Xinhua that he expects China to "continue its proactive policies to strengthen the UN's global work on maintaining peace and security and encouraging sustainable development."

COMMON DEVELOPMENT AS

## GOLDEN KEY

Underneath the various challenges troubling today's world lie assorted development problems, which have only become more acute against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and its multidimensional impact.

"The issue of development should be highlighted in the global macro framework; and there should be a greater emphasis on the promotion and protection of the rights to subsistence and development," Xi said at the latest UN meetings.

China is committed to peaceful, open, cooperative and common development, he reiterated, echoing his statements five years ago that "development of all is the real development, and sustainable development is the good development."

"We aim to foster, over time, a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other," Xi said. "This will create more space for China's economic development and add impetus to global economic recovery and growth."

Commenting on the surge of anti-globalization sentiment over recent years, Xi warned that "burying one's head in the sand like an ostrich in the face of economic globalization or trying to fight it with Don Quixote's lance goes against the trend of history."

Championing common development, China has rolled out such platforms as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China International Import Expo and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which have offered a sliver lining in the pandemic-triggered global economic recession.

For example, the BRI, after seven years of steady development, has now become the world's largest platform of international cooperation, and the China-initiated AIIB has provided 24 members with nearly 20 billion U.S. dollars to finance their infrastructure construction.

Testifying to its commitment to in-

clusive development, China has achieved significant progress in promoting women's development. It is recognized by the World Health Organization as one of the 10 fast-track countries in women's and children's health. At the UN meetings, Xi called for concerted efforts "to support women and help them live their lives to the full."

On the front of poverty alleviation, a top priority in Xi's mind, China is set to lift out of poverty all rural residents living below the current poverty line within the set time frame, meeting 10 years ahead of schedule the poverty eradication target set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Calling China's poverty-fighting campaign "an inspiring strategy," Alicia Barcena, executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, said China has made it possible "to accelerate the reduction of poverty at the global level."

## SHARED FUTURE AS GUIDING LIGHT

In a world which Guterres said has "a surplus of multilateral challenges and a deficit of multilateral solutions," Xi called on all countries to rise above differences in nationality, culture and ideology, and join hands to build a better shared future for all.

The vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, first introduced to the international community in 2013, has become the flagship concept in Xiplomacy and a consistent underlying theme of Xi's remarks on international relations.

Stressing the significance of the ecosystem to humanity's future, Xi suggested that all countries "take up our lofty responsibility for the entire human civilization, ... balance and coordinate economic development and ecological protection, and work together to build a prosperous, clean and beautiful world."

In a clear demonstration of its dedication to that vision, China, the first country to bear the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic and also among the first to put it under effective control, has been fighting shoulder to shoulder with the international community against the coronavirus disease.

Recognizing that in a pandemic no one is safe until everyone is safe, China has sent medical expert teams to 34 countries to help prevent and control the epidemic, and provided aid for more than 150 countries and international organizations. As regards climate change, another challenge that threatens the future of the entire humankind, Xi announced at the latest UN meetings that China aims to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

"There is no doubt that efforts from China will play a major role in shaping how the rest of the world progresses on climate action," said Helen Clarkson, CEO of the London-based Climate Group, in an interview with Xinhua.

Xinhua

## The elegant giraffe crosses the road again, but with little guarantee of sustainable life!

By Faisal Issa

I WAS a young person then - maybe at most ten years old or less - in a commuter bus. The bus was moving on a tarmac road traversing grassland.

Time and again, a giraffe would gracefully move to cross the road. The elegant and likeable animal moved composedly in well-calculated steps the way beautiful models do during cat walks.

The bus keeps stopping at these spectacular scenes for sightseeing purposes, or so one would presume. The driver of this Leyland Albion (not a Scania, an Isuzu or a Yutong) and his passengers would feast their eyes on this elegant animal, captivated and seeming not in a hurry any more.

These were the good old days. As we travelled the road again some few years back, in this age of the Noahs, the journey was much shorter but also much less interesting.

Giraffes and zebras are plentiful in national parks and game reserves. It is often granted that they can be easily seen. I am sure that a visitor to our national parks who is entertained by seeing a lion, a buffalo, a rhino or a hyaena but fails to see a giraffe will undoubtedly register that fact in his or her mind as much as would happen after not spotting a lion.

I bought a new fridge for my mother, thanks to her support in my education. Surprisingly, I often expect the taste of water offered for drinking at her house to taste and smell wonderfully as the water that used to be kept in the traditional earthenware pot known as 'mtungi' in Kiswahili.

As I thirst for the 'mtungi' water, travelling the same road, I often find myself psychologically ready to see a giraffe, a zebra, and some antelopes - but not an elephant. We only used to find the remains of elephants, and not the elephants themselves moving in the woods ravaging for wild plants especially of the cactus family.

You had to be lucky or be a frequent visitor of the bush to see an elephant. Some few years back, cruising on the same road a distance of over one hundred kilometres, one would have been very lucky to see an antelope; and the giraffe was a rarity.

Certainly, there were plenty of theories - but, of course, not increased safety consciousness on the part of the animal - attributed to the absence or near absence of giraffes crossing the Arusha-Longido road.

The number of donkeys is also said to dwindle. The reasons given for this include longer dry spells and less food to be shared with the domesticated animals kept for milk and meat; the rebuilding of a highway which had happened recently leading to perhaps increased interest in bush-meat - which was previously meat only during severe droughts and

hunger. Others blame the migration to the area of bush-meat lovers or those seeking fortune through trade in bush-meat.

The predominant opinion of most respondents on the apparent rarity of giraffes was that more could be done and should be done to protect what remains of the delights of the past for future generations, if possible as intact as when handed over to us by nature.

Fast forward to five years on, in September 2020, travelling through the same route with three colleagues in the early hours of the night in a hired Noah commuter bus, I was enchanted once again by the presence of plentiful giraffes!

One of us was urging the driver to step a little harder on the petrol pedal. The driver, a young 'modern-day' Maasai, advised that we had to drive a little less fast because giraffes would likely be crossing the road at some point.

I pointed out there were no giraffes, zebras or other wild animals to be spotted easily anywhere around only a few years back. The driver then commented that there are many now of them and they are much more visible at night. No sooner had he made the remark than we saw two graceful giraffes right on the road, five on one side of the road and one on the other side of the road.

The scene was truly spectacular - a sight to behold! Their velvety skins shining from the moonlight, their heads held high, their legs elegantly tall, they just stood there blocking the road, as some kept watch on either side of the road.

We all went for our mobile phones to take pictures. The windows of our commuter Noah minibus were not of much help, though, as we just could not lower them to take the best pictures with our mobile phones.

One of us exclaimed: "This is beautiful!" I was instantly reminded about my childhood days. What I used to look forward to most while travelling between Longido and Arusha was to see ostriches, zebras and giraffes. I then thought to myself that I had finally found good cause to visit my mother more often!

However, we had to move on after a while. The driver alerted us that if we just stood there and watched, the giraffes would likely follow suit by just standing there and watching us.

He restarted the car, and we moved on very slowly while he played with the lights, occasionally dimming them. One of us, who may have not previously seen such a big wild animal from close range, was a little worried that the giraffes might not take kindly to our "unnecessary presence" in the area.

But the driver assured him that giraffes were not aggressive animals and would soon trot away: "Your speed needs to be managed well. If you come across a giraffe crossing the road and you are moving at high speed, you just cannot stop on time, and you may hit it or it may kick the car to ward off



an unexpected foe - and that would be dangerous since the giraffe has a very powerful kick."

The driver added that hitting a giraffe would cause us problems with the park and other authorities, warning: "You can think nobody has seen you, but you might be in for a big shock. I do not know how the authorities know about it, but somehow the word spreads so quickly that they soon find you."

Giraffes, zebras and ostriches grace

and give life again to the grasslands through which passes the Great North Road that runs from Cairo right to Cape Town. There are times when elephants can also be seen.

We and our children can once again expect to see our wildlife and other natural resources blossom to their full potential! Pragmatism in leadership and a keen sense of loyalty to our country by all of us citizens are powerful tools if we are to witness sustainable development.

The small national park lying somewhere between Arusha, Longido and Namanga can stand as a good measure by which to provide long-term protection to wild animals in the grasslands and the rest of the ecosystem there. It's our sincere hope and prayer that this will, indeed, be what we shall witness.

Dr Faisal H. H. Issa is a senior lecturer Mzambe University.





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## KDCU heeds govt order to pay coffee farmers 48.9bn/- arrears

By Francis Kajubi

**I**N response to a directive by Permanent Secretary Agriculture minister Gerald Kusaya issued earlier this year, Karagwe District Cooperative Union has already paid 45.5bn/- of the 48.9bn/- owed to coffee farmers.

Speaking to Smart Money over the phone from Bukoba this week, KDCU General Manager, Oscar Dominick said that the cooperation will soon finish paying the smallholder farmers as it continues to pay debts as directed.

Diminick said has so far, KDCU has collected 40,000 metric tons from coffee farmers registered in 125 primary cooperative unions in Karagwe and Kyerwa Districts. "The 40 million kilograms worth 48.9bn/- and so far we have paid up 90 percent of the debt. More than 12,000 farmers in Karagwe and Kyerwa have been paid," he said.

He pointed out that the season seems to be very promising because KDCU has receiving more than a million kilogram a week since May when the season started and will end in April 2021.

Dominick dismissed recent complaints by



Permanent Secretary Gerald Kusaya.

farmers that KDCU has since the beginning of the season delayed their payments which prompted Kusaya's order as the government seeks to encourage farmers increase production. The KDCU chief acknowledged that coffee purchasing prices this season have stabilized hence allowing farmers to receive pre-payment scheme through their respective unions.

Kusaya who visited Kagera Region in September this year, ordered KDCU to clear debts that were supposed to be paid in August. "I am aware that KDCU has not yet paid the 12.4bn/- arrears to farmers. I order KDCU management to make these payments before the end of September," the Agriculture Ministry PS charged while extending his directive to all cooperative unions across the country.

According to data by the Tanzania Coffee Board, coffee collections through cooperatives unions from the 17 coffee growing regions in the country for the current season topped 79,245 metric tons for unprocessed beans against the target of 108,000 tons. Collections of processed coffee also amounted to 44,695 tons against the targeted 70,000 tons.

During the current season, the KDCU GM said a kilogram of dry unprocessed Robusta is fetching 1,200/- while that of Arabica goes at a price of between 1,250/- and 1,500/-.

## Ministry of Agriculture's PS commends NBC for support smallholder farmers

By Smart Money Reporter

**F**INANCIAL and technical support being rendered by National Bank of Commerce to smallholder coffee farmers has attracted government's approval as a way of improving agriculture.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Agriculture, Gerald Kusaya said last week when closing the First Kahawa Festival held in Moshi which brought together different stakeholders from agriculture and finance sectors to commemorate the International Coffee Day, that financial institutions have a key role to play in improving agriculture production.

"A farmer who wants to engage in commercial agriculture and agribusiness must be supported financially, we believe the loans that NBC pro-

vides them with are fruitful as they help increase the scale of production," Kusaya said.

He said the Ministry is impressed by the new service called 'NBC Shambani' which is helping many farmers to steadily graduate from subsistence farming to large scale commercial agriculture hence fulfilling government's plans for an agrarian revolution.

NBC Shambani is NBC's services targeting farmers especially with access to all the financial services ranging from loans and banking accounts opening with an advantage of having a group account for Agriculture Marketing Cooperative Societies (Amcos) and individual accounts with no service charges.

NBC Branch Manager for Moshi, Lazaro Mollel said the Kahawa Festival

was useful for the bank as it engaged with stakeholders including farmers to understand their needs and help address them through various innovative products and services.

Mollel said the bank has deployed NBC Shambani and NBC Kiganjani to help farmers easily save and access their money anytime and anywhere in the country. "NBC Shambani targets all stakeholders including distributors of agricultural products, farmers as well as those supplying agricultural inputs and it allows farmers who are working in groups like Amcos to open a group account," he said.

During the festival, NBC was awarded with a Gold sponsorship category as one of the main sponsors of the three days exhibitions organized by the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB).



NBC Bank relationships manager for Moshi Branch, Neema Soka (L), receives a certificate of appreciation from Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Gerald Kusaya during the final day of the First Kahawa Festival held in Moshi municipality last week. Photo courtesy of NBC.



## Global LNG to play 'big' role in Taleveras's future plans

LAGOS

**T**ALEVERAS has joined a growing list of global trading firms increasing their presence in the liquefied natural gas market (LNG), raising its delivery volumes by almost 30% year on year. Global LNG to play large role in Taleveras's future plans.

At the South Asian Gas and Power Roundtable event recently, Carolina Bermudez, a senior executive at Taleveras, stated that global LNG demand would expand significantly by the mid-2030s. Taleveras said it is still looking to cement its role as Africa's leading independent trader of liquefied natural gas, the fastest growing fossil fuel. Taleveras said it plans to increase and expand its supply sources of LNG in order to maintain a vibrant portfolio to super such demand growth.

Global demand for LNG has witnessed a significant jump in recent times. Taleveras believes LNG trade demand will grow at an average of 3.4% a year between 2019 and 2040. The company, however, expects LNG demand from Asia - especially China, to contract from the year 2036. Taleveras also

predicted that India's economic growth would be the single largest source of demand growth out to 2050, as the country's coal-to-gas switching policies will continue to drive LNG imports.

"As the world continues to deal with the severe impacts of market demand and the impact of Covid-19, the fundamentals are supported by a growing population and energy demand, LNG will continue to remain a high growth industry based on a growing economy worldwide," Carolina Bermudez, Taleveras senior trader on LNG, said during a presentation.

To many industry watchers and analysts, Taleveras, which has enjoyed success since its incorporation in the late '90s, has had to navigate innumerable challenges in the ever-volatile oil and gas industry.

Today, Taleveras is increasingly gaining a respected position as a resilient company that keeps thriving on in the oil markets.

Taleveras, one of Africa's leading integrated en-

ergy conglomerates, was founded in the late '90s by Nigerian entrepreneur Igho Charles Sanomi II. The company operates and invests in the upstream, mid-stream, downstream and power sector of the energy industry.

A top oil industry analyst, who preferred not to be named, stated that: "The oil and gas industry, especially when you are contracting with sovereign states, could be tricky as it's difficult to avoid the politics and the associated negative perception."

Taleveras has had its fair share of its public perception problems, but the major talk in the industry is about how they are navigating through everything positively, and diversifying their business in the global markets. If they can sustain this growth and overcome it all, it will surely be one for the books."

## Atlas Mara gets new buyer after snubby Equity Group

NAIROBI

**L**ondon-based Atlas Mara Limited is set to sell a 100 percent stake in its Mozambican banking subsidiary to Nigeria's Access Bank after Equity Group walked out of the deal in June.

Equity had signed an agreement with Atlas Mara to buy 62 percent of the share capital of Rwanda's Banque Populaire du Rwanda and 100 percent of African Banking Corporation of Zambia, African Banking Corporation Tanzania and African Banking Corporation Mozambique.

The Kenyan banking multinational later decided to terminate the deal, citing increased risk from the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Equity would have also been required to inject additional capital into the banks, most of which are in losses. Atlas Mara says it has reached a new deal to sell BancABC Mozambique to Access Bank, adding that more divestitures could follow.

"This transaction with Access Bank is an important step in our broader repositioning of the group as a streamlined holding company, with an increased focus on core markets," the company said in a trading update.

"In addition to the transaction announced ... the company continues to evaluate a number of strategic options, which may include additional divestiture or partnership transactions, or other alternatives that align with these and other objectives for the benefit of Atlas Mara."

The company added that it has evaluated indications of interest from a number

of potential partners and transaction counterparties. Access Bank will pay Atlas Mara upfront cash on the deal completion date equivalent to 80 percent of BancABC Mozambique' net assets as of June 30, 2020.

It will make additional cash payments two years later, subject to certain conditions. The deal marks the latest expansion for Access Bank which recently spent Sh1.4 billion to acquire Kenya's Transnational Bank. Equity had agreed to pay for the four Atlas Mara banks by issuing a 6.72 percent stake valued at about Sh10 billion to the London-listed firm in the deal that was cancelled after 14 months.

The Kenyan bank, however, proceeded with the purchase of a controlling 66.5 percent stake in Banque Commerciale Du Congo (BCDC) in a Sh10.3 billion cash transaction that was completed in August. The abandoned deal with Atlas Mara was part of Equity's ambitious regional expansion plan that has been put on hold in the wake of the pandemic, with the bank going into capital-preservation mode.

**This transaction with Access Bank is an important step in our broader repositioning of the group as a streamlined holding company, with an increased focus on core markets," the company said in a trading update**



## African airlines see small rise in demand for cargo



An Air Tanzania Company Limited plane being loaded with cargo at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam.

By Smart Money Reporter

**A**FRICAN airlines saw demand increase by 1 per cent in August the fourth consecutive month in which the region posted the strongest increase in international demand and only instance of year-on-year growth among all regions in international volumes. Investment flows along the Africa-Asia route continue to drive the regional outcomes.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for global air freight markets in August showing that improvement remains slow amid insufficient capacity. Demand moved slightly in a positive direction month-on-month; however, levels remain depressed compared to 2019.

Improvement continues at a slower pace than some of the traditional leading indicators would suggest. This is due to the capacity constraint from the loss of available belly cargo space as passenger aircraft remain parked.

"Air cargo demand improved by 1.8 percentage points in August compared to July. That's still down 12.6 percent on previous year levels and well below the 5.1 percent improvement in the manufacturing PMI. Improvement is being stalled by capacity constraints as large parts of the passenger fleet, which normally carries 50 percent of all cargo, remain grounded," said IATA Director General, Alexandre de Juniac.

Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers was 12.6 percent below previous-year levels in August (-14 percent for international operations). That is a modest improvement from the 14.4 percent year-on-year drop recorded in July. Seasonally-adjusted demand grew by 1.1 percent month-on-month in August.

Global capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers shrank by 29.4 percent in August (31.6 percent for international operations) compared to the previous year. This is basically unchanged from the 31.8 percent year-on-year drop in July.

Belly capacity for international air cargo was 67 percent below the levels of August 2019 owing to the withdrawal of passenger services amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This was partially offset by a 28.1 percent increase in dedicated freighter capacity. Daily widebody freighter utilization is close to 11 hours per day, the highest levels since these

figures have been tracked in 2012. "The peak season for air cargo will start in the coming weeks, but with severe capacity constraints shippers may look to alternatives such as ocean and rail to keep the global economy moving," de Juniac said.

Economic activity continued to recover in August reflected, among other things, in the performance of the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) indicator of economic health in the manufacturing sector: The new export orders component of the manufacturing PMI rose by 5.1% year-on-year, its best performance since late 2017; and The PMI tracking global manufacturing output increased month-on-month and remained above the 50-mark, indicating growth.

## Tigo lures customers with digital products to mark service week



Tigo Tanzania's head of customer service unit, Mwangaza Matotola (C), briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the Customer Service Week. With her are customer care representative Dora Mzingira (R) and head of sales and distribution Catherine Rutenge. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Smart Money Reporter

MEMBERS of the public have been encouraged to visit Tigo Tanzania's shops and access several digital platforms and products including Call Center, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook but also smartphones to access such services.

In a statement yesterday, the leading digital lifestyle company, this year's customer service week is being marked in style with recognition of front-line staff who are the flag bearers of the telco's success in the market.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Tigo's Head of Customer Service, Mwangaza Matotola said the week will be marked by showcasing the company's

excellent customer services and customer care providers.

"This year has been a year filled with challenges for our customer care team, pooled in together to ensure customers' queries are handled within the shortest time, since we cannot accommodate most customers into the shops," Matotola said.

She said the telco is encouraged by customers to adopt the lifestyle of using its digital platforms, hence the utmost appreciation to its team which ensured that it provided exceptional services. Tigo's customer service week festivities will involve a range of activities including live chats with customers, meetings and stakeholders' awareness on how they can jointly improve the quality of service being provided.

"As per this year's theme, at Tigo, we appreciate our dream team for adapting to change and this is why we insist on giving reliable and efficient services to customers daily," Matotola noted adding that such was showcased by customer care teams in different regions across the country.

The customer care service week shall conclude with the customer care staff awards gala, whereby outstanding individuals will be rewarded and acknowledged for their never ending professionalism, efficiency and high level of service to customers.

The week-long celebration will align with this year's theme: 'Dream team,' which reflects the importance of teamwork in providing outstanding service to customers, the focus being the Tigo staff who work together to ensure customer get the best service across the market.

## How alcohol dealers evaded billions in tax

KIGALI

TWO individuals were arrested last week after it was discovered that they were producing and selling alcohol that contained ethanol and methanol in amounts above the legal limit.

And now, The New Times has learned, they were also involved in a massive and complex tax evasion scheme. The duo are Beatrice Gahongayire, the owner of African Buffalo Ltd and Bonaventure Nyitegeka, who was in charge of operations at the firm.

African Buffalo is based in Ndera Sector, Gasabo District. The company produced various alcohol beverages known by brand names: Moonlight Vodka, MasterCane Spirit and ReaWaragi Gin. They were all declared illegal. One of the tactics used was concealing the real owners of the company.

Gahongayire registered her business under the name of Laurent Semanza who is categorized under Level 2 of the social protection programme, Ubudehe. Category 2 is the second tier income level with the most wealthy at 5 and poorest at 1.

A tax audit of the company revealed that the firm owed taxes of over Rwf1.6 billion, however, Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) was unable to collect this tax or cease assets of the owner, who on paper, was not the real owner and based on his categorisation possessed no assets.

Registering the company under someone else's names made it possible for the owners to avoid cease of assets in the event of tax fraud. Gahongayire is also suspected to have created other companies to operate as distribution avenues for her alcohol products. She also set up bars to sell her products.

One distribution agency linked to Gahongayire was found to owe about Rwf76 million in taxes. The second way the Africa Buffalo is suspected to defraud RRA, is through misuse of tax incentives. To improve the competitiveness of local producers and boost investment, the government granted tax exemptions on select imported raw materials, a policy Gahongayire is suspected of abusing.

Sources with insights to the matter revealed that Gahongayire would import products such as Ethanol and instead of using it as a raw material (the purpose she got the exemption), she would sell to other firms locally without declaring and paying the required taxes.

Documents seen by The New Times show that in 2015, African Buffalo imported an equivalent of 395,500 litres of raw materials while the firm only produced 34,354 litres of wine and liquor, less than 10 per cent of the volumes imported.

The New Times reached out to a senior tax auditor at KPMG Rwanda, Angello Musinguzi on misuse of incentives and its effects on receipts. He said that a business engaging in the vice causes an economy to be a net importer and reduces taxes such as excise tax and value-added tax that should be paid by manufactures.

"If this is happening, it is illegal and the punishments are heavy including revoking of investment certificate, confiscation of materials, and prosecution. This is planned tax evasion. The incentives are aimed at improving industrialisation and job creation, selling raw materials therefore does not lead to economic growth and leaves Rwanda a net importer. This also reduces taxes such as excise tax and VAT that should be paid by manufacturers," Musinguzi said.

Investigations by The New Times show that the firm could also have been involved in fraud schemes on Corporate Income tax by creating dummy companies (named Shifroza and Mukabugingo) operating as distributors to enable them to declare huge expenses and low turnovers by overstating the cost of sales.



Inside African Buffalo Limited's factory.

## 'Factory activity in SA saw softer fall in Sept'

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African private sector activity showed a softer decline last month as an easing of lockdown restrictions boosted business activity and new sales, a survey showed on Monday.

The IHS Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 49.4 from 45.3 in August, although the figure remained below the 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction. Subscribe for full access to all our share and unit trust data tools, our award-winning articles, and support quality journalism in the process.

"It was the highest reading since October 2019 and, when comparing with historical growth trends, was indicative of a rise in quarterly GDP," said David Owen, an economist at IHS Markit. In mid-September President Cyril Ramaphosa further loosened pandemic restrictions in South Africa, which had one of the world's strictest lockdowns at the height of its Covid-19 outbreak, squeezing businesses and pushing the economy into a record contraction.

Output and new business fell at much softer rates, while future expectations ticked-up, with firms confident of higher demand. Spare capacity, however, led companies to further reduce employment, the survey found. South Africa, which already has one of the world's highest unemployment's rates and has struggled to create employment even during growth periods, shed more than two million jobs between April and June.

"Expansions in output and demand will be needed to help businesses revive job markets though, as employment continued to fall steeply. A rise in jobs will likely appear after an increase in economic activity, as firms will need time to recoup losses from the pandemic," said Owen.



## Client thanks bank for support in the midst of coronavirus crisis to usher in customer week



CRDB Bank Plc's managing director, Abdulmajid Nsekela (R), feeds a cake to one of the bank's customer to mark the launch of this year's Customer Service Week in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

By Smart Money Reporter

CLOSE relations and listening to customer needs at all times including during the tense coronavirus outbreak earlier this year by CRDB Bank Plc have earned applause from the public.

One of the bank's customers, Dr Judith Mhina of PMM Estate (2001) said in Dar es Salaam this week to mark the beginning of this year's customer services week in Dar es Salaam that CRDB has proved its worth as the bank, 'that listens,' through its engagements with clients.

"I thank CRDB Bank's management for ensuring that they work closely together with us by addressing challenges that we face as business owners and individuals," Dr Mhina who is PMM Estate (2001) Managing Director said.

She commended the bank's management and staff for the good services while urging them to stay the course and ensuring that banking remains convenient to customer at all levels of the market. "We as customers are particularly impressed with how you have handled the loans issue and promise you that we are

doing everything possible to repay so that others can also borrow," she noted.

The annual customer service week was launched by CRDB Board Chairman, Dr Ally Laay in the presence of his deputy, Professor Neema Mori and Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela. Speaking during the launch, Nsekela thanked the bank's clients for continued support which has resulted into better performance during the first half of this year.

He said despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 outbreak, the bank has performed well thanks to loyal customers who have serviced their loans while enjoying other products and services of the Dar es Salaam based lender.

"This year has continued to be a remarkable year of success to CRDB despite various challenges encountered so far locally but also across the globe. All this has been possible because of our loyal customers with whom we have been working hand in hand in addressing their needs," he said while pledging continued customer centred service delivery indefinitely.

He said during the customer service week, the bank's officials nationwide will interact with customers and members of the public to listen to their needs and challenges while also advising them on financial matters.

The bank which April this year unveiled a customer feedback digital platform aimed at simplifying receiving of suggestions and comments from customers, has said the public received the online system well.

"Since April this year when we unveiled this digital platform, customer response has been overwhelming and so far we have received 669 written submission from both

local and foreign based clients," the CRDB chief added.

The bank's performance has been improving year on year with net profit of over 120bn/- and has so far this year posted 70.4bn/- net profit during the first half, a 15 percent increase compared to last year's 61.1bn/-.

CRDB Bank is the first bank in Tanzania to be rated amongst the top ten stable and safer to invest African banks by the world's most respected rating agency, Moody's Investors Services. Moody's rated CRDB Bank with a "B1 stable outlook" which is the highest rating to have been acquired by banks or financial institutions in Sub Saharan Africa.

In 2019, CRDB Bank became the first Bank in East and Central Africa to receive the United Nations Green Climate Fund (GCF) Accreditation which enables the Bank to finance different vital green projects.

The Tier 1 with its subsidiary in Burundi serves more than three million customers with a large footprint of over 250 branches, over 14,000 CRDB Wakalas, 551 ATMs, over 1,200 merchants and a 24/7 Call Centre.

## 'We're a long, long way from running out of gold reserves'

JOHANNESBURG

ALL the gold that's ever been mined would fit into a cube with edges 22 metres long – small enough to fit into three Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Each year, miners and pawnbrokers add another 4 000 to 5 000 metric tons to an existing 197 576 ton pile, but jewelry demand alone uses up about half of that.

With the metal hitting a record \$2 075 a troy ounce in August, the concern we're heading toward peak gold has reared its head again.

The industry needs to commission 8 million ounces of projects by 2025 to maintain last year's production levels, consultants Wood Mackenzie wrote in June, requiring some \$37 billion of capital investment.

Mine production fell last year for the first time in more than a decade. Even the British Broadcasting Corp. has been asking whether we're at risk of running out.

At the core of the concern is a longstanding trend in the gold mining industry: The percentage of gold in ore reserves is falling, from more than 10 grams per ton in the late 1960s to barely more than 1 gram per ton nowadays.

Those concentrations are extraordinarily low – equivalent to grinding up and separating a Statue of Liberty's-worth of ore to recover a teaspoon of precious metal. At some point, the grade must get so poor that it becomes impossible to recover the gold economically.

The thing is, we don't know when that will be – and all the evidence indicates that we're still a long way from finding out.

Take Newcrest Mining's Cadia East mine 200 kilometres (124 miles) to the west of Sydney. The grade there is just 0.45 grams per ton – more than two Statue of Liberty's-worth per teaspoon – and yet the mine is one of the world's most profitable, with costs of \$160 per ounce, which would deliver a margin of more than 90% at current gold prices.

Two factors drive that. One is economies of scale: Cadia is one of the world's top 10 gold mines measured by output. Since the dawn of the mining industry, grades of almost every mineral have been falling because, by definition, the highest-grade, most easily discovered resources are the ones that get exploited first.

The growth of the sector has always depended upon better, higher-volume extraction technologies offsetting this fact.

The place where many of the highest-grade major gold deposits are still found, South Africa, is increasingly a backwater. That's because it's simply so difficult to extract ore from sweltering tunnels kilometres underground using hand-operated tools.

By comparison, the immense

blasting and dump-truck operations used to exploit lower-grade mines in Siberia, Oceania and Nevada are far more efficient.

The other factor is that most gold doesn't occur on its own. Indeed, the best deposits globally are porphyry, a mineral that's also one of the world's biggest sources of copper.

The operator of the world's biggest gold mine isn't a gold miner at all but copper producer Freeport-McMoRan, whose Grasberg pit on the Indonesian side of New Guinea produced nearly twice as much gold in 2018 as its nearest rival, Polyus PJSC's Olimpiada.

At Newcrest's Cadia, production costs are so low because for every ounce of gold that's mined you get about 140 kilograms (309 pounds) of copper, worth \$900 or so at current prices.

While the issues of mine depletion highlighted by Wood Mackenzie are real, high gold prices like those we're seeing at the moment are exactly the circumstances that will encourage more exploration and development activity to make up the shortfall.

Though people have been digging up gold for seven millennia, it's constantly being discovered in the most unexpected places.

Mining of the yellow metal in Australia's Victoria state all but ceased a century ago after the veins that drove its nation-building 19th-century gold rush were tapped out.

Then in 2015 Kirkland Lake Gold discovered a new ore body near its uninspiring Fosterville mine site, and realised it was sitting on top of one of the world's highest-grade deposits, causing its market capitalisation to grow nearly 100-fold in five years.

The same year, a unit of Zhaojin Mining Industry discovered a new deposit two kilometres below the surface of the Bohai Sea off the coast of northeast China's Shandong province. With some 212 metric tons of proven and probable reserves, it's now one of the world's largest gold deposits.

There's no reason to think that trend is about to break. About half of the world's gold has been mined since 1976, and if anything the pace is accelerating as grades fall. Worldwide, gold production is up by about a third over the past decade, far more than the 15% increase in oil output.



**Two factors drive that. One is economies of scale: Cadia is one of the world's top 10 gold mines measured by output. Since the dawn of the mining industry**

## How State roads engineer amassed Sh1.5bn in bribes

NAIROBI

A SENIOR official at a public roads agency has been found with assets in excess of Sh1.5 billion despite him earning a relative modest monthly salary of Sh390,000, triggering investigations into the source of his wealth.

Benson Muteti Musila, a regional manager of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (Kerra), is required to explain how he acquired his vast wealth of 35 assets, including land and other real estate property in Nairobi, Makeni and Kilifi counties which are managed by his spouse, Zipporah Mwangeli.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) raised the red flag on Mr Musila's wealth on suspicion that he was a beneficiary of kickbacks from road contractors through an account at KCB Bank Kilifi branch.

He, however, denied the claims and rushed to court seeking to block the EACC from investigating the wealth he co-owned with his wife, alleging a violation of his rights. Anti-Corruption Court judge Mumbi Nguni on Wednesday dismissed Mr Musila's petition and allowed the EACC to investigate the source of his wealth. "What the petitioners seek is to stop

not only the investigations but, in the event that the EACC finds any evidence requiring the prosecution of the 1st petitioner (Mr Muteti), to pre-empt such prosecution by the DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions)," the judge said.

Justice Nguni said it was in the public interest that the investigative bodies are allowed to carry out their mandates without interference, adding that there must be very clear and cogent reasons for the court to interfere with the exercise of their powers.

The judge added that Mr Musila failed to demonstrate a violation of his rights by the EACC's investigators. Following the nod by the court, the EACC is now set to resume investigating Mr Musila who is in-charge of Kerra's operations in Kilifi and Mombasa.

When the EACC first raided Mr Musila's home and office in Kilifi in 2018, they reportedly carted away a total of Sh2.06 million in cash. The amount, he claimed, included Sh183,000 in personal money while the rest was from his employer for repairs of Baricho bridge in Kilifi.

A simultaneous raid at the suspect's home in Nairobi's Imara Daima estate reportedly

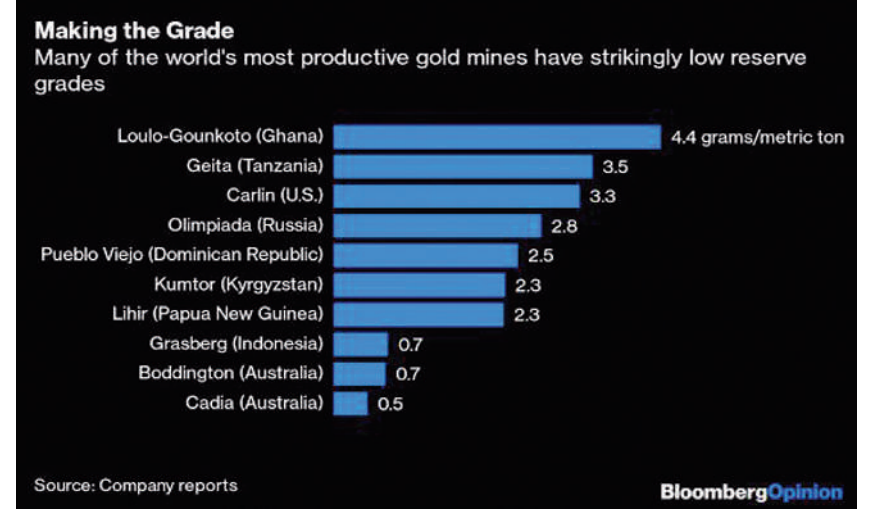
netted Sh685,000 in cash from his wife. Part of the amount was found stashed in the wife's handbag. She is said to have claimed the part of the confiscated amount was fees collected from three schools she had established in Makindu between July 2005 and May 2015.

Ms Mwangeli, a trained teacher, alleged that apart from running the schools, she operates a bakery, practises dairy farming as well as other businesses such as supply of school uniforms. She further said she runs rental units known as Mumbi Villas and Mumbi Plaza, which earn her Sh300,000 and Sh350,000 monthly respectively.

According to filings in court, the couple also runs a hardware store in Makindu, Makeni and Ruaraka in Nairobi, while their son, runs a construction firm known as Mumbi Construction. Mumbi Construction is also at the heart of investigations by the EACC, which claims the firm unduly benefited from contracts in Kilifi and Mombasa counties, an assertion Mr Musila denied.

The EACC said multiple deposits had been made into Mr Musila's KCB account. The anti-graft agency suspects the deposits were from contractors either seeking favours or paying

VIEW FROM THE TOP



## Europe tightens restrictions amid rising COVID-19 infections

LONDON

SOME European countries have carried out tougher measures, including restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings, mandatory mask-wearing and deployment of police on streets to combat rising COVID-19 cases.

Another 22,961 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing its national caseload to 502,978, according to official figures released on Sunday.

Tighter restrictions came into force at midnight on Saturday in parts of northern England, making it illegal to meet

people indoors from other households in the Liverpool City Region, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Warrington. The move came after Britain's R number, which shows the coronavirus reproduction, has risen to as high as 1.6, the latest official figures showed Friday. If the reproduction rate is above one, it means the number of cases will increase exponentially.

British Health Secretary Matt Hancock said it was "necessary" to bring in the new measures and urged people in these areas to travel only when it is essential – for example to school and work, and not to attend sports

events as spectators. More than a third of Britain's population is now under tightened restrictions, the BBC reported.

The Italian capital is taking aggressive steps against the pandemic, including the deployment of police on the streets of Rome to enforce the implementation of hygiene rules.

Residents of Lazio – the region that includes Rome – are required to wear masks at all times, even when they are outside and far from anyone else (exceptions only allowed for those with certain medical problems, children under the age of six and people who are exercising).

At least three smaller Italian regions – Campania, which includes the city of Naples; the island region of Sicily; and Basilicata, the arch of Italy's boot-shaped peninsula – have issued similar mask laws.

Local media reported that more than 800 additional police officers were posted to the streets of Rome to issue warnings to rule-breakers on Saturday, and violators could face fines of up to 400 euros (470 U.S. dollars). Over 3,000 police controls had been carried out in Rome on Saturday morning alone, according to local television channel 10.

Greek authorities have announced their

decision to extend a series of restrictive measures introduced a few weeks ago until Oct. 12 due to a high epidemiological load in Athens and the wider region.

The measures include a limit of nine people for indoor and outdoor gatherings and a suspension of indoor and outdoor concerts, Nikos Hardalias, deputy minister for Civil Protection and Crisis Management, said during a regular press briefing on Friday. Similar restrictions have been implemented in many regions lately as the authorities make efforts to avoid a new full nationwide lockdown.



## WORLD

# Infected Trump greets supporters in motorcade outside hospital

WASHINGTON

DOCTORS treating US President Donald Trump for COVID-19 sent conflicting signals about the severity of his condition on Sunday, hours before the president surprised supporters gathered outside the hospital with an impromptu motorcade.

Trump, 74, wore a mask as he waved from the back seat of a black SUV that crawled in a caravan of vehicles in front of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center outside Washington, while supporters waving Trump 2020 flags chanted: "USA! USA!"

Trump, who said on Friday morning he had the infectious disease, was swiftly criticized for risking the health of support staff.

It was Trump's first appearance in public since he was evacuated to the hospital on Friday.

"It's a very interesting journey. I learned a lot about COVID," he said in a video posted on Twitter shortly beforehand.

Democratic presidential challenger Joe Biden tested negative again for the disease that has killed more than 200,000 Americans, his campaign said on Sunday. The former vice-president, who shared a debate stage with Trump last Tuesday, previously tested negative

in two tests on Friday, the day Trump disclosed his coronavirus infection.

Doctors said the president was improving, although they were monitoring the condition of his lungs after he received supplemental oxygen. They said he could be sent back to the White House as soon as Monday.

But Dr. Sean P. Conley said the president's condition had been worse than he previously admitted. Conley said Trump's blood oxygen levels had dropped in prior days and that he had run a high fever on Friday morning.

Asked what tests had revealed about the condition of Trump's lungs, Conley replied: "There's some expected findings, but nothing of any major clinical concern."

Conley's response suggested the X-rays revealed some signs of pneumonia, said Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease specialist at Johns Hopkins University.

"The expected finding is that he has evidence of pneumonia in the X-ray. If it was normal they would just say it is normal," Adalja said.

Other doctors not involved in Trump's treatment said there was evidence his case was severe. Trump is being given dexamethasone, a steroid used in severe COVID cases, as well as the intravenous antiviral drug Remdesivir and an experi-



In this image grab made from video, US President Donald Trump waves as he drives past supporters gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland on Saturday. (AP)

mental antibody treatment from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

"It would be very unlikely for him to be out and about, and on the campaign trail in less than 14 days," said Dr. David Battinelli, chief medical officer at New York's Northwell Health.

Administration officials have given contradictory assessments of Trump's health. Conley and other doctors delivered a positive prognosis on Saturday, which was promptly undercut by Chief of Staff Mark Meadows.

"I was trying to reflect an upbeat attitude of the team and the president about the course his illness has had," Conley told reporters on Sunday. "I didn't want to give any information that might steer the course of illness in another direction."

## 'Irresponsibility'

Trump spent much of the year downplaying the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has infected 74 million Americans, killed more than 209,000, and caused an economic downturn that has thrown millions out of work.

He said he had been meeting soldiers and first responders at the hospital, raising new questions about whether he was now directly exposing others to the disease.

Critics said personnel who traveled in Trump's armored SUV during the afternoon motorcade would now have to self-quarantine for 14 days. "The irresponsibility is astounding," Dr. James Phillips, an attending physician at the hospital, said on Twitter.

The White House Correspondents Association objected that reporters had not been told about Trump's drive-by before it happened.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said the

trip had been approved by medical staff and that appropriate precautions had been taken.

Health officials in New Jersey said they were trying to track down more than 200 people who attended a Trump fundraising event at his golf course there on Thursday. Trump traveled to the event after close adviser Hope Hicks had contracted the virus, and just hours before he announced that he had tested positive.

White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany said on Fox News that Trump tested positive after that fundraiser, not beforehand.

Trump's illness has upended his re-election campaign as it seeks to fend off Biden in the final month of the race. Several members of his inner circle have also tested positive for the disease, as well as three Republican members of the US Senate.

Two members of the White House residence staff tested positive for COVID-19 a few weeks ago, and Trump's "body man" aide, Nicholas Luna, has also tested positive, according to a source familiar with the situation.

## 'Aggressive' campaign continues

Biden in recent days has wished Trump a speedy recovery, while also criticizing his response to the pandemic.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll published on Sunday found Biden had opened a 10-point lead over Trump nationally, slightly wider than it has been for the past two months. Some 65 percent of Americans said Trump likely would not have been infected had he taken the virus more seriously - a view that half of registered

Republicans polled supported. Some 55 percent said they did not believe Trump had been telling the truth about the virus.

## Russian, Armenian top diplomats discuss ways out of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with his Armenian counterpart, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, to discuss possible ways of settling the situation in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Russian foreign ministry said on Sunday.

"The focus was made on issues linked with the search for ways out of the current situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone," the ministry said.

The Russian top diplomat expressed concern over the grow-

ing number of casualties among civilians in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"The Russian side expressed concern over the growing number of casualties among civilians and stressed the necessity of an immediate ceasefire," the ministry said.

Apart from that, Lavrov reiterated Russia's readiness to help settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. "The Russian side reiterated its readiness to help the parties to the conflict get back to the political and diplomatic settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in line with the



joint statement of the Russian, US and French presidents," the ministry said.

Renewed clashes between Azer-

baijan and Armenia erupted on September 27, with intense battles raging in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The area experienced flare-ups of violence in the summer of 2014, in April 2016 and this past July. Azerbaijan and Armenia have imposed martial law and launched mobilization efforts. Both parties to the conflict have reported casualties, among them civilians.

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the highland region of Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed territory that had been part of Azerbaijan before the Soviet Union break-up, but primarily

populated by ethnic Armenians, broke out in February 1988 after the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region announced its withdrawal from the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.

In 1992-1994, tensions boiled over and exploded into large-scale military action for control over the enclave and seven adjacent territories after Azerbaijan lost control of them.

Talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement have been ongoing since 1992 under the OSCE Minsk Group, led by its three co-chairs - Russia, France and the United States. **Agencies**

## AU chairperson hails 'historic' peace accord among Sudanese factions

ADDIS ABABA

CHAIRPERSON of the African Union (AU) Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat on Sunday commended the "historic" peace deal among Sudanese factions to end armed conflicts in the country.

After a full year of negotiations, the Sudanese government and armed groups on Saturday signed a final peace deal in South Sudan's capital, Juba to end armed conflicts. "The signing of the Juba

Peace Agreement is a historic milestone towards peace for all in Sudan," Faki said in a statement on Sunday.

The AU Commission chairperson also stressed that "the African Union appeals to those who did not sign today to join this process." Mahamat further stressed the continental bloc "remains committed to continue to support all parties to ensure its full implementation."

The deal included protocols

of security arrangements, power and wealth sharing, compensation for the displaced people and refugees, land ownership, and realization of justice and development.

Since October 2019, South Sudan has been mediating between the Sudanese government and the armed groups from Darfur,



South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions.

Sudan's Justice and Equality Movement, led by Jibril Ibrahim, the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)-Minni Minnawi faction, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)-northern sector (Malik Agar and Abdelaziz al-Hilu factions) and opposition groups from eastern, central and northern Sudan, took part in the talks with the government.

However, the SPLM-northern

sector led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu has not yet signed the peace deal after the mediation suspended the negotiation between it and the Sudanese government, while the SLM-Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nur faction refused to join the peace talks.

Saturday's signing ceremony was attended by South Sudan's President Salva Kiir, Chairman of Sudan's Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. **Xinhua**

## Rural China sees increasingly expanding coverage of delivery services

THIS year marks a year of China's decisive victory for the elimination of poverty. Giving full play to its advantages, the postal industry has contributed important power to China's poverty alleviation.

Ma Junsheng, head of the State Post Bureau, introduced how China's postal and delivery enterprises have facilitated the country's anti-poverty efforts at a recent press conference held by the State Council Information Office (SCIO).

A postal network that covers both urban and rural areas and benefits all people has been established, thanks to the country's efforts to develop rural postal and delivery services, Ma said, adding that China has continuously ex-

panded the rural postal and delivery network, and launched three major projects to build rural postal offices, extend the reach of delivery services to the countryside and introduce direct postal services to incorporated villages.

According to him, China has established postal offices in all townships, achieved its goal of covering all incorporated villages with direct postal services, and express delivery outlets have been set up in 97 percent of the townships across the country. Last year, 15 billion parcels were delivered in rural areas, and that figure rose to 20 billion in the first eight months of this year. The growth of express delivery han-

dling capacity in rural areas is 10 percent higher than that in cities.

To extend the reach of delivery services in rural areas is a key measure to solve the unbalanced and inadequate development problems of the postal industry, as well as a fundamental project that drives rural e-commerce and consumption.

Ma introduced that China was still suffering from insufficient development of rural delivery services 7 years ago. Back then, the delivery ended in counties, so rural residents had to take rides to the counties to fetch their parcels. Since China launched an initiative to expand rural delivery networks in 2014, more and more

rural areas have been covered by delivery services.

As the end of August this year, delivery services had reached 97.7 percent of China's rural regions. Before 2015, 36,000 incorporated villages in the country had no direct postal services, and such services had been introduced to all incorporated villages as of the end of August last year. So far, China has 40,000 rural postal offices, as well as over 500,000 village-level service stations, 310,000 of which have launched e-commerce centers. The total lengths of postal routes among these centers add up to 5.05 million kilometers.

Ma introduced that China will

better exploit the advantages of its postal networks at county-, township- and village-levels, and expand their functions by aligning them with government, police affair and tax services.

Besides, the country will also spend more efforts to strengthen its national mail delivery network, Ma said. The network is the only one in the country that reaches all incorporated villages, thus enjoying abundant offline resources. Last year, the network handled over 2 billion parcels, helping the country sell over 16.5 billion yuan (\$2.4 billion) of agricultural products.

In addition, the country will also offer postal finance services

for farmers, Ma added. As of the end of June this year, the outstanding balance of bank loans issued by national branches of the Postal Savings Bank of China to agriculture, rural areas and farmers reached 1.35 trillion yuan, and that for targeted poverty alleviation stood at 90.2 billion yuan. Besides, a total of 14.3 billion yuan of petty loans was issued for poverty alleviation.

According to Ma, China will focus its efforts on developing targeted poverty alleviation projects and pioneers to promote regional poverty alleviation by creating role models.

Since 2014, major delivery companies have created more than 1.5

million jobs for impoverished areas, he said. During the first eight months of this year, the postal and express industry has created more than 150,000 jobs in rural areas and helped 100,000 financially-strapped households in 504 national-level poverty-stricken counties increase incomes by over 100 million yuan.

As China continues its efforts of production resumption, the postal industry has witnessed remarkable progress. In the first 8 months of this year, its total business volume reached more than 1.2 trillion yuan, and the business revenue was nearly 680 billion yuan. And 48 billion parcels were handled, up 25 percent from a year ago.

**People's Daily**

## Johnson doesn't want a no-deal Brexit but can live with it

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson does not particularly wish for the Brexit transition period to end without a new trade deal in place but believes that Britain could live with such an outcome, he said on Sunday.



With the Dec 31 expiry of the transition period fast approaching, Johnson and the head of the EU's executive, Ursula von der Leyen, agreed in a phone call on Saturday to step up negotiations on a post-Brexit deal.

"I think it's there to be done," Johnson said during an interview on BBC television.

"Alas, there are some difficult issues that need to be fixed, and there's no question that the EU needs to understand that we're utterly serious about needing to control our own laws and our own regulations, and similarly they need to understand that the repatriation of the UK's fisheries ... is very important."

Asked whether he was worried about the potential impact of a no-deal situation in the middle of the COVID pandemic, Johnson said: "I don't want the Australian WTO-type outcome, particularly, but we can more than live with it."

"I think the people of this country have had enough ... of being told that this will be impossible or intolerable. I think we can prosper mightily under those circumstances."

The government last week told importers and exporters they would have to complete extra paperwork whether there was a deal or not and that a lack of preparation on their part could lead to 100 km queues of trucks.

That prompted accusations from the opposition that ministers were setting up industry to take the blame for any chaos that might follow a botched Brexit.

## Scientists who helped identify Hepatitis virus win Nobel prize

JUBA

STOCKHOLM - Two Americans and a Briton won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Medicine yesterday for work in identifying the Hepatitis C virus, which causes cirrhosis and liver cancer. The discoveries by scientists Harvey Alter, Charles Rice and Briton Michael Houghton meant there was now a chance of eradicating the Hepatitis C virus completely, the award-giving body said.

"Prior to their work, the discovery of the Hepatitis A and B viruses had been critical steps forward," the Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute said in a statement on awarding the prize of 10 million Swedish crowns (US\$1.1 million).

"The discovery of Hepatitis C virus revealed the cause of the remaining cases of chronic hepatitis and made possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives."

While the Nobel awards will go ahead as planned this year, they have been overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic. The Nobel Foundation has cancelled the traditional banquet, which forms the centre-piece of the celebrations in December, and will hand out the medals and diplomas in a televised event rather than live in Stockholm.

This year's winners will be invited to celebrate alongside the 2021 laureates, assuming the pandemic has eased by then. Medicine is the first of the Nobel Prizes awarded each year. The prizes for achievements in science, peace and literature have been awarded since 1901 and were created in the will of dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel.



Nobel Committee member Patrik Ernfors sits in front of a screen displaying the winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, (left to right) American Harvey Alter, Briton Michael Houghton and American Charles Rice, during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, on October 5, 2020. Americans Harvey Alter and Charles Rice as well as Briton Michael Houghton win the 2020 Nobel Medicine Prize for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus. (AFP)



# After Trump diagnosis, Biden team to focus on virus response

WASHINGTON

WITH US President Donald Trump undergoing treatment for COVID-19 at a military hospital, Democratic challenger Joe Biden's campaign is looking to keep its focus on the nation's response to the pandemic in final month before the presidential election.

Former US Vice-President Biden, who tested negative on Friday, three days after debating with Trump, has repeatedly wished the president a speedy recovery. But Biden and his aides have used the president's positive test to underline a consistent campaign message: Biden would handle the pandemic better than Trump.

Deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield said on Sunday that Biden would continue to make the case for the remaining 30 days of the campaign that he has "the steady hand to get this country through this crisis."

"It's a choice between two different styles of leadership and since the virus came to our shores back in the spring, Joe Biden has led by example," she told ABC's "This Week," citing the campaign's use of masks, social dis-

tancing and limits on the number of people at campaign events. "I think that that's what the American people are looking for."

The United States has recorded 7.4 million coronavirus infections and more than 209,000 deaths in the pandemic, more than any other nation. Trump briefly had an opportunity to pivot the public's focus away from COVID-19 when the death last month of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg gave him the chance to name a third lifetime appointment to the top court, before his own illness returned the spotlight to the disease.

Biden is expected on Monday to campaign in Florida, where polls show a tight race to win the state's crucial 29 electoral college votes.

Voting is already well underway - more than 3.3 million ballots had been cast nationwide by Sunday, according to the Elections Project at the University of Florida - as more Americans vote early or by mail to avoid being exposed to the virus at crowded polling places on Election Day, Nov 3.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll taken Oct 2-3, after the president tested positive for



US Democratic presidential candidate former Vice-President Joe Biden leaves the Queen Theater after a virtual town hall, on Friday, in Wilmington, Delaware, the United States. (AP)

the coronavirus, found Biden leading Trump by 10 percentage points nationally and that nearly two-thirds of Americans thought that Trump probably would not have been infected if

he had taken the virus more seriously. Biden's campaign has pulled TV and online ads attacking Trump, which Bedingfield said reflected the candidate's belief in "civility."

Trump campaign senior adviser Jason Miller on Sunday continued the campaign's attacks on Biden's cautious approach to the virus, and said Biden used protective masks "as a prop."

"We can't all just stay in our basement for the rest of our lives," Miller told "This Week," also pushing back against criticism of Trump for not taking more precautions to protect himself and others from the virus. "We have to get out there and live our lives and take this on."

It remains uncertain when Trump will return to the campaign trail, if at all, and whether he will be able to participate in the second presidential debate on Oct 15.

Trump's campaign said on Saturday high-profile allies including Vice-President Mike Pence and Trump's elder sons, Donald Jr and Eric, would take over in-person campaigning this week.

Pence, who tested negative on Friday, is scheduled to debate Democratic vice-presidential nominee Kamala Harris tomorrow.

Agencies

'Global relations suffer due to humanitarian initiatives ignored during pandemic'

MOSCOW

CALLS of the UN to suspend unilateral sanctions during the coronavirus pandemic and Russian President Vladimir Putin's initiative to create green corridors for supply of pharmaceuticals and food products have not yet been heard by the global community, which poisons the atmosphere of international cooperation, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday during his meeting with the members of the Association of European Businesses in Russia.

"The appeals of the UN Secretary-General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have not been heard yet.

This concerns the appeals to suspend unilateral illegitimate sanctions at least for the duration of the pandemic, first of all, as far as the supplies of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and financial transactions necessary for this go.

Also ignored is Vladimir Putin's proposal made during the online meeting of the Group of 20 on creating green corridors which should be free of trade wars and of restrictions and be used to supply pharmaceuticals, food products, the corresponding equipment and technologies.

Such attitude to unifying initiatives, of course, seriously poisons the atmosphere of transnational cooperation and aggravates the lack of mutual trust. Not only do ordinary people suffer from this, as this affects them the most, but also do business circles," the top diplomat said.

The minister noted that the pandemic revealed the interdependence of states on the global level, impacting all countries.

"It seemed to us that the conclusion was obvious: common tasks, common challenges should also aid in unifying the efforts on the basis of recognized norms of international law but, unfortunately, this hasn't happened yet. Quite the opposite, a number of our foreign colleagues led by the US are trying to use the current coronavirus crisis for an even more insistent promotion of their mercenary interests, for open settling of scores with geopolitical rivals," he pointed out.

Agencies

# Turkish drill ship heads back to Turkey from off Cyprus

ISTANBUL

A TURKISH drill ship has left the area where it was operating southwest of Cyprus and reached Turkey's coast. Refinitiv Eikon shipping data showed yesterday, in a move the European Union said would help to ease tensions in the east Mediterranean.

EU member Cyprus' internationally recognized Greek Cypriot government has long been at odds with Turkey over the demarcation of maritime waters and other issues. Turkish vessels began drilling for oil and gas near Cyprus last year.

EU leaders last Friday assured Cy-

prus that the bloc would punish Turkey if it continues drilling in disputed Mediterranean areas, after resisting Cypriot calls to impose sanctions on Ankara.

The vessel Yavuz began operations off the southwest of Cyprus which were then extended until Oct 12, in a move described by Greece, a close ally of Cyprus, as provocative. Yavuz had first begun operations east of Cyprus in July 2019.

However, ship tracking data showed Yavuz as being near the port of Tarsus in Turkey's Mersin province on Monday morning, after it departed on Sunday from the area southwest



of Cyprus. Welcoming the news, a spokesman

for the EU executive, the European Commission, said: "The departure constitutes another welcome step towards de-escalation in the eastern Mediterranean and we hope for similar and further moves in this direction."

"It's an important signal," he told a regular briefing.

Turkish seismic research vessel Barbaros Hayrettin Pasa remains off southeastern Cyprus and its operations there have been extended to Oct 18.

Regional tensions simmered after Turkish and Greek frigates collided at sea in August near a Turkish ex-

ploration vessel, but calmed down after Turkey and Greece agreed to resume "exploratory talks" that ended in 2016.

NATO announced last Thursday that Greece and Turkey, both alliance members, had set up a "military de-confliction mechanism" to avoid accidental clashes at sea.

The island of Cyprus was split after a 1974 Turkish invasion spurred by a brief coup engineered by the military then ruling Greece.

Turkey has no diplomatic relations with Cyprus and instead recognizes a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north of the island. Agencies

# China to fully, faithfully implement policies of CPC on governing Xinjiang for new era

CHINESE President Xi Jinping called to fully and faithfully implement the policies of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on governing Xinjiang for the new era, at the third central symposium on work related to Xinjiang, which was held on Friday and Saturday in Beijing.

Xi demanded law-based governance and long-term efforts to develop Xinjiang into a region that is united, harmonious, prosperous, and culturally advanced, with healthy ecosystems and people living and working in contentment. He comprehensively reviewed the achievements made since the second central symposium on work related to Xinjiang, made in-depth analysis on the situation and tasks Xinjiang is facing, profoundly explained the CPC's governance strategy for Xinjiang in the new era, and made major deployment on work related to Xinjiang.

His profound remarks bore rich connotation and insights, and were of huge value politically, ideologically and theoretically, serving as an important guideline for work related to Xinjiang in the new era. Since the second central symposium on work related to Xinjiang was held in 2014, major achievements have been made thanks to the arduous efforts of all parties related.

Thanks to strenuous efforts from all sides since the second symposium in 2014, major progress has been achieved in the work



The picturesque scenery in Bayanbulak, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (File photo)

related to Xinjiang, Xi said, citing a series of markedly improving key indicators from 2014 to 2019, such as a sound economic momentum, people's living standards being significantly improved, and decisive achievements in poverty alleviation.

With the increasing support for Xinjiang from the central and local governments, all ethnic groups in the autonomous region are feeling expanding sense of gain, contentment and security. People are enjoying a stable society where they live and work with contentment, which has laid a solid foundation for long-term peace and stability in Xinjiang.

Such achievements are a result of the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee, along with the concerted efforts of the whole Party and all the Chinese people including more than 25 million people from different ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

Since 2012, the CPC Central Committee with comrade Xi at the

core has deepened its understanding and grasp of Xinjiang, forming a new governance strategy for the region in the new era. China plans work related to Xinjiang from a strategic view, takes the long-term peace and stability as the ultimate goal for its work related to Xinjiang, adheres to unity, sticks to building a sense of community of the Chinese nation, requests relevant parties to conduct religious activities in the Chinese context, fosters and practices core socialist values, drives high-quality development for people's livelihood, and enhances CPC's leadership over the work related to Xinjiang.

Practices proved that the CPC's governance strategy for Xinjiang in the new era is completely correct and shall be carried forward. The Party must take the strategy as a political mission and implement it fully and faithfully to ensure the work related to Xinjiang is always on the right track.

At present, the world is going through profound changes un-

seen in a century, and China is facing arduous tasks of reform and development. The country will enter a new development phase during its 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), embarking on a journey to fully build a modern socialist China based on securing a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

To address the work related to Xinjiang, relevant parties must understand and grasp the situation and missions from strategic height, implement the spirit of President Xi's important speeches and the CPC Central Committee's decisions and deployment for the work related to Xinjiang, fully and accurately understand and adhere to the Party's governance strategy for Xinjiang in the new era, make persistent efforts to balance domestic and international considerations, address both present and future demands, and strictly implement all missions.

The country shall stick to its ultimate goal of realizing long-term peace and stability for Xinjiang, and implement the rule-of-law in the work related to Xinjiang, so as to continuously strengthen the unity of the people of all ethnic groups with the sense of community of the Chinese nation, drive Xinjiang's high-quality economic development for people's livelihood, and bring the work related to Xinjiang in the new era onto a new stage. People's Daily

# S. Africa president announces milestone in land reform

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced yesterday that members of the public will be able to apply to lease 700,000 hectares of under-utilized or vacant state-owned land in seven of the nine provinces in the country.

Ramaphosa (pictured) hailed this as a major milestone in the agrarian reform process, which gives effect to the promise of the Freedom Charter that the land shall be shared among those who work it.

Given South Africa's history, broadening access to agricultural land for commercial production and subsistence farming is a national priority, Ramaphosa said in his weekly presidential newsletter. As agricultural land is the mainstay of the natural resource base, the availability and sustainable use of farmland to grow crops and for animal husbandry is key to the nation's survival, he said.

South Africa has vast tracts of land suitable for agricultural production, with 37.9 percent of its total land area currently being used for commercial agriculture.

Although the post-apartheid land reform process has resulted in more land being restored and restituted to black South Africans, the pernicious effects of the 1913 Natives Land Act



continues to be in patterns of farmland ownership.

That act went far beyond dispossessing millions of people of their ancestral land, depriving the indigenous people of their right to own and work the land on which they depended for sustenance and livelihood, Ramaphosa said.

This great injustice of the act effectively "engineered the poverty of black South Africans," he said. "Its aim was to destroy our people's prospects for self-reliance, independence and economic prosperity. At the most fundamental of levels, it destroyed our ability to feed ourselves," the president said.

Like many other countries, South Africa's arable land is under threat from land degradation, water scarcity and urban encroachment. Prime agricultural land is also being lost through land-use changes.

Transforming patterns of agricultural land ownership is vital not just to address the historical injustices of the past,

but is necessary to safeguard the nation's food security, Ramaphosa said. The 2019 report of the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture noted that while the country does exports food, 41 percent of people in rural areas and 59.4 percent in urban areas have severely inadequate access to food.

Agrarian reform has been a priority of successive administrations since democracy, said the president, noting that between 1994 and 2018 the state delivered 8.4 million hectares of land to previously disadvantaged individuals under the land reform program. This progress amounts to less than 10 percent of all commercial farmland.

In his State of the Nation Address early this year, Ramaphosa committed that state-owned agricultural land would soon be released for farming.

This redistributive vision aims to strike a balance between social justice and redress, and to enhance agricultural output by bringing more black farmers into the mainstream of the economy, Ramaphosa said on Monday. "Land is a productive asset that generates profit and can be used for collateral to secure other assets," he noted.

South Africa must ensure that land acquired for farming purposes is productively used, the president said.

Xinhua

# UN not platform for spreading 'political virus'

AT the recent General Debate of the 75th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly which was held online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, leaders of most countries and international organizations appealed for adhering to multilateralism and consolidating unity and cooperation to jointly cope with global challenges. The U.S., however, struck up a discordant tune.

By making groundless accusations against China and spreading rumours in total disregard of facts to provoke China, the U.S. has poisoned international anti-epidemic cooperation environment with "political virus".

As an extension to a serious of despicable political shoves staged recently by certain U.S. politicians, what the U.S. did at the General Debate of the

75th session of the UN General Assembly enabled the world to see more clearly how the U.S. is obsessed with hegemony and bullying by nature.

Virus knows no boundaries or races. It can appear in any country. The country that reported the outbreak of a disease first is not necessarily the origin of the pathogen that causes the disease.

The origin of a virus is a serious scientific issue that has to be resolved through research by scientists and doctors in a professional, rational, and responsible manner.

According to Michael Ryan, executive director of the World Health Or-

ganization (WHO) Health Emergencies Program, who has more than 25 years of experience in conducting epidemiologic investigation, the first person infected with virus in an epidemic, or patient zero, doesn't always come from where the first cluster is.

"Case zero is obviously before in time but it may be in another place so that's why you have to keep an open mind," Ryan said at a virtual press conference held on Aug. 10.

So far, some countries have carried out technological monitoring on their COVID-19 cases and concluded based on facts that the virus had already appeared before it was

reported by China.

China firmly opposes stigmatization and politicization of the epidemic, and will continue participating in global scientific research on tracing the origin of the COVID-19 virus.

By making painstaking efforts and tremendous sacrifices, China has succeeded in containing the spread of the virus in a relatively short period of time.

In an open, transparent, and responsible manner, the country actively fulfilled its international obligations, gave timely notification of the onset of the COVID-19 to the WHO, relevant countries, and

regional organizations, released the genome sequence of the virus at the earliest possible time, and shared without reserve its experience in containing the spread of the virus and treating the infected.

China has helped save the lives of millions of people around the world through practical action, which has manifested its genuine aspiration for building a community with a shared future for mankind and the country's sense of responsibility as a major country.

In the face of a previously unknown disease, China has taken one of the most ancient approaches for infectious disease control

and rolled out probably the most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history, said Dr. Bruce Aylward, senior advisor to the WHO director-general.

What China has done represents a resounding answer to the provocation and stigmatization by a certain country over the COVID-19 epidemic, pointed out Russian President Vladimir Putin.

As the world's most developed and richest country with the most advanced medical technologies, how well has the U.S. responded to the pandemic?

On February 2, when the U.S. closed its border to all Chinese citizens, the country reported merely a dozen of confirmed COVID-19 cases. However, in just several months, the country's number of confirmed cases has surged to nearly 7 million, with over 200,000 fatalities.

People's Daily



## SPORT

## DStv launches new soccer season

By Guardian Reporter

SUPERSPORT is the home of world's top leagues in the 2020/21 football season, starting this September on DStv, with an unmatched offering of the beautiful game from the best players in the world, all in HD!

As the 2019/20 season draws to a close, interest in the upcoming season is ramping up.

If the hype of the previous season - with Liverpool FC's momentous triumph - is any indication, the looming season is bound to be captivating.

And with SuperSport's comprehensive coverage of the most loved football leagues, with hundreds of games from Premier League, La Liga (with exclusive English commentary) and Serie A - on the new dedicated thematic channels - there's no need to look any further.

In addition to the big three leagues, SuperSport will also be bringing viewers unprecedented coverage which includes the Euro 2020 Championship, UEFA Euro 2020 Qualifiers, European qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Nations League - it is set to be a year-round football feast!

The breadth and depth of the coverage, will, as usual include build-ups with respected analysts as well as language options for commentary including Pidgin, Swahili and Portuguese - cementing SuperSport as the unrivalled football destination of choice for viewers across Africa.

MultiChoice Tanzania Head of Marketing, Ronald Shelukindo, said of the upcoming season: "Building on the euphoria of the season that just concluded, we are excited to deliver world-class football to fans as we always do."

"There's a lot to look forward to and we are proud to provide a platform for customers to experience the significant moments of the game at high quality."

Football fans in Tanzania were given a preview of the 'new normal' of live football in the last part of the 2019/20 season as a result of the worldwide pandemic, changing the dynamic of how the game is broadcast.

Other changes for this season also include team and leadership adjustments in the form of new start dates, new teams, new managers and new players.

The dates for the season to begin usually arrive in August, but the suspension and late finish due to world events, means all three of Premier League, La Liga and Serie A will kick off their new campaigns on September 12 for England and Spain, and September 19 for Italy. All three leagues are scheduled to wrap up on May 23, 2020.

In the Premier League, the trio of Leeds United, West Bromwich Albion and Fulham FC will be the 'new boys' after securing promotion at the end of last season.

West Brom and Fulham FC have been regular competitors in recent Premier League seasons, but the return of Leeds is big news.

The Whites are truly one of the biggest clubs in England and a first showing in the top flight since 2003-04 adds to the excitement and intrigue for 2020-21.

In Italy, Benevento and Crotone secured direct promotion to Serie A, with both set to appear in the top flight for just the second time in their histories, while La Liga sees Cadiz and Huesca as new members of the elite league, with the former promoted to the top tier for the first time in a decade.

The arrival of the legendary Marcelo Bielsa, the man at the helm of Leeds United, adds to the managerial spice in the Premier League, with the Argentine revered as the 'coach's coach' by the likes of Pep Guardiola.

His tactical nous will be put to the test by the likes of Guardiola, Liverpool FC's Jurgen Klopp, Carlo Ancelotti and others in a stacked line-up of brilliant managers.

Meanwhile, Italy will have the fascinating scenario of rookie manager Andrea Pirlo in charge of Serie A champions Juventus.

If the former midfielder is half as good a coach as he was a player, then the Bianconeri will be well on their way to a 10th straight title.

In La Liga, as far as new managers are concerned, it is all about who will be in charge of Barcelona.

Quique Setien's tenure ended in disgrace with the team's 8-2 annihilation at the hands of Bayern Munich in the UEFA Champions League.

Ronald Koeman (a Barca club legend) has been confirmed to take over at the Camp Nou.

The transfer market has not really clicked into top gear just yet, but there has already been some major signings completed.

Chelsea have done amazing work by securing the services of Moroccan winger Hakim Ziyech and German striker Timo Werner, two signings

which could transform them into potential Premier League title contenders.

The biggest signings into La Liga include Miralem Pjanic to Barcelona (as part of a deal which saw Arthur head in the opposite direction to Juventus).

Suso swapping Milan for Sevilla (and he's already impressed for the club in the UEFA Europa League), turns out to be a big signing as well.

Serie A has seen the arrival of two rising African stars, Achraf Hakimi from Real Madrid to Internazionale, and Victor Osimhen from Lille to Napoli.

As soccer lovers build towards the eagerly anticipated 2020-21 season - having only just seen the back of 2019-20!, the DStv disclosed, they should not miss everything new coming to the Premier League, La Liga and Serie A which will excite SuperSport viewers for the new football season!

The soccer followers have been asked to either get or reconnect to either DStv or GOTV today to enjoy the football programming on the service, popularly referred to by the hashtag #HomeofFootball.

The soccer followers can visit either www.dstv.com or www.gotv africa.com, or download MyDStv or MyGOTV to either subscribe or upgrade, and join in on the excitement.

The DStv viewers, while they are on the move, they can stream matches on DStv Now.

As we enter the Soccer season, SuperSport viewers on DStv will now be able to enjoy special dedicated channels for leagues and sports.

They include the Premier League, La Liga, WWE, UFC, tennis, motorsport, golf and several others, which will now have a home to call their own.

A list of the newly named SuperSport channels and the content the viewers can find on DStv include SuperSport Blitz, SuperSport Grandstand, SuperSport Football Plus, SuperSport Premier League, SuperSport La Liga, SuperSport Football, SuperSport Variety 1, 2, 3 and 4, SuperSport Action, SuperSport Rugby, SuperSport Cricket and the WWE Channel.

SuperSport Blitz remains the fans' home for all the latest breaking news and updates from around the sports world, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SuperSport Grandstand showcases all of SuperSport's live programming with a focus on football and the best live sport across all our channels.

SuperSport Football Plus brings viewers the top UEFA Champions League matches, football from across the best football leagues in the world, game highlights, goal summaries, news and magazine shows.

SuperSport Premier League will be the home of action from England's Premier League, with the best games, highlights and coverage of EPL. The channel will also broadcast FA Cup and other international action.

SuperSport La Liga is fans' new home for Spanish football and will focus on La Liga action, the home of El Clasico, and other international football.

SuperSport Football will offer selected access to matches from the Premier League, La Liga, Serie A, African football leagues and others.

SuperSport Variety 1, 2, 3 and 4 will cover football, WWE, athletics, marathons, boxing and a range of other events, both African and international.

SuperSport Action is fans' home for combat sports such as MMA - featuring the UFC and EFC - and boxing from around the globe.

SuperSport Rugby will be the central hub for all rugby.

SuperSport Cricket is fans' home for Test matches, One Day Internationals, IPL, cricket and everything involving bats and balls.

SuperSport Golf, SuperSport Tennis and SuperSport Motorsport respectively, with each channel dedicated to its specific sport.

The WWE Channel brings fans the best of action from the WWE universe.

“

SuperSport Football Plus brings viewers the top UEFA Champions League matches, football from across the best football leagues in the world, game highlights, goal summaries, news and magazine shows

## Maisha Magic Bongo Channel celebrates milestone

By Guardian Reporter

THE DStv channel, Maisha Magic Bongo, was launched on October, 2015, with great determination and attention to the Tanzanian language, culture and taste.

The channel, shown on DStv Channel 160, has since grown to be the most loved local channel amongst the homogenous target market.

"The channel was initially launched as a predominantly movie channel coupled with lifestyle shows," Barbara Kambogi, the Head of Channel since its inception, stated.

"As audience demand grew, this inclined the platform to add local dramas, Telenovelas, lifestyle as well as Indian dubbed content which has a massive following in the market that we operate in," she disclosed.

She noted: "We work with the best producers whom we groom and mentor to produce world class content."

"Throughout the past five years, the channel has gone through a complete content overhaul whilst addressing the entertainment needs of the Tanzanian viewers and developing the entertainment industry and economy of the region."

In line with the five year anniversary, she noted, Maisha Magic Bongo launched two new dramas, namely 'Nyavu' and 'Slay Queen'.

The dramas have since taken Tanzania by storm, in addition to a show, known as 'Date My Family' (DMF).

In the DMF, a dating show with a twist, the bachelors and bachelorettes share a meal with three different families in the hope of finding their happily ever after partners.

She disclosed: "Our mandate as a channel is to provide our audience with thought provoking as well as entertaining content which captures



our cultural nuances as Tanzanians."

"It is not by chance that the channel has survived in the most detrimental economic times. As a channel we continuously study audience behaviour and adjust our content mix to suite the market at hand".

Barbara pointed out the channel is also equipped with a Content and Marketing Team that is equally

skilled in broadcasting and always on the lookout for new and fresh stories as well as innovative ways to launch and excite the audience.

The Maisha Magic Bongo Channel Head further

announced a few additions to the channel content mix as a gift to the Tanzanian viewers.

The content includes 'Jua Kali' as well as 'Pazia' which are both set to premiere in January 2021.

## New Year Marathon set for international route measurement

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

THE New Year Marathon, a new race in Tanzania which will have its first season take place on January 1 next year, is expected to undergo international route measurement.

The approach, according to the race's organizers, targets to see to it the event turns into a third domestic long distance race that will be approved by the World Athletics Council.

The Kilimanjaro Marathon and Zanzibar's Stone Town Marathon are currently the two marathons recognized by the World Athletics Council.

Abdallah Chapa, the New Year Marathon technical coordinator, said last weekend the organizers will on October 12 welcome an internationally recognized race route measurement supervisor, Norrie Williamson from South Africa, to take charge of route measurement for the race.

Williamson, also an athletics coach, is as well recognized by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races.

According to Chapa, Williamson will be assisted by domestic races experts in the marathon's route measurement that will take five days.

Williamson is also expected to conduct a three-day clinic on issues which are to be fully adhered to by athletes set to take part in the New Year Marathon in an effort to improve their performance.

The training moreover gears towards seeing to it the athletes avoid sustaining injuries, which are caused by their failure to deploy professionalism.

Chapa, who also serves as a spokesman for the New Year Marathon's organizers, noted the race



Tanzanian athlete, Joseph Panga, celebrates after finishing first in this season's 21km event of the Kilimanjaro Marathon, which took place in Kilimanjaro in March.

aims at bringing about positive outlook on sports tourism.

Sports, he said, are directly involved in sports tourism that gears towards promoting tourist sites in the country.

He disclosed that turning the New Year Marathon

into a first domestic race with a label, which is recognized by the World Athletics Council, is the race's long term target.

He noted there are, up to now, not less than 10 races in Africa with labels ranging from gold to bronze.

## Butler's big night helps Heat cut Lakers' Finals lead to 2-1

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.

BIGGEST moment of his career. Best game of his life.

Jimmy Butler is clearly not ready to go home quite yet. With a triple-double, he joined NBA Finals lore - and the short-handed Miami Heat might have made this title matchup a series after all.

Butler finished with 40 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists, and the Heat beat the Los Angeles Lakers 115-104 on Sunday night to get within 2-1 - doing so with starters Bam Adebayo and Goran Dragic still unable to play because of injury.

"I tell Coach all the time, 'I'm ready for this,'" Butler said. "The biggest stage, whatever you ask me to do, I can do."

His coach, Erik Spoelstra, has clearly listened.

"This is what he wanted, this is what we wanted," Spoelstra said. "It's really hard to analyze or describe Jimmy until you actually feel him

between the four lines. He's a supreme, elite competitor and we needed it."

It was the third 40-point triple-double in finals history. Butler was 14 for 20 from the field and, after the Heat surrendered a double-digit lead early in the fourth, he made sure this one wouldn't get away.

"He's one of the best competitors we have in our game," the Lakers' LeBron James said. "Love that opportunity. For me, personally, I don't know how many more opportunities I'm going to have so to be able to go against a fierce competitor like that is something I'll look back on when I'm done playing. I'll miss those moments."

James had 25 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Lakers, while Kyle Kuzma and Markieff Morris each had 19 points off the bench. Anthony Davis managed 15 for the Lakers.

Game 4 is Tuesday night.



Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler (22) shoot the ball against the Los Angeles Lakers during the second half in Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

Tyler Herro and Kelly Olynyk each had 17 points for Miami, which got 13 from Duncan Robinson and 12 from Jae Crowder.

"We had players step up this whole playoffs, and it's no different now for us," Crowder said. Whenever the Heat looked ready to pull away and grab control of Game 3, the Lakers always found a way to find their best gear.

A 13-point Heat lead in the early going? The Lakers had the lead back in less than five

minutes. A 14-point Heat lead after a 10-0 run to start the second half? The Lakers scored the next eight.

A 12-point Heat lead late in the third? It took the Lakers less than five minutes to put together a 20-6 run, taking the lead back at 91-89 with 8:55 left on a layup by Rajon Rondo.

"We were almost fighting back the entire game," Morris said. **AP**



## Klopp: Liverpool 'lost the plot' in thrashing by Villa

LONDON

STUNNED Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp said his side did "all the things you should not do in a football match" as they "lost the plot" to play into Aston Villa's hands in their 7-2 humbling at Villa Park in the Premier League on Sunday.

Following on from Manchester United's 6-1 defeat to Tottenham Hotspur, Liverpool added to a remarkable day as they became the first reigning English top-flight champions to ship seven goals in a league match since Arsenal in 1953.

Ollie Watkins' first-half hat trick set Villa en route to an astonishing victory, as Liverpool slipped to a first defeat of the season thanks to a woeful showing at the back in the Midlands.

"We played into their hands, with all the goals," Klopp said. "Then the game has a specific direction.

"We had still good moments, but our good moments lead to nothing, other than Mo's [Mohamed Salah] two goals.

"All their good moments lead to a big chance or goals, and that makes all the difference. All the things you should not do in a football match we did tonight, but all credit to Aston Villa, as they forced us to do those things.

"The first goal had an impact but it shouldn't. We conceded goals like that in the past, but the reaction wasn't good, and we lost the plot."

A combination of missed chances

and poor defending were largely to blame for the loss, according to Klopp, who said he wished the team had a training session on Monday to address the issues.

"It was unexpected but it happened tonight," Klopp said. "For me it wasn't a specific moment, we put all our rubbish things and mistakes in one game and hopefully we can start again.

"Tonight wasn't sloppy, it was just bad. I have to admit that but I can't change it. I would love to have a training session tomorrow and Tuesday and to talk about it, but the boys go back off to international duty. Hopefully they come back healthy and we use the two days to prepare for Everton."

Aston Villa boss Dean Smith hailed the effort from his side, as they made it three wins from three in extraordinary fashion, to move up to second in the table, ahead of Liverpool in fifth.

"It was just sheer hard work and effort," Smith said. "The work ethic, when Jürgen Klopp says 'wow' to you you know you've done something right. The lads were superb, they executed the game plan perfectly. We were at our best today.

"It's a good start, an exceptional result and a really good start. We won't get complacent but we'll enjoy tonight because results like that don't come around too often. We've got a lot of pride and confidence going into the international break."

(Agencies)

## Solskjaer: Spurs loss my 'worst day' at Man Utd

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer said Manchester United's 6-1 defeat against Tottenham Hotspur was his worst-ever day in the club before condemning Spurs forward Erik Lamela for his contribution to Anthony Martial's first-half sending-off.

United have now lost both home games in the Premier League this season, conceding nine goals in the process, after being humiliated by Jose Mourinho's Spurs.

And United manager Solskjaer, played for at Old Trafford from 1996 to 2007 and has been manager since 2018, said he has not endured a worse day during his time with the club.

"It's a horrible feeling, the worst day I've had as a Manchester United manager and player," Solskjaer said. "You don't win games of football by making individual mistakes, errors, making a performance like that.

"It's alarming, nowhere near good enough. I hold my hand up. It's my decision to pick the team and as a squad it's not good enough for Manchester United.

"When you have a defeat like this, which has happened at the club before, you've just got to look yourself in the mirror."

United were already 2-1 behind when Martial was sent off by referee Anthony Taylor on 29 minutes for slapping Lamela while defending a corner.

Lamela's reaction prompted ridicule from Solskjaer.

"This is like a very two-edged sword for me," Solskjaer said. "Anthony, well done for not going down when the lad struck you in the throat, but then you shouldn't react to it like that with a slap

in his throat.

"If you do that there's always a chance they are going to send you off, but come on, if that was my son I'd put him in the attic for two weeks without food. You don't go down like that, at all. It's an absolute joke.

"If that was one of my players I would absolutely hang him up to dry because you don't go down like that."

United defender Luke Shaw suggested he and his teammates gave up following Martial's red card.

"It was a lack of concentration and then a mistake, another mistake, another mistake," he said. "We switched off. It really hurts.

"Manchester United shouldn't lose in this manner. It really hurts, it's embarrassing and we've let a lot of people down. We've let ourselves down and the staff down. We need to look in the mirror, we are nowhere near it at the moment. Maybe it's lucky that we've got a break now.

"When we went down to 10 men maybe we gave up, there wasn't that character on the pitch. We were too quiet and naive. There was many mistakes, we need to do more. It's embarrassing, I was embarrassed on the pitch. We need a long hard look at ourselves."

Meanwhile, Mourinho showed no sympathy to his former club over the red card, adding: "I didn't watch it. Maybe later I will. If someone can cry about the VAR decisions it is Tottenham and if someone cannot cry about VAR it is Manchester United for sure.

"I don't know, the only thing I know is we played extremely well. I told my players that a good result here would be to win and we did that."

(Agencies)

## Napoli set to be handed 3-0 loss for failing to show at Juve

MILAN

NAPOLI is likely to be handed a 3-0 loss by the Italian league's judge for failing to show for its Serie A match at Juventus on Sunday night.

Napoli did not travel to Turin for the game after local health authorities ordered the squad into quarantine after two players tested positive for the coronavirus - midfielders Piotr Zielinski and Eljif Elmas.

Juventus followed its regular matchday routine on Sunday and arrived at the stadium for the scheduled 8:45 p.m. (18:45 GMT) kickoff. In somewhat farcical scenes, several players walked out onto the field while a limited number of fans watched from the stands.

It will not be known whether Juventus will be awarded a 3-0 win by

default - or if the match has simply been postponed - until next week's disciplinary commission, where Napoli will make its case.

"The sporting rules are clear and say that if a team does not show up, they face disciplinary sanctions," Juventus president Andrea Agnelli said. "The Sporting Judge will speak tomorrow, and based on his decision, there will be further reflections.

"It is evident that the fact that a team does not reach a stadium to play a planned match does not give a great image of Italian soccer, but we are provincial and we care little about what happens outside our borders, without considering the damage we do to soccer internationally."

AP

# Manchester United lets in 6, Liverpool concedes 7 in incredible EPL day

MANCHESTER, England

ENGLISH football's biggest teams have never experienced a day like it. Liverpool and Manchester United were both comprehensively humiliated by defeats Sunday that rank among the heaviest in their history.

Just when it looked like United's 6-1 collapse at home to Tottenham would be the day's biggest shock in the Premier League, Liverpool managed to surpass it.

The champions fell apart to lose 7-2 to an Aston Villa side that only avoided relegation on the final day of last season and is now one of only two sides with 100% starts.

No defending champion in 67 years has lost so heavily in England. It's been 57 years since Liverpool was beaten as badly.

"We lost kind of the plot," Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp said. "The results are strange."

With Leicester opening Sunday with a 3-0 loss to West Ham, it leaves Everton and Villa, whose last titles came in the 1980s, leading the way with perfect starts.

Sunday's latest wave of erratic results -- with 25 goals across six games -- continued the breathless, high-scoring start to a season being played out without fans in stadiums due to the pandemic.

The 3.79 per game goal ratio is the highest in the English league in 90 years, according to statistics from Opta.

VILLA THRILLER

To put into perspective the gulf between Villa and Liverpool -- 64 points separated them last season.

Coronavirus infections denied Liverpool both Sadio Mane and Thiago Alcantara. A shoulder injury meant Alisson Becker had to be replaced in goal by Adrian.

And it was Adrian's poor pass that was seized on by Jack Grealish to set up summer signing Ollie Watkins for his first Premier League goal after four minutes. It was the start of a hat trick for the recruit from second-tier Brentford. Captain Grealish was on target twice, while there were also goals for John McGinn and Ross Barkley on his debut after joining on loan from Chelsea.

"Pretty much everybody made massive mistakes around the goals," Klopp said.

Mohamed Salah did score twice for Liverpool, but only when 2-0 and 5-1 down as the visitors



A display show the score at the end of the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford in Manchester, England, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020. (AP)

were completely outplayed by Villa.

"To go and get a result and a performance like that, against an exceptional team, takes something special," Villa manager Dean Smith said.

'WORST DAY'

Manchester United has now opened the season with back-to-back home losses for the first time since 1986.

But it had started so well for United by winning a penalty inside 30 seconds that Bruno Fernandes converted. But Tottenham quickly turned the game around by exploiting United's wretched defense, with goals from Tanguy Ndombele and Son Heung-min ensuring Jose Mourinho's side was in front by the seventh minute. United lost Anthony Martial to a red card that came after Erik Lamela overreacted to a slap in the face, with a delayed fall to the ground.

Harry Kane extended Tottenham's lead

on the half-hour and completed the rout from the penalty spot in the second half after Son netted again and Serge Aurier hit the target. "It's very embarrassing, it hurt all the players," said United's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. "It hurts me as the manager. It's my worst day ever."

It was blissful, though, for Mourinho. A loss to Tottenham as United manager two years ago played a part in his firing that year.

"I have sympathy for Ole because of the result," Mourinho said. "I can imagine that tonight he's not going to sleep very, very well. But this is the hard life of us."

WORK FROM HOME

West Ham produced a second successive victory while manager David Moyes self-isolates with the coronavirus.

From home, Moyes oversaw the selections and tactics that led to Michail Antonio, Pablo Fornals and Jarrod Bowen

scoring in the victory over Leicester.

"David has been involved in everything," assistant manager Alan Irvine said. "He picks the team, he talks about the substitutions. We talk about training every day, we deliver the messages. I have to say that it's been fantastic that the players have accepted the situation as well as they have."

OTHER MATCHES

Sheffield United managed its first goal of the season but still lost 2-1 to Arsenal to remain without a point. Goals from Bukayo Saka and Nicolas Pepe ensured Arsenal has won three out of its four games.

Fulham is also yet to get off the mark after losing 1-0 to Wolverhampton Wanderers after Pedro Neto scored.

Moussa Djenepo and Oriol Romeu gave Southampton a 2-0 victory over West Bromwich Albion.

AP

## Solskjaer's future as Man United manager must be in question after Tottenham humiliation

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United have lost two of their opening three Premier League games. (Agencies)

FC OLE Gunnar Solskjaer crossed the Rubicon as Manchester United manager on Sunday, the day he was humiliated by predecessor Jose Mourinho in a 6-1 defeat against Tottenham at Old Trafford that might turn out to be the moment that triggered the search for his successor.

Mauricio Pochettino, who Mourinho replaced at Spurs last November, is still available and his shadow will loom ever larger over Solskjaer. And after such a brutal defeat, which featured an awful performance by United's players, it would be no surprise if the Argentine gets a call from executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward during the international break.

If that proves to be the case, Solskjaer can have no complaints. There really is no hiding place now, regardless of the hand he has been dealt by his bosses in the transfer market during the on-going transfer window, which closes at midnight CET on Monday.

The fact is that, if Solskjaer does lose his job, he will have to accept as much blame as anybody else.

Unquestionably, he has been let down by the club during the transfer window; United are almost certain not to sign prime target Jadon Sancho before the deadline, while there has been no serious effort made to deliver on the manager's demand for a commanding centre-half, a necessity borne out by abysmal defending against Spurs.

Just as in Mourinho's final transfer window as United manager, during the summer of 2018, targets identified by the man in charge of the team have not been recruited and, as ever, the club are embarking on a deadline day scramble to get deals done, with free agent Edinson Cavani and Porto left-back Alex Telles expected to sign.

Solskjaer wanted Erling Haaland last December, but despite a personal friendship with the player's father and having worked with the young striker at Molde, Woodward was unable to get a deal done before Borussia Dortmund snapped up the FC Salzburg teenager. In addition to Sancho, RB Leipzig defender Dayot Upamecano is another target who has not come close to signing.

But every manager has to accept the frustration of failing to get the players he wants, and the key to the job is working with the resources available and making players better.

Solskjaer might argue that he has coaxed the best from Anthony Martial and brought through the undoubted potential of Mason Greenwood, but the majority of United's squad has regressed under his management.

ter goal featuring one shambolic error after another, evidence that Solskjaer's defenders perform as though they aren't properly coached.

When a team has had a man sent off -- United had Martial sent off for slapping Erik Lamela in the 29th minute when the score was 2-1 -- the professional mindset is to stem the damage and kill the game. None of that nous was on display and Solskjaer, hands folded on the touchline, did nothing to cajole or inspire his players into action.

Meanwhile, on the opposite side, this was a triumph that will quiet any critics who suggest Mourinho has lost his magic touch. Spurs were playing their fourth game in a week and made the worst possible start, but took the lead within seven minutes of going behind

and thereafter cruised as their manager reveled in the circumstances.

Son Heung-Min and Harry Kane each scored twice for the away side, while French duo Tanguy Ndombele and Serge Aurier also netted to cap commanding displays. Mourinho has guided his club through a hectic period and Tottenham go into the international break with confidence growing and with Gareth Bale's return approaching.

By contrast, United's players were awful. If Paul Pogba, Luke Shaw and Harry Maguire do not pull on the red shirt again after their inept displays, they could have no complaints.

Pogba performed like a wrecking ball... against his own team. The foul on Ben Davies, which led to the penalty for Tottenham's sixth goal, was so

bad that you would not see a repeat in a kids game. But Pogba is an £89 million midfielder with a reputation that far outweighs his contribution.

This is a United side that has conceded 11 goals in three league games so far this season and, for that, there can be no excuses. They were down to 10 men against Spurs, not seven, so there really can be no attempt to mitigate the embarrassing scoreline.

Just three games into the Premier League season, United are miles behind champions Liverpool and even trail pacesetters Everton by nine points, so can forget about winning the title for another year. Maybe nobody at Old Trafford believed they could win it anyway, but it is not even Halloween and they are already out of the running.

The big question now is how long United's owners, the Glazer family, will put up with such dismal performances and results. History shows they rarely act quickly; David Moyes, Louis van Gaal and Mourinho were all sacked months after the first signs of decline had set in, so Solskjaer might last for a good while.

When United and Spurs met in this fixture last December, the spectre of Pochettino overshadowed the game. Almost a year on, he remains unemployed but will not be available forever. As cameras panned to Woodward toward the end of his club's latest humiliation, he was seen texting on his phone.

If he was not making plans for a change in the manager's office, there will be a growing number who believe that he should have been.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Man U lets in 6, Liverpool concedes 7 in incredible EPL da

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Taifa Stars enter camp for Burundi friendly

By Seth Denis, TUDARCo

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team's head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, has said that his players will confidently confront Burundi in a friendly match, which will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on October 11.

The hosts, nicknamed 'Taifa Stars', started preparations for the friendly in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Ndayiragije said: "We are fine and the belief is that we will do well because the players who are in the squad have a lot of experience and know how to fulfill their responsibilities."

"Before I call them to the squad I tend to closely assess them, so, we believe that despite the competition we will face, we will get good results."

Taifa Stars should brace for stiff opposition, given the sides are neighbours.

The match is also expected to be intense as Ndayiragije is a Burundian, whose side will come up against a team he knows well.

The two teams last met in a competitive clash in August 8 last year.

The preliminary stage of qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup ended with Taifa Stars knocking Burundi out.

The squads settled for 1-1 draw in the first leg, which took place in Bujumbura, and they again were locked to 1-1 draw in regular time of the second leg, which took place in Dar es Salaam, forcing the clash into penalty shootout.

Taifa Stars triumphed in the penalty shootout to sail through to Group Stage of the qualifiers.

The hosts' keeper Juma Kaseja was the man of the match after saving two penalties.

Players that have been select for Taifa Stars are skipper Mbwana Samatta, Simon Msuva, Thomas Ulimwengu, Himid Mao, Ally Msengi and Nickson Kibabage who ply their trade outside Tanzania.

Samatta, who turns out for Turkey soccer giants Fenerbahçe S.K, is expected to arrive today from Turkey, while TP Mazembe forward Ulimwengu arrived on Monday afternoon from DR Congo.

Himid Mao, Egypt's ENPPI midfielder, has arrived this morning, Simon Msuva and Kibabage, who play for Morocco's Difaâ Hassani d'El Jadida, will arrive on Wednesday night.



Senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars.

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV TUESDAY**

**NIRVANA**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

**Nirvana** explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

**eastafrica RADIO**

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

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**



Aces Club's Raza Baloch (L) is presented with game changer honour by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) vice-chairman, Shahid Dhanani, shortly after the former's club had faced Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC in a 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament duel, which took place in the city last weekend. Baloch put impressive all-round displays, as he scored 17 runs and took three wickets, helping his club win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACES CLUB

## Aces cricketers impress in 2020 Caravans T20 Cup tourney opener

By Guardian Reporter

ACES cricketers have got their campaign in the 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament off to a good start, cruising to a comprehensive 43-run victory over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The competition, organized by Caravans Club, is held under the supervision of the regional cricket body, DC, in an effort to effectively promote cricket in the country.

Youthful all-rounder, Jumanne Mohamed, put man of the match displays as Aces Club, the tournament's defending champions, made short work of their opponents in the duel, played at Leaders Club venue.

Aces Club won the toss, elected to bat and amassed 116 runs, dropping nine wickets in 20 overs.

Jumanne Mohamed, batting at number three, scored 36 runs that consisted of a six to end as his team's top run getter.

Raza Baloch and opener, Ankit Baghel, too had double digit figures for their squad, posting 17 runs and 11 runs respectively.

Mukund Vekariya had an impressive bowling spell for SKLPSC in which he took four wickets, leaking 25 runs in four overs, spinner Athumani Siwa posted two wickets, leaking 21 runs in four overs.

Mounting a successful chase happened to be a tall order for SKLPSC given they were skittled for 73 runs in 17.3 overs.

Manoj Gondaliya, who posted 25 runs, was the top run getter for SKLPSC in what turned out to be a woeful batting showing by the squad. Skipper Naran Vekariya managed 10 runs in a brief spell at the crease.

Baloch took three wickets and leaked 18 runs in four overs, helping his outfit foil the SKLPSC's chase. Baghel was equally impressive, in which he took two wickets, leaking seven runs in two overs.

Aga Khan SC cricketers, as well, opened their campaign impressively, trouncing GP Pak Stars by six wickets the following day.

The game had Aga Khan SC winning the toss, electing to bowl and limiting GP Pak Stars to 167 runs for nine wickets in 20 overs.

The Zafar Khan-led GP Pak Stars, who mostly flourish in the short format of the sport, had their top order batsmen, including youthful performer Abdullah Jabiri, to thank for acquisition of the total.

Jabiri, slotted in at number four, surpassed a half century mark to end his spell with 52 runs, nailing three fours and four sixes.

He immensely helped his side pile up runs, with openers Nisar Ahmed and Khan also chipping in with equally impressive contribution, notching 36 runs and 45 runs respectively.

Sheraz Khan could only manage 11 runs as his efforts to boost GP Pak Stars' score was foiled after two overs.

Batting collapse that the squad faced thereafter frustrated its effort to post an imposing total.

Aga Khan SC spinners Riziki Kizito and Aahil Jasani ended with three wickets apiece, successfully contributing to their team's ability to have GP Pak Stars ending with a manageable total.

Sadiki Iddi too had a good bowling figure, given he ended with two wickets, leaking 22 runs in four overs.

Needing 168 runs to grab victory, Aga Khan SC batted zealously, posting 168 runs for the loss of four wickets to ultimately register the convincing win.

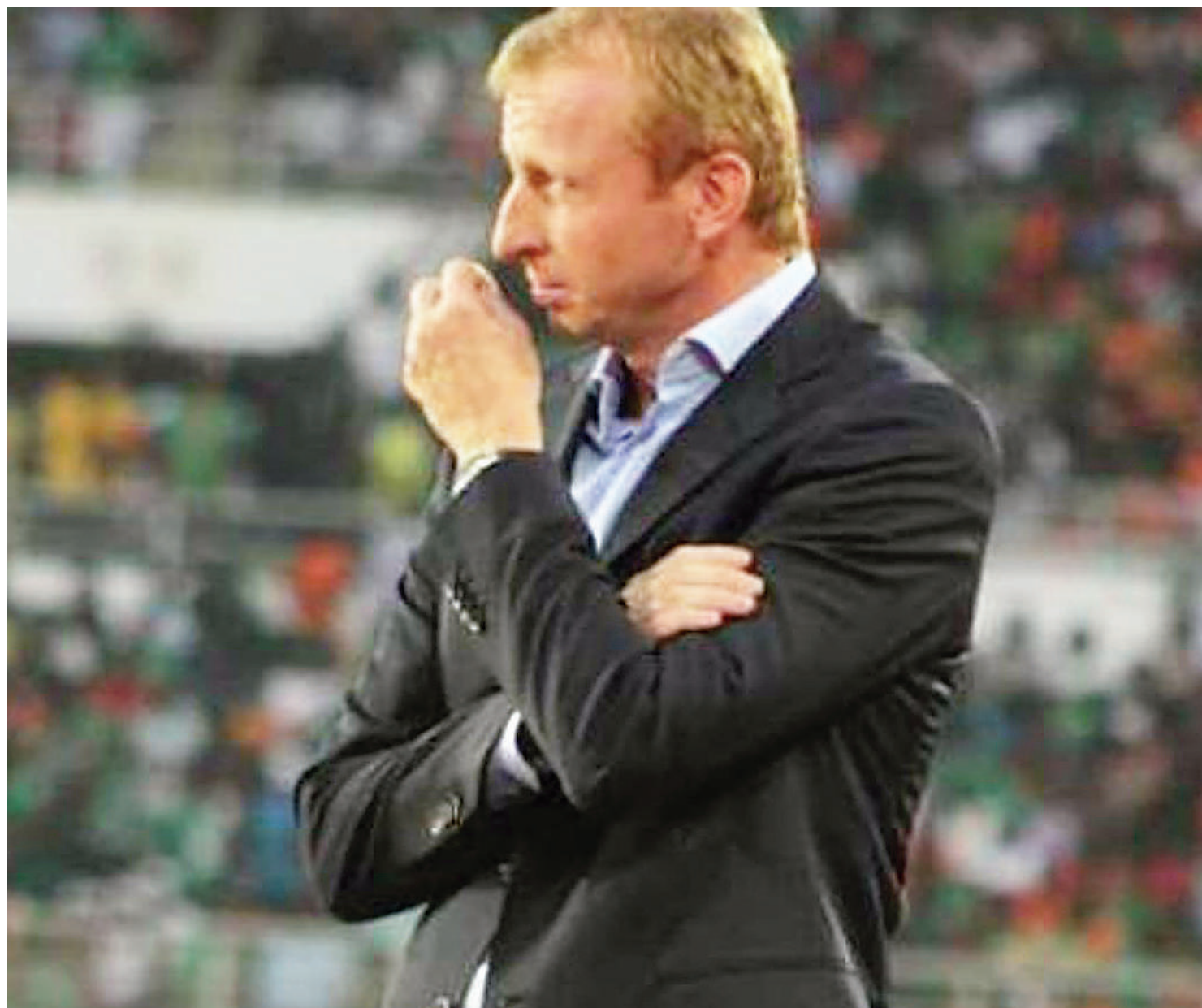
A brief spell by opener Dhruvit Mehta that posted 11 runs hardly frustrated the squad's quest for victory, fellow opener Arshaan Jasani put up scintillating displays to see them mount the chase.

The youthful performer, who staged a not out showing, ended six runs short of a century in what turned out to be the best innings with his score consisting of seven fours and three sixes.

Issa Kikasi chipped in with 31 runs, with his score consisting of two fours and a sixer.

John Zablun was two runs short of double digit figure as he too chipped in for the clash's eventual winners.

Two more games had taken place at the venue earlier the same day.



Simba SC head coach Sven Vandebroek

## Vandebroek now calls for more protection of players

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC head coach, Sven Vandebroek, feels referee Hance Mabena could have offered more protection to his players in the outfit's 4-0 win over JKT Tanzania in a 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash on Sunday.

Meddie Kagere scored twice, with Congolese striker Chris Mugalu and Luis Miquissone also getting on the score sheet in an easy afternoon for the defending champions who remained unbeaten at second place on the log.

The Belgian coach believes

referees have to look out more for offensive players after he saw a series of agricultural tackles aimed at Simba's attacking players.

Clatous Chama asked to be substituted after a hard tackle while Bernard Morrison was involved in a physical altercation when he was stamped on his hand while lying down as a result of another hard tackle on him.

"We have to protect some of defensive players and not let them be hit or kicked. Football is to be enjoyed by people, it is not to break or kill people, that is the first thing I want to say," Vandebroek said after the match.

"The second was the team's performance, how we played was a bit different but good. I am very happy that we managed to keep another clean sheet, it was the best results for us for a very long time at a difficult pitch and I am happy for my players... they did the job convincingly," he noted.

Meanwhile, his JKT Tanzania counterpart, Mohammed Abdallah 'Baressi', conceded the better team won the game.

"It was our own mistakes which cost us, we did not deserve anything from this match, we committed some mistakes

and you know you cannot play like this against the champions, if you commit a mistake they will punish you and that is what they did," Abdallah disclosed.

"We also conceded very early in the match, two quick goals in the first 10 minutes, and it was a free header, we allowed their striker to roam alone inside the box to score, it is our own mistake and we must work on them before our next league match."

Simba will face arch rivals, Yanga, in their next league assignment in Dar es Salaam on October 18 whereas JKT Tanzania will have to do duties against Ruwu Shooting on October 14.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

