



## National Pg 3

Help for children with cancer



## National Pg 4

CPB to buy 10,000 tonnes of maize



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Livestock sector faces water challenges



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Govt floats 1.3bn/- tender for telcom



### SPECIAL REPORT

# Controversy over employment of expatriates with doubtful permits

By Guardian Reporter

TWO foreign employees of soft drink bottlers SBC Tanzania Limited employees who left Tanzania after the Labour Commissioner revoked their work permits way back in February are reportedly back, working by fronting business visas issued by the Immigration Department.

They are said to have been back in Dar es Salaam for over a month now occupying the very same positions they held at the time their work permits were revoked in connection with accusations that they routinely treated Tanzanian workers at the firm disrespectfully. The reports add that the duo



Brig General Francis Mbindi

and two other non-Tanzanians (all names withheld for now) are of the same nationality and have been "working hard" to bribe their way into overstaying in the country.



Paul Msele

They are understood to have exceeded the five-year limit foreign workers are ordinarily to stay in the country, with some having worked in the country for up to twice as



Prof Jamal Adam Katundu

many years running. Sources say the other two are "finalising" the process through which to get back into the country from where they are strategically

putting up, pending their resumption of their duties in Tanzania, one coming from Dubai and the other one from India.

The Guardian has learnt that one of the two people "mysteriously" back in office resumed duties a little over a month ago, while the other is working from rented premises in Dar es Salaam's posh Masaki suburb.

It is reported that soon after the first duo's work permits were cancelled, they processed business visas that gave them access to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, where they stayed from March to the end of June working for SBC Tanzania in their very same positions they held at the time they were expelled

from Tanzania. A source confided to the Guardian: "They have been bragging that no one can stop them from working in Tanzania because they have spent up to 200m/- to acquire legal documents."

"Authorities in Kenya rejected their requests to overstay there because they didn't have work permits. But they changed names and job titles while in the Kenyan capital so that they could easily defend themselves if suspected," the source added.

Contacted for comment, Labour Commissioner Brigadier General Francis Mbindi recalled

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## Land officials held over multiple plot allocations

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

TEN individuals including a ruling party cadre are being held here for allegedly presiding over multiple allocations of parcels of land in Kibaha town, Coast Region, fueling endless conflicts among residents.

Picha ya Ndege ward CCM chairman Godfrey Mwaipopo is suspected of using his influence with local government officials in the sale certain land plots to different individuals for personal gain.

The arrests were ordered yesterday by Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge at a meeting with Lulazi area residents who have been facing land conflicts for a long time. The regional authorities are determined to crush

land cartels that cause continual conflicts, he stated.

The RC acted after separate individuals produced land occupancy transfer agreements for the same pieces bearing signatures of local authorities, sowing feuds and animosities among residents.

At the meeting, the RC ordered for the detention of Mwaipopo and nine others for interrogation by the police on accusations of selling farm zones and plots, where one plot was demonstrated to have been allocated to more than one person.

He told land fraudsters in the region to hang their boots as the end had arrived, noting that he was not ready to tolerate any

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## Samia meets US envoy, clears Chadema palaver

By Henry Mwangonde

THE fate of Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe who was recently arrested and charged with unailable offences is on top of priority of the visiting United States Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Victoria Nuland.

Liberata Mulamula, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African, told a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the US cabinet official was given the green light to meet leaders of political parties especially Chadema and deliberate on

matters relating to the arrest and arraignment of Mbowe on terrorism-related charges.

The special envoy met President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the State House yesterday where they discussed a number of issues including the state of democracy in the country.

The president assured the US envoy that she was ready to meet the opposition and that currently she was

working on addressing some key challenges facing the country mostly relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, the minister said.

While in Tanzania, the State Department top official will hold discussions on strengthening democracy, combating COVID-19, and enhancing regional security and prosperity.

International media reports say the plenipotentiary is in the country for a two day visit and is expected to call for dialogue and de-escalation of political tensions.

Ambassador Mulamula said the US official requested during a meeting with the president that she wanted to meet the

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Communications and Information Technology minister Dr Faustine Ndungulile (2nd-L) listens as CRDB Bank Plc managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (L) explains how CRDB Bank agents' work with the Tanzania Posts Corporation. This was at a seminar which opened in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Prime Minister's Office intends to initiate a probe to establish how con artists get precise information of would-be retirees with which they use to swindle senior citizens of their hard-earned money.

Addressing thousands of public sector workers nearing retirement in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Jenista Mhagama said the probe will seek to establish whether the fraudsters collude with pension funds or financial institutions.

Masquerading as workers with either pension funds or financial institutions processing the retirement packages, the swindlers call workers nearing retirement and tell them their correct employment details such as date of employment, due

## Govt wants probe on swindling of retirees

**We introduce them to safe investment opportunities because there those who get a lot of money in retirement benefits but they don't know what to do with it**

date of retirement and amount expected in retirement package, she said.

"They (fraudsters) then go ahead to ask for certain amounts of money to fast-track the processing of the money and quite a number of would-be retirees send substantial amounts of money to these fraudsters," she said.

"This is an indicator that workers dealing with retirement issues are the ones revealing such precise information to fraudsters; we will now look at the integrity of employees in such departments within the funds and in financial institutions."

She appealed to the managements of the

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs ambassador Victoria Nuland at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

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opposition and hear from them.

And in granting permission to the US envoy, President Samia asked the envoy to also deliver her message that she was ready to meet them and listen to their grievances but she will do so when the right time comes.

In an online statement on the envoy's itinerary, the US Embassy said that "in Tanzania, the Under-Secretary will meet with President Samia Suluhu Hassan and hold a roundtable with opposition

## Samia meets US envoy, clears Chadema palaver

leaders. Her discussions will focus on strengthening democracy, combating COVID-19, and enhancing security and prosperity."

Mbowe was arrested last week in Mwanza before opening a conference to set out demands for constitutional reforms, then shifted to Dar es Salaam and hauled to court to hear the charges.

The minister similarly briefed reporters on the successes of the recent tour of President Samia in Rwanda, noting that among the key issues the two countries agreed upon was to work together in Information

Communication Technology (ICT), the dairy sub-sector and industrialization. Photo on Pg 2

## Controversy over employment of expatriates with doubtful permits

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in a recent interview having cancelled the four SBC workers' work permits in February "at a special meeting held in Dar es Salaam".

"Indeed, I cancelled the said permits. Prior to that, I had summoned them to Dodoma last August following complaints raised by local (SBC) workers and gave them a last warning. In February this year I received the same concerns and decided to cancel their permits, giving them five days to leave the country."

"Their permits were cancelled in the wake of reports that they were fond of using abusive words against local workers and serving in positions that can be safely occupied by Tanzanians," said Brig Mbindi.

However, the commissioner admitted that he was not aware that the two foreign nationals in question had secretly made it back into Tanzania.

He explained, though, that the Non-Citizen Employment Act, 2015 and its respective Regulations give room to a foreigner whose work permit has been cancelled to appeal for a reconsideration of the ruling within 30 days of the revocation.

"Such appeals are filed to the minister responsible for labour affairs. The minister has powers to retain their permits. Maybe they appealed to the minister," he noted.

Currently, the labour affairs docket in Tanzania is under the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities).

Prof Jamal Adam Katundu, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), admitted in a recent interview with The Guardian that his office was aware of complaints from Tanzanian SBC workers.

However, he said the complaints were conclusively dealt with "several months ago".

"I don't know of any pending appeals in relation to the cancellation of those foreign workers' permits.

Also, I don't know of any new work permits having been issued to the people you are referring to," Prof Katundu stated.

He added: "However, if it so happens that they are in the country on business visas then that is an issue for the Immigration Department to handle."

Going by the Immigration Department's website, people seeking visas are required to file their applications through the website. After making payments, they are required to wait for approval of their requests before starting their journeys to Tanzania.

It is noted that visa application approval or rejection notifications are e-mailed to applicants, while applicants can also access the notifications online.

The possession of a visa is not a final authority guaranteeing entry into the country, though. The immigration officer at the entry point may refuse entry to a visa holder if satisfied that the holder is unable to fulfil immigration entry requirements, or if the presence of such person in Tanzania would be contrary to the country's national interests.

There are six types of visas valid for entry into Tanzania, one being then business visa, which may be issued for a period not exceeding 90 days to foreign nationals wishing to enter the country for particular purposes.

These include conducting special assignments such as fixing or repairing machines or to run short-term training, conducting short-time professional roles such as auditing accounts, making feasibility studies, and establishing professional and business contacts.

Among the other purposes are making arrangements for investments during the startup period, conducting any other short-term lawful business-related tasks recognised by the laws of the country and as may be determined by the visa-issuance authority.

One of the two foreign nationals said to be "suspiciously" back at work at SBC, as information

and communication technology director, admitted in a recent phone call with The Guardian: "Yes, it's true that I am at work. I can't give you more details because there is a person who is employed as the company's spokesperson. I suggest that you call Petro."

The second non-Tanzanian SBC "employee" in question, apparently engaged as head of supply chain and logistics at the firm's main plant in Dar es Salaam, also admitted being back at work - "but I am officially employed as a consultant".

"But, please, give me the name of whoever it is that shared with you the information you have on me. I can't talk any further until you give me the name," he said, and hung up.

Petro Kapembwa, who was identified as SBC Tanzania Human Resource Manager, was reached by phone but would not be drawn into giving details on the two foreign workers reported to have resumed work at the company in foggy circumstances. "Yes, both are back at work, but who are you to be demanding such information? What audacity do you have to question me on the welfare of our company's workers?" he shot back.

The Guardian then contacted Immigration Department spokesman Paul Msele by phone on the "controversial" issuance of business visas to foreigners whose work permits had been revoked and on allegations that bribery had been used to facilitate the process.

His response, complete with the names of the two people concerned: "One of the was in the country as an investor, while the ban on the other one's work permit was lifted by the minister in the Prime Minister's Office who has powers to waive sanctions imposed on foreign workers."

Msele added: "There is no issue of corruption here. Foreign workers pay US\$1000 at the Labour ministry and another US\$2,050 at the Immigration Department. How possibly could one pay over 7million/- and then negotiate the possibility of bribing officials for the same purpose?"

## Land officials held over multiple plot allocations

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person selling land plots with title deeds to different people, as that creates unnecessary conflicts.

He said he has names of ten officials suspected of involvement in illegal land sales, where some sold a plot with conflicting ownership and placed under court order. This endangers peace in the area, he declared.

Even where a plot was under court order, surprisingly there were still people using counterfeit documents to sell such plots, citing the case of

the family of one Said Salim.

"We want to provide some lessons to fraudsters and other land middlemen that we shall not fear anybody, even if they are government or party officials," he stated, insisting that the ongoing crackdown will be fully implemented according to the law.

He directed the District Police Officer in Command (OCD) to make sure all those mentioned in the land peddling habit are arrested for interrogation and other legal steps where relevant.

## MUHAS, SUA, NIMR link up to develop Covid-19 jab

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science (MUHAS) and the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) have joined forces to develop a Covid-19 vaccine.

Speaking during the launch of a vaccination drive at the institution yesterday, SUA Vice Chancellor Prof Raphael Chibunda said the tripartite efforts are meant to end dependency on jabs from abroad.

Tanzania launched its national inoculation campaign a week ago after receiving the first batch of over one million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine donated by the United States through the World Health Organization's Covax facility.

Prof Chibunda said the home-grown initiative which is in exploratory stages is meant to see Tanzania producing enough Covid-19 vaccines instead of relying on donations from other countries.

He said as for now, all vaccines that are being administered have been imported, but as the country's intellectuals, and in their positions in the mentioned universities, have seen the need to embark on research to satisfy the country's need for vaccines for Covid-19.

Following the delivery of vaccines to Morogoro Region, SUA submitted a request for establishing a vaccination centre there due to the big number of students - over 15,000 including 2,000 employees and academic staff members, many of whom are of advanced age.

He thanked the office of the Regional Commissioner and the Regional Medical Office for accepting the request, allocating them 500 doses that would be administered to people in the special priority groups.

Prof Chibunda said he believes the small number of doses allocated will be increased as days go by, urging the university community to disregard what was being circulated in the social media.



Jenista Mhagama (2nd-L) Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliament, Employment, Youth and Disabilities), presses a button to launch PSSSF Kiganjani App which will enable members and pensioners to register and view their fund information shortly after opening a seminar for prospective retirees on investment education for sustainable living after retirement. It was organised by the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are PSSSF director general Hosea Kashimba (L), acting Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, (Policy, Parliament, Employment, Youth and Disability) Greyson Mwaigombe (3rd L) and the Fund's director of operations, Mbaruku Magawa (R). Photo: John Badi

## Govt wants probe on swindling of retirees

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Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) and banks through which pension monies are channelled to help unravel the swindling, "leaving some retirees with little money or nothing."

Apart from suspected collusions within pension funds and or banks with fraudsters, would-be retirees are also a weak target for private lending institutions which lure them into loans with high interest rates, the minister underlined.

After learning of the pending

retirement, these institutions approach workers with seemingly easy loans whose repayments are not clearly explained but come at a high cost to retirees in terms of interest charges.

"It is not the practice of pension funds or banks to charge pensioners for the processing of their benefits and there is no such thing as stamp duty or levy as fraudsters normally say," she said.

The seminar which brought together public sector employees nearing retirement in Dar es Salaam was meant to sensitize them on the

issue, as reports show that many become easy targets for con artists.

The seminars are being conducted in various regions under the theme "Education on investment for sustainable life after retirement" and are chiefly meant to enable those nearing retirement to get appropriate knowledge on how to face life after employment ceases.

PSSSF also launched a mobile portal which allows its members to access their membership information, monthly contribution records, retirement information and other services.

"This portal will help create transparency and end fraud," the minister affirmed.

PSSSF director general Hosea Kashimba said that apart from creating awareness about the swindlers, the seminars introduce them to entrepreneurship skills and basic skills in managing personal finance and investing it.

"We introduce them to safe investment opportunities because there those who get a lot of money in retirement benefits but they don't know what to do with it," he added.



Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda stresses a point after inspecting fertiliser silos at Mtewele General Traders in Njombe Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Mathias Canal

## Mbeya launches booklet on investment guidelines

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Region has launched a booklet entitled 'Investment Guidelines' that lists various investment opportunities in every district with government officials called to advertise them.

The booklet was launched here yesterday by Education, Science and Technology Minister, Prof Joyce Ndalichako who represented Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who cut short his visit in the region due to the death of the Minister for defence and National Service, Elias Kwandikwa.

Speaking at the launching event, Prof Ndalichako said Mbeya Region has many investment opportunities and called on its residents including business people to utilise them.

She called on regional officials to make sure they work together with investors to remove business obstacles that could arise for sustainable investment that would spur national economic growth.

"The government, through the bank of Tanzania (BoT) continues wrestling the economic downturn cause by Covid-19 pandemic, the effort designed to make our

commercial banks capable to provide big loans for investment in various sectors, hence you must continue to woo in investors," she said.

She added that the government was still engaged in building modern warehouses and silos for the storage of crops to deal with the challenge emanating from post-harvest crop loss which was currently at between 40 and 60 per cent.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera called on investors to invest in the Region, saying it has many attractions including a conducive climate.

He also said the region has all means of transport that will ease investors in their transportation needs for their products, including railway, road and air.

In regard to water transport, the RC said the government has constructed goods and passenger vessels in Lake Nyassa for transportation of goods destined to Njombe and Ruvuma regions as well as neighbouring Malawi.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe called on the government in Mbeya Region to protect areas for farming not to be turned for other uses.

By Guardian Reporter

## Mo Dewji foundation pumps in 100m/- as donation to children with cancer at MNH

TANZANIAN businessman, Mohamed Dewji, through Mo Dewji Foundation has donated 100m/- to support children with cancer treated by Tumaini la Maisha (Hope for Life) an organization working with Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

The donation was received by Tumaini la Maisha (TLM) chairman and founder, Gerald Mongella who said that this year, they have been celebrating 10 years since the establishment of the organization—the only institution in Tanzania that deals with children with cancer, which started in 2011 with a vision to ensure that a child does not get sick or die of cancer without treatment. He said:

"Our responsibility is for children with such problems to receive appropriate and world-class care."

According to Mongella, at Ocean Road Hospital, TLM had about 17 beds and 70 beds at MNH, stakeholders have helped them to build a hostel at the national health facility, because it was difficult for children to complete the

treatment cycle. "We saw instead of letting him go home, he/she stays here with his/her parent or guardian, when it comes to return to the ward it becomes easier," he said, adding: "Access to such services has enabled them to increase the livelihoods of these children by more than 50 percent."

Mongella said they had had various donors including the Mo Dewji Foundation, which from 2013 until now has been raising funds to help the children.

Mo Dewji Foundation Director Rachel Carp said since 2013, the foundation supported TLM—the largest childhood cancer center in East Africa. TLM in partnership with MNH provides care and treatment for children with cancer across Tanzania.

"The care is high quality and free of charge. The task of TLM is ambitious: they are working to ensure that every child in Tanzania has the

chance of survival they deserve," Rachel said. Rachel said the state-of-the-art treatment is provided free of charge and the vision of TLM is inspiring to ensure every child with cancer gets a chance to live.

According to Rachel, Mo Dewji has always had a dream, to improve the lives of communities across Tanzania. In 2015, after stepping down from politics, he founded the Mo Dewji Foundation to carry out this mission.

"The Mo Dewji Foundation focuses on education, community development, and health. Health is a priority because good health is critical to building a sustainable life. We believe that accessible and quality health care is a human rights and are we are committed to improving healthcare across Tanzania."

"We're honored and excited to support TLM as they work hard to improve access to quality and affordable healthcare for Tanzanian

children. We encourage all Tanzanians to support the important efforts of TLM and other NGOs working to empowering the many under-privileged struggling in Tanzania," she said.

MNH's director of Medical Services Dr. Hedwig Swai, said that every year Muhimbili Hospital sees more than 2,000 cancer children and 600 inpatients, and 1,400 are outpatients.

"Muhimbili Hospital serves children with cancer throughout Tanzania. Children under the age of five are treated for free, but with the help we get from our donors and Mo Dewji Foundation is a great donor, children are treated free of charge.

"Cancer treatments are expensive; one child can spend more than 20m/-, with your help our children have continued to be in good condition, considering the number I mentioned, 80% are from the upcountry regions and most Tanzanians are incapable."

**LOSS OF CAR REGISTRATION CARD**

Buckreef Gold Mine located at Lwamgasa in Geita Region would like to inform the Public that its' Blue card for a Toyota Land cruiser single cabin with registration numbers **T 329 DWD** and Chassis numbers **JTEL871J90B010288** and Engine numbers **IH20940675** is lost. Anyone who happens to come across the registration card should surrender it at any Police Station, an official complaint has since been filed with the police with RB REF/GE/TR/RB/182/2021.

## EABC urges partner states to fast-track implementation of EAC air regulations

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has urged the East African partner states to fast-track the finalisation and implementation of East Africa Community (EAC) regulations on liberalisation of air transport services, in a move set to lower flight costs and in turn reduce the cost of doing business in the region.

According to findings from the latest policy paper by EABC, Costs and Benefits of 'Open Skies' in the East African Community, air-transport liberalization is set to lower flight costs by 9% and see a 41 per cent increase in flight frequencies.

EABC chief executive officer (CEO), John Bosco Kalisa said report shows that despite the commitments of the EAC partner states at the international level specifically on the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) on liberalization of access to air

transport markets in Africa and EAC integration efforts through the common market, the domestic air transport sector remains protected, reducing accessibility and increasing air transport cost at the expense of potential users. "Liberalisation of air services in the region is set to increase traffic volumes, improve connectivity and lower air transport fares. This will in turn increase trade and tourism, inward investment and productivity growth," he mentioned

Kalisa urged the EAC partner states to waive landing fees, excise duty on aviation fuel, navigation, landing, parking and COVID-19 related fees to see a reduction in operating costs. "To encourage imports by air, EAC partner states should waive all import duties and Value Added Tax (VAT) by air during the COVID crisis" he stated

The policy paper also recommends for the EAC partner states to provide subsidies for the aviation industry in the form of direct financial support;

loan guarantees, corporate bonds and tax reliefs.

EABC also encouraged EAC partner states to grant each other the free exercise of the rights of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth freedoms of the air on scheduled passenger, and non-scheduled passenger, cargo and/or mail flights performed by an Eligible Airline to/ from their respective territories.

"By removing foreign restrictions, EAC partner states will be able to attract private sector investment, this will open up access to capital and avail investment in infrastructure upgrades and capacity expansion for regional airports," he advised

The paper also revealed that COVID-19 has seen a drop in the tourism sector. In 2020, EAC received about 2.16 million international tourists compared to about 7.05 million in 2019. International tourist receipts dropped from USD 6.1 billion in 2019 to about USD 1.9 billion in 2020.



NBC Bank senior officials led by head of SMEs Mussa Mwinyidaho (C) officially launches the bank's new product 'NBC Jamii Account' specifically designed for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for charitable organisations and religious institutions during a brief ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are the bank's head of business banking Moses Minja (L) and product manager Mwinyi Hamza. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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## Agriculture is an engine of growth and poverty reduction - RC Mtaka

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

STAKEHOLDERS in the agricultural sector have been challenged to think of how to 'beautify' agriculture, stop the old notion that it is for the poor and make it more attractive to youth.

Such efforts should be focused on initiating small and simple projects with great impact to the people and nation at large.

The call was made here by the Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC) Anthony Mtaka, saying agriculture is no longer the nations backbone but the heartbeat of national economic growth.

Speaking while officiating the opening of the 7th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC) here, Mtaka noted that much as there are so many policy changes and the political will to improve agriculture production, a lot more need to be done to that effect.

The 7th AAPC's theme is "Realizing Tanzania's Agricultural and Agro-industry Competitiveness; Fostering Competitiveness, Productivity and Efficiency in Agri-food Systems" started on 3rd August and ends today.

AAPC is organized by the Policy Analysis Group (PAG) in collaboration with the Agricultural Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs) in Tanzania.

The RC who represented the Prime Minister Kassim Mjiliwa at the annual event expressed concerns that Tanzania still imports a lot of agriculture and livestock products in spite of having all the needed resources.

He said it is worth noting that despite having large number of cattle, country imports milk products like powdered milk since there is no factory that produces it

locally.

"As we meet to review agricultural policies and come up with recommendations, it is important to think of the practicality of making agriculture meaningful and tangible" said Mtaka.

He added that the private sector has an important role in helping develop agriculture sector, calling on the players in private sector to support the government initiatives as the nation has top leaders who are committed to taking agriculture to another level.

Speaking at the event, PAG Chairperson, Audax Rukonge noted thanked the government for adopting some of the recommendations from the AAPC, saying it is a clear appreciation of what other stakeholders are doing to improve agriculture.

He said PAG is an informal and voluntary group with members working on agricultural policy projects and initiatives, academia and local and international policy think tanks.

Established in 2013, the group has about 15 members and provides a platform for sharing information on policy research and activities so as to enhance coordination, collaboration and synergy.

Every year, the AAPC convenes a range of critical policy decision-makers and stakeholders in Tanzania's agricultural sector to share the latest empirical findings, assess progress in agricultural policy reforms, share successes, lessons learned, identify remaining gaps and chart out agenda for future reforms.

"The AAPC provide an invaluable setting for governments, businesses, researchers and development partners to explore new opportunities to integrate food and nutrition security" said Rukonge.



Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Jumanne Muliro (L) in exercise with Field Force Unit personnel in preparation to tighten security at Kisutu Residence Magistrate Court today during the hearing of the case facing Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THE government has directed the Cereal and Other Produce Board (CPB) to buy 10,400 tonnes of maize stored for the past three years by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) in Makambako, Njombe Region.

Speaking here during his three-day official visit in Njombe Region, Agriculture Minister, Prof Adolf Mkenda, said CPB has been given the responsibility by the government to buy and sell cereals crops hence it should buy the maize that has been kept in high warehousing standards.

## CPB directed to purchase 10,000 tonnes maize stored in NFRA silos

The Minister said the maize stored by NFRA should be bought and resold so as to provide the Agency to enter the crops market to buy other maize to provide farmers with relief in regard to the market.

He said NFRA's responsibility is to buy cereals and store it ready for any emergency in the country, and added that since there is currently no emergency in the last three

years, hence it is supposed to be sold in order to buy more maize from farmers for storage.

He said apart from the maize warehoused in Makambako, there was also 5,009,265 tonnes of rice for which have to be found the market from within and outside the country.

In regard to dillydallying of the warehouses and silos building project, Prof Mkenda said the

construction thereof was being done through low interest loan hence the contractor should make sure he finishes the job as soon as possible according to the contract agreement.

In the visit, Prof Mkenda also inspected the fertiliser warehouse owned by Mtwale General Traders, YARA, ETC, and also inspected the Itipingi irrigation scheme.

## Tanzanians, foreigners call for enumeration in National Population and Housing Census

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIANS and foreigners who are residents in the country have called upon for enumeration in the National Population and Housing Census slated for August next year to enable the government get correct statistics for development planning.

The remarks were made yesterday by the Commissioner of the National Population and Housing Census, Anna Makinda during her meeting with Tabora Regional Commissioner, Amb. Batilda Burian during the former's inspection visit for the main exercise in various regions countrywide.

"On that day all Tanzanians and all visitors as well as refugees in

any area of the country will be enumerated," she stressed.

Makinda said the Population and Housing Census will be conducted professionally via ICT including the use of tablets during enumeration thereby doing away with paper use.

She added that the exercise will be different with the past censuses because this time it will be conducted down to homestead level in rural areas and streets in urban areas.

She said the coming Census will provide the correct picture on the country's population to enable the government plan well its development plans including the ever present challenges on shortages of school desks and other

social services provision.

She said the National Population and Housing Census hnjias directed Tabora Region's officials to use the media including radio and TV in educating and mobilising the public to come out to be enumerated next year.

Makinda said Tanzanians need to see pride in being enumerated in August next year on a date to be announced.

Tabora RC Dr Burian said her region has already formed a Census Committee and provided directives to its members.

Next year's National Population and Housing Census will be the sixth since independence and has been conducted after every 10 years.

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Newly appointed chairperson of Tanzania Union of government and health employees (TUGHE) Tanzania Civil Aviation authority branch Jackline Ngoda gives votes of thanks to TUGHE members after the election held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: TCAA

# 'Livestock sector still faces water, grazing and diseases challenges'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Director of Policy and Planning in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Amos Zephaniah has said the country's livestock sector was still being faced with many challenges including animals' diseases, water and grazing areas.

Zephaniah made the remarks here yesterday when conveying greetings from the Livestock and Fisheries Minister at opening of the Seventh Forum for the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries stakeholders on the sectors' policies.

He said due to the animals' diseases challenge the ministry was calling on various stakeholders to invest in veterinary drugs factories to fight the challenge.

He cited another challenge as the availability of water and grazing areas for livestock, the situation, he said has greatly affected the sector.

"During rainy seasons, even traditional cow breeds increase their production of milk but in dry season milk production drops, all this is due to shortage of water and grazing areas, hence I appeal to stakeholders to find ways to produce animals fodder," said Zephaniah.

He said it was important to improve the livestock produced in the country to go in tandem with current needs. "The cow breeds we have in the country are small, they do not yield sufficient milk, but also even their meat is very little and cannot compete in the market, hence there is the need to improve

the breeds," he stressed.

He cited another challenge facing the sector as shortage of extension officers in the country as the current need stands at 17,000 officers, but there are only 3,397.

He said to alleviate the shortage the ministry has decided to establish the "M-Kilimo" system that will enable farmers to get various reports that would assist them to get answers to their queries.

In addition, he said in order to improve the environment and spurt the development of the livestock sector in FY 2020/21, the ministry continues to review laws governing the sector whereas four new regulations have been prepared and announced in the government gazette.



L-R: CA Day management committee vice chairman Binu Paul, management committee member Rakesh Saini, joint treasurer Narender Kumar Juneja, MC member Basudeo Mundhra, school staff and students, MC member Dharmendra Agrawal, MC member Atul Movaliya, and secretary Manish Bansal. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) recently held a series of events in Dar es Salaam in commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of Chartered Accountants (CA) Day.

ICAI, India's national professional accounting body, is the second largest accounting organisation in the world in terms of membership and number of students. It currently boasts more than 300,000

## ICAI's Tanzania chapter celebrates 73rd CA Day

members.

The events included the holding of a continuing professional education programme on finance laws.

Beatrice Melkiory, associate director at Ernst & Young Tanzania, was among the speakers at the occasion, with Dar es Salaam

(Tanzania) CA chairman Kapil Garg giving the opening address.

After several presentations, came the planting of tree saplings at the city's Mtendeni Primary by the CA Day managing committee members in coordination with teachers at the school.

## Bank empowers prospective pensioners on financial management and investment skills

By Guardian Reporter

PROSPECTIVE retirees from public and private entities have been urged to establish the best use of financial resources together with acquiring appropriate knowledge about the financial services and investments so they can reap benefits of their pension when they retire.

The call was made by NBC Bank senior officials in Morogoro, Mtwara and Zanzibar where they had an opportunity to talk to the prospective pensioners in a two-day seminar organised by the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) and sponsored by various stakeholders including the bank.

Speaking at one of the seminars in

Morogoro Region, NBC Bank's Credit Manager, Mtenya Cheya, advised the staff to regard and keep money in reliable institutions in line with designing new sources of income by following effective advice from experts.

"NBC Bank is prepared to help prospective and current pensioners which is the reasons that apart from taking active part in these seminars, we have been at the forefront coming up with strategies and different services for retirees including providing loans that best match their needs," he said.

Speaking in the similar seminar held in Mtwara, the bank's Mtwara branch manager, Emmanuel Mseti asked the prospective pensioners to ensure that they involve financial

experts when they think of new business ideas, investment and proper use of their loans to ensure the effectiveness of their pension.

"That is the reason NBC bank came up with a system to train customers through various programmes like business clubs and the providing entrepreneurship training in partnership with various stakeholders aiming to build their capacity to conduct business before giving them loans," he said.

The call was also voiced in Zanzibar by NBC's head of Products and Sales, Abel Kaseko, where he commended the prospective pensioners in Zanzibar to ensure they keep their money in formal financial institution to avoid conmen.



Ilala District Commissioner Ng'wilabuzu Ludigija (L) hands over part of 500 white cane for persons visually impaired worth 14m/- to Tanzania Association of the Blind chairman Omar Itambu donated by NMB in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are NMB officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Position:** Programme Director- MADRASA EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMME – ZANZIBAR (MECP – Z)

**Reports to:** Chair of the National Board and Aga Khan Foundation (AKF T) Country Director

**Overall purpose of the job:**

The Programme Director provides technical and strategic leadership of MECP in Zanzibar and is responsible for upholding MECP's mission and values across all MECP programmes, staff members, and communications. The Programme Director is responsible for effective management and leadership of MECP in Zanzibar. The Programme Director will lead on and be the custodian of MECP's technical strategy and ensure all programmes are designed and delivered in a manner that enables MECP to achieve its strategic goals. The Programme Director will be responsible for quality assurance across all areas of the organisation including programme implementation, financial management, Human Resource management, and reporting

**Specific duties**

Strategic Leadership: In collaboration with the National Board, AKF, MECP staff, and diverse MECP partners and stakeholders, ensure MECP-Z's technical programme strategy is evidence-based, meets the need of children and communities in Zanzibar, and is aligned to the broader Regional strategic framework:

- Lead on the technical strategy for MECP at the country level
- Effectively communicate with other Programme Directors to ensure technical consistency across the region
- Effectively communicate technical strategy with all MECP staff in Zanzibar to develop an agreed understanding of strategic direction
- Report programmatic and strategic progress to National Board

**Programme Quality:** Coordinate processes and the team to ensure Programme Quality with all projects being delivered on time, on budget, and with quality. This will include, but not limited to:

- Ensure programme quality processes are in-place and conducted (including annual planning and budgeting, site visits, and regular programme reviews);
- Ensure all narrative reports submitted are technically accurate, timely and representative of programme progress;
- Facilitating programme/activity iterations based on learning and development of new, technical materials to respond to emerging needs and opportunities, and;
- Ensure all programming is aligned to community needs and MECP strategy and contributes to MECP mission and values.

**Organisational Management and Growth:** Ensure internal organisational and staff capacity development and lead, in collaboration with AKF, on developing new business development opportunities:

- Human Resource management, growth, and retention and develop a conducive and inclusive working environment for all staff.
- Manage staff performance, including coaching, direct management of department heads
- With the support of AKF, develop and implement country resource mobilisation strategy
- Ensure compliance with all national laws and financial compliance of government and donor partners.
- Ensure organisational mission and values are maintained through the culture of the organisation

**Partnerships and Representation:** Ensure MECP develops and maintains high-quality relationships with diverse partners (including funding, government, and technical) and community members as well as represent MECP in national and international fora:

- Build strong relationships with government, development partners, and civil society organisations
- Ensure compliance with all memoranda of understanding signed with government or partners
- Represent MECP at the national, regional, and international levels with respect to ECD
- Engage and dialogue with government and development partners to influence policy and practice

**Internal and External communications:** Ensure MECP is effectively communicating internally (including through AKF's newly established ICT enabled communication platforms) and externally to maintain MECP's organisational profile, technical influence, and to grow MECP's image

- Coordinate with AKF communications to ensure MECP-Z internal and external communications needs are met
- Technical sign-off on all marketing and communications materials in Zanzibar ensuring all external communications contribute to MECP's mission and values
- Manage country level media relations

**Diversity, Inclusion, and safeguarding:** Ensure MECP's pluralistic values are demonstrated internally, externally, and all programming in respectful and inclusive of people from diverse backgrounds including, but not limited to, socio-economic status, religion, ethnicity, culture, gender, age, and disability. Committed to acting ethically and upholding safeguarding standards towards all staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries of the organisation.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Minimum Master's degree or equivalent in Development, Education, ECD or related field
- Minimum four years senior management experience
- Experience in management, leadership and mentoring staff with willingness to visit programmes in the field
- Experience developing relationships with government and development partners to generate income and influence policy and practice
- Excellent communication skills, able to make strong presentations and produce high quality written reports
- Experience of working across geographical, organisation boundaries, cultures & diverse stakeholders.

**CORE COMPETENCIES**

- Strategic Thinking and Communication
- Creativity and Innovation
- Influence and Negotiation

**How to Apply**

Interested candidates are requested to submit a cover letter, CV including contacts of three references, by **17th August 2021**.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Click on the following link to apply [www.akdn.org/careers](http://www.akdn.org/careers)

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The Aga Khan Foundation is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network ([www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org)).

## Govt floats 1.3bn/- tender for telcom towers construction in Ngara District

By Guardian Reporter, Ngara

DEPUTY Communications and Information Technology Minister Eng Mathew Kundo has said that his ministry, through the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) has advertised a tender valued at 1.3bn/- for the construction of telcom towers in nine wards of Ngara District in Kagera Region to improve communication services in the district.

He disclosed this during his official visit in the District to inspect the quality of communication services in the area that borders Burundi and Rwanda.

The visit is part of his tours to inspect challenges facing telecommunication services in border areas that interfere with telecommunication services in neighbouring countries.

The telcom towers will be built in Bugarama, Butililo, Kabanga, Kasulo, Kibogola, Mabawe, Mutulazo, Nyakisasa and Nyamagoma wards.

Kundo said Ngara District is among border districts with complaints by Members of Parliament over challenges from telecommunications interferences with neighbouring countries.

He said the aim of the government is to boost telecommunication services in border areas because the areas carry economic considerations as well as enabling Tanzanians of all areas receive

quality telecommunications services including radio and television services.

He further said people in border areas have been incurring huge expenses to get roaming telcom services due to interferences in their pursuits of their economic activities.

For his part, Ngara member of Parliament thanked the government for allocating 1.3bn/- for construction of telcom towers in the district with big telecommunications challenges.

Meanwhile Kundo visited Tanzania Communications Company Limited (TTCL) offices in Ngara District and found the company had only one back room without any signboard to indicate its location while the rest of the rooms were rented a college, a church organisation and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

He also received complaints from the building's tenants on inadequate toilet facilities as the entire complex had only two toilets compared to the big number of people working therein including students.

However, it was explained that the complaints had been submitted to the TTCL Kagera Regional officials who promised to solve the problem, the promise that was not kept.

The Deputy Minister also called on TTCL Regional managers to adopt the practice of visiting TTCL branches in their districts to make follow ups of the company's activities.

## SADC ministerial task force reviews regional integration agenda progress

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration (MTF) and Committee of the Ministers of Trade (CMT) have agreed on a number of issues pertaining to regional integration including implementation of regional Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063).

The meeting was presided over by Carlos Mesquita, Minister for Industry and Trade of the Republic of Mozambique, who is the Chairperson of the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration and the Committee of Ministers of Trade. Regional integration helps SADC countries overcome divisions that impede the flow of goods, services, capital, people and ideas.

The divisions are a constraint to economic growth, especially in developing countries.

SADC's main objectives is to achieve economic development, peace and security, growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged.

The objectives are to be achieved through increased regional integration built on democratic principles, and equitable and sustainable development.

However, the primary orientation of the SADC industrialisation strategy is the importance of technological and economic transformation of the SADC region through industrialisation, modernisation, skills development, science and technology, financial strengthening and deeper regional integration.

The strategy is anchored on three pillars, industrialisation as a champion of economic and technological transformation, competitiveness as an active process to move from comparative advantage to competitive advantage and regional integration and geography as the context for industrial development and economic prosperity.

The SADC Protocol on Industry was approved by the 39th SADC Summit in August 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and seeks to strengthen the economies of member states to ensure that they are driven by industrial

development.

As of July 2021, the protocol had been signed by 13 Heads of States and Government and ratified only by Seychelles. The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and Zambia are the three member states who are yet to sign the Protocol.

In order to realise the targeted long-term development objectives, SADC member states will have to address the slow progress in ratifying the protocol on industry and delays in the operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund (RDF) to facilitate mobilisation of meaningful resources to support regional value chains, mineral beneficiation and other industrial projects in the region that require large-scale investments.

The policy environment for industrial development and value addition needed to be improved in order to facilitate increased industrial investments at country's level.

The meeting also considered the report on the implementation of the SADC Regional Mining Vision (RMV) and Action Plan (AP) which were approved by the Council of Ministers in August 2019 to ensure increased production and use of SADC raw materials as feedstock for downstream processing.

It was noted that emerging issues and key challenges that need attention under the integration pillar included improving logistics and transportation systems that remain a key hindrance to intra-regional trade; dealing with extra-SADC importation of agricultural commodities, and dealing with nationalistic local content requirement policies that pose risks to Regional Integration.

The meeting recommended improving cross-border rail networks and corridors to facilitate the flow of goods within the SADC Region which include the involvement of the private sector through the establishment of export trading companies and export credit facilities.

The meeting also deliberated on improved energy sector integration in support of industrialisation, and noted that the Secretariat is overseeing preparation and implementation of transmission projects aimed to interconnect Angola, Malawi and Tanzania to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).



Human rights defenders in a group photo during a capacity building training aimed to foster implementation of the Marrakech Declaration in Tanzania. The event took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: THRDC

## Dar hospital joins govt's efforts in Covid-19 vaccines

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam-based Regency Medical Hospital (RMC) has joined the government's efforts by providing Covid-19 vaccines to Tanzanians.

RMC Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Lalit Kanabar said in Dar es Salaam that the health facility has started to vaccinate people by using Janssen vaccine, produced by US-based firm—Jonson and Jonson.

He said they have received the vaccination from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children

and urged people to register for vaccination.

The official urged people to register through that website which will enable them to get the free vaccination and protect themselves from the Covid-19.

Kanabar said the health facility will be vaccinating people every day until the vaccine supply reach to an end, adding: "We expect many Tanzanians to show up and get the vaccine."

He said because the vaccine is for free majority of Tanzanians should come up and get the vaccine and disregard street rumors that the vaccine will affect their health.

One of the persons, who got the vaccine at RMC, Hussein Athuman applauded the arrangement of the hospital to get vaccination.

"The exercise is very smooth here because I took only ten minutes from registration to vaccination room I would like to argue my fellow Tanzanians to come and get vaccination," he said.

Amina Mzava who also get the vaccination at Regency Medical center said she is feeling good even after the vaccination and commended the hospital for the decision to join government efforts in the provision of the vaccination.

"I'm happy and confident after

vaccination and I believe that many Tanzanians will receive this positively because we are told by medical practitioners that vaccine is defense against Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Last week, in a televised event held at the statehouse, President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched the country's vaccination campaign against Covid-19 by receiving her first shot of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

The president got vaccinated against the coronavirus alongside with the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, chief justice and other top officials.



Manyara Regional Commissioner Makongoro Nyerere helps Minjingu resident to balance a bucket of water at the launch one of 13 water kiosks in Babati District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

## TADB praised for helping local farmers and investors

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TRADITIONAL leaders of Mbeya have applauded Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) for supporting local farmers and investors in the country. The leaders said this during a visit to one of TADB's beneficiaries, Raphael Group Ltd in Mbeya Uyole area.

Speaking during the excursion, the head of traditional leaders in Mbeya township and rural, the Chief of Wasafwa tribe, Rodrick Mwashinga, praised TADB for investing in Raphael Group Ltd., one of the leading food grains processors and distributors in the Southern Highlands zone.

"I would like to thank TADB for empowering local farmers and businessmen in the region. This proves the bank's trust in home-grown investors, and its commitment in supporting local communities to bring about socio-economic development through agriculture," said Chief Mwashinga.

"My plea to the bank is to continue to extend its services to more local farmers and investors, so that they can build more agro-processing plants like this one, create assured markets for farmers produce, employ community members, and overall, contribute to the development of the region and the national economy."

Speaking on TADB's investment in Raphael Group Ltd., the bank's Zonal Manager for the Southern Highlands zone, Alphonse Mukoki, said that the bank has supported the company to purchase 80 metric tonne per day rice processing machine, a grain dryer and colour sorting machine. Apart from that, the bank has also provided the company with working capital to procure paddy and beans from over 13,000 small-holder farmers in Mbeya and surrounding regions.

Mukoki also reiterated the bank's commitment in supporting local farmers and investors in order to bring about agricultural

transformation and socio-economic impact in the country. "Our goal as a development finance institution is to empower local farmers and investors with useful technology and working capital to not only uplift their businesses but to make an impact across the respective agri-value-chain," said Mukoki.

He added: "Our intervention in Raphael Group Ltd. is a clear example of the good work that we are doing to transform this important sector in line with the government's newly launched Five-Year Development Plan III."

According to TADB, the bank has already invested over 20 billion shillings in the Southern Highlands zone, in the regions of Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Ruvuma, and Songwe, across 18 value-chains, with leading investments in paddy, cocoa, maize and coffee.

Head Manager of Raphael Group Ltd., Lazaro Mwakipesile said that visit of the local leaders aimed at educating the community about

the partnership between TADB and Raphael Group Ltd., and witnessing first-hand the activities of production, processing and distribution of the plant.

Accompanying the traditional leaders, Councilor of Itezi ward, Sambwee Shitambala, thanked Raphael Group Ltd, and TADB for the opportunity to visit and learn about their partnership and investment in the paddy value-chain which is making a significant impact to the Mbeya local community and Southern Highlands zone as a whole. "This concerted project will surely promote Mbeya and Tanzania as well, as a hub for paddy production, processing and distribution," he said.

Raphael Group Ltd., is one of the leading food grains processors and distributor in six grain products which includes: rice (50%), beans (20%), groundnuts (10%), fortified maize flour (5%). Rice processing takes the majority share of 50% of the company's processing business.

# CMSA calls upon local and foreign investors to utilise opportunities available through 'Mpango wa Endeleva'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Capital Market and Security Authority (CMSA) has called upon local and foreign investors to utilise opportunities available through the newly launched Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange—Small and Medium Enterprises Acceleration Segment 'Mpango wa Endeleva'.

CMSA Executive Director, Nicodemus Mukama said this yesterday at a function to launch the programme. He said the SMEs acceleration programme is a designated non-trading segment of the DSE aimed at profiting and enhancing visibility of qualifying SMEs for capital rising from private investment market.

He said the government through CMSA will continue to create an enabling environment aiming at reaching its target of developing its market capital market hence stimulating the economy.

"Launching of the SMEs acceleration programme was the result of implementation of the strategic plan of the DSE and CMSA aimed at enhancing small and medium entrepreneurs to use opportunity available in the capital market, including accessing long-term capital to implement development projects," he said.

The segment also aims to increase the number of investors in the capital market hence contributing to implementation of the National Financial Sector Development Master plan 2019/20-2029/30, SMEs Financing Strategy and National Financial Inclusion Framework.

"I'm happy to launch the SMEs Acceleration Programme through DSE where eight companies have met all criteria's set," he said.

He named the companies as Selcom, Raha Beverage Company (RABEC), Victoria Finance, Finca Microfinance Bank, Africa Microfinance Ltd (AML), Techno Image, Reni the Wate Experts and AKM Gilter Ltd.

According to him, the programme aims to bring positive results including enabling SMEs to get visibility across a vast investing public and seed capital providers.

Mukama added that the segment also enhances their brand and increases investment opportunities and increases access to funds from different stakeholders.

DSE Executive Director Moremi Marwa said lack of capital was one big challenge facing SMEs in the country.

He said the aim of launching the segment was to give a profile to SMEs and get access to funds from investors across the country and beyond the border.

"Our target is to profile our SMEs to give visibility to get financial capital and eventually listed in the stock exchange," he said.

According to him, once profiles get visibility, they can grow and contribute to the country's economy and revenue.

The operation director at Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) Irene Mlola, said the segment is set to embark on helping women and youths.

She said the aim of doing that is to ensure women and youths enterprises also grow and contribute to the nation's economy.

"As FSDT, we want to bridge the gap in SMEs so that they can fully utilise the opportunity to profile and visibility to get access to finance," she said.



Muheza District Commissioner in Tanga Region Halima Bulembo is vaccinated against of COVID 19 at Ubwari health centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

# Ruaha Darajani residents highlight need for more Covid-19 education

RESIDENTS in Ruaha Darajani village, Malolo ward in Kilosa District in Morogoro Region are calling on the government to strengthen awareness programmes on Covid-19 in the area as it has been hosting a number of guests and travellers daily.

According to the villagers, the place which borders Iringa and Morogoro regions is a station where most vehicles traveling to various countries such as Zambia, Malawi and Congo park there.

"We are at high risk of contracting the disease due to the interaction of people resting in the village, so we appeal to the government to strengthen measures and help the residents avoid the disease," said Christopher Kiumbe, a resident of Malolo B village.

He said Covid-19 education has

not been taken seriously in the village calling on leaders to continue encouraging people to protect themselves from the disease as it is a national catastrophe that threatens lives.

He said their village is traversed by a main road connecting various regions and nations so various visitors come to the village to get various services considering the village is used by truckers as parking.

"We are also waiting for the vaccine to arrive and because the village has a health centre we hope that most people will access them once they arrive so as to stay safe," he added.

Kiumbe said they have faith over the World Health Organisation (WHO) and government led by President Samia Sululu Hassan that

the vaccines are safe.

"The on-going vaccine protests show that some people are still ignorant of the importance of the vaccines thus needing more education to transform their negative attitudes."

Meanwhile, 2021 National Uhuru torch race leader, Lt Josephine Mwambashi has concluded the race in Iringa Region by launching, inspecting and laying foundation stones of more than 28 projects that cost more than 14bn/- while insisting on taking precautionary measures against Covid-19.

Speaking when handing over the torch to Morogoro Region, Lt Mwambashi hailed the region for supervising well the implementation of the project thus bringing development in the area.

"While in Iringa, we have witnessed that people have been educated on Covid-19 based on the health principles of wearing a mask, hand washing, so Morogoro regional leaders who will participate in the torch race should ensure that they supervises the rules to help contain spread of the virus," she said.

In Kilolo District alone, the Uhuru Torch race launched, inspected and laid the foundation stones for more than eight projects costing more than 1bn/-.

Lt Mwambashi further commended the Kilolo District Commissioner for managing the development projects wanting them to strengthen the control of corruption in development projects and ensure that the public funds are used efficiently.



Raphael Group Ltd head manager, Lazaro Mwakipesile (hand raised), explains to chiefs and traditional leaders of Mbeya the functioning of a modern 80 metric tonnes of rice processing plant financed by Tanzania Agricultural Development (TADB), during the leaders' visit at the company yesterday in Uyole on the outskirts of Mbeya City. The agro-bank has also supported Raphael Group Ltd., with a grain dryer and colour sorting machine, as well as working capital to procure paddy and beans from over 13,000 small-holder farmers in Mbeya and surrounding regions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# AVAT to partner with UNICEF in scaling up vaccine deliveries to AU member states

By Guardian Reporter

HAVING secured access to up to 400 million doses of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine, the African Union (AU), African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) and UNICEF have partnered to ensure the seamless procurement and delivery of vaccines to AU member states.

The partnership will help ramp up efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic as less than 2 per cent of people on the continent are fully vaccinated so far.

"We are building a platform for deeper collaboration that will pave the way to a more robust African response to the pandemic and move the continent towards recovery, leveraging the opportunities to strengthen health systems and support the manufacturing sector for job creation," said Dr Vera Songwe, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

"We are pleased to have UNICEF as a strategic partner in the delivery of these vaccines to our member states, as they are extremely experienced in handling and managing vaccines, and a strong and well-established relationship with all AU member states," said Strive Masiyiwa, African Union Special Envoy.

"Since the pandemic began, Africa CDC has worked with COVAX to ensure that African Union Member States get fair access to COVID-19 vaccines. At this critical moment where widespread vaccination is more urgent than ever, we must do all to vaccinate at least 60 per cent of the African population by 2022," said Dr John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC.

"As the Financial and Transaction advisers to AVAT on the Johnson & Johnson Agreement, we are pleased to formally welcome UNICEF to the partnership and look forward to a fruitful collaboration for efficient delivery of vaccines to African countries," said Prof Benedict Oramah, President of Afreximbank.

"Access to COVID-19 vaccines has been unjust and unfair, with people in Africa bearing the brunt of this inequality. This cannot continue," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

Fore added: "UNICEF is a staunch partner of the African continent with a long history of delivering vaccines everywhere they are needed. We are pleased to join this partnership

with the African Union and AVAT to maximize supply and access to vaccines."

Established by African leaders, AVAT has spearheaded African efforts on fair equitable access and distribution of vaccines, negotiating vaccine acquisition with pharmaceutical companies to at least 60 per cent of the African population with safe and efficacious vaccines to achieve 'herd immunity' by 2022.

The procurement of these vaccine doses has been made possible with the support of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), which provided a US\$2 billion Advance Procurement Commitment (APC) Guarantee facility to Johnson and Johnson on behalf of the AU Member States.

The bank also made available direct financing to AU Member States which require funding to pay for the vaccines. In April 2021, Afreximbank made a down payment of \$330 million to Johnson and Johnson on behalf of the AU Member States, as part of the commitment under the Agreement.

Access to vaccines is the surest way out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emerging new variants suggest that global recovery will remain elusive if Africa is left behind. Speed and scale in vaccine distribution are imperative for economic recovery.

AVAT is pleased to be working with UNICEF to scale up the delivery of the acquired vaccines to countries to quickly increase the number of vaccinated people.

The AVAT and UNICEF partnership will also work to increase procurement and manufacturing on the continent as part of a broader strategy for sustainable health systems and job creation in Africa.

The pandemic has highlighted Africa's pharmaceutical manufacturing vulnerabilities. Prior to the pandemic, the continent was only able to manufacture less than 2 per cent of the total medicines needed.

The distribution of the J&J vaccines to countries through AVAT Advanced Purchase Agreement is expected to commence in August 2021.

"Access to COVID-19 vaccines has been unjust and unfair, with people in Africa bearing the brunt of this inequality. This cannot continue"

# Global Pan African Movement demands for implementation of historical African diaspora

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THE Global Pan African Movement (GPAM) has called for the implementation of the historical diaspora as contextualized in the Organization of African Unity and in the African Constitutive Act for a prosperous and free society in this 21st century.

Acting Secretary General of GPAM, Ikwaeba Bunting, underscored recently during an event organised to mark the Pan African Women's Day that the diaspora should not only be narrowly defined as Tanzania nationals living outside the country but should be further recognized so as to bring about unity as fast as possible.

"In the spirit of Pan Africanism and the legacy of Tanzania let us also make space for the African Diaspora," he said.

He cautioned the youth to carry the

pan African struggle and purpose forward which includes the unification of Africa and the union government, the liberation of minds and the economy.

"It is our desire that the countries of Africa that have signed the constitutive Act of the African union should implement the treaties and protocols as stated so as to hasten unity," he emphasized.

He therefore urged women to gather with men and children as family because unity begins in the family and women play a greater role in ensuring that this unity exists.

"The foundation stone of any society is the household and we cannot deny the central role of the woman in the whole world but in particular for Africa because Africa is the birthplace of humanity," he intoned adding that the African woman is the mother of humanity.

Bunting also called on the government of Tanzania to introduce an education system that liberates the minds of the people so that they could be critical and creative thinkers because the battle happens in the mind.

"Knowledge is the key to power so we need to think critically and independently but with an African centered approach," he stressed.

He added that the global Pan African family should understand the importance of a Pan African nationality which is very crucial if they want to move into freedom, prosperity and self-determination.

Pan African Women (PAO) Board Member Lightness Ladislaus Salema cautioned the youths to learn the values of Africanism and stop copying from the western world while taking care of the economy and the economies of the nations.

THURSDAY 5 AUGUST, 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## We need to reduce demand for illicit wildlife products

ILLCIT wildlife trafficking can only be effectively tackled if we reduce the demand for illicit wildlife products. Therefore, we stress the need for government-led, well-researched campaigns aimed at reducing demand, using targeted strategies to influence consumer behaviour. We need actions taken through initiatives such as the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks. It provides an Africa wide platform to support new as well as existing initiatives.

Wildlife trafficking is now more organised, more lucrative, more widespread and more dangerous than ever before. Poachers with military weapons and vehicles gun down elephants and rhinos. Increasingly, they are also targeting the park rangers dedicated to protecting threatened species.

The result is a scourge that is wiping out elephants and rhinos, along with other African species. Tens of thousands of elephants across Africa are poached each year. The forest elephant population in the Congo Basin has fallen by more than 60 percent in the last decade. In one African country, rhino poaching has increased by 5,000 per cent since 2007. Illicit wildlife trafficking also greatly threatens many other African species both plant and animal, and several populations of these species are also plummeting.

What's more, it is no longer a local phenomenon. International criminal networks run the trade and some use the profits to buy weapons, to finance civil conflicts and to pay for terrorism. This is not just an environmental problem. The violence and damage now threatens peace and the rule of law, as well as the revenue many African countries earn from tourism and other wildlife uses; some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities that depend

on wildlife for their livelihoods suffer. Illicit wildlife trafficking also involves species that are subject to considerable legal trade, trades which when sustainable and traceable provide critical benefits to local communities. Wildlife trafficking thwarts governments' efforts to stop other illicit trades, such as arms and drugs. It fuels organised crime and corruption, and compromises regional security.

Put simply, illicit wildlife trafficking is undermining the basis of Africa's development and reversing some of the hard-earned economic and social achievements the continent has made in recent years.

Growing demand for illegal wildlife products drives the surge in illicit wildlife trafficking. The tusks, bones and horns of animals killed in Africa, appear in markets all over the world. Smuggled goods find their way to Asia, North America, Europe and elsewhere. Increased demand has led to skyrocketing prices for illegal animal goods.

We need strong partnerships to fight the global problem of illicit wildlife trafficking. To help build an effective collaboration on wildlife protection in Africa we stress the need to initiate or join bilateral, regional and/or international cooperation agreements to combat illicit wildlife trafficking, particularly between countries which share wildlife trafficking trade routes and promote the establishment of and actively participate in a national environmental security (NEST) task force or similar multi-agency cooperative as recommended by Interpol. Such a task force would include police, customs, environmental agencies, other specialised agencies, prosecutors, non-governmental organisations and intergovernmental partners to focus environmental crime fighting efforts on the networks and crimes that particularly affect a country.

## Broadband Commission calls upon world leaders to prioritise universal connectivity

UNIVERSAL broadband access is the vital catalyst needed to drive global economic recovery and accelerate landmark progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, according to a new report released by the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly underscored humanity's growing reliance on digital networks for business continuity, employment, education, commerce, banking, healthcare, and a whole host of other essential services. Yet today, almost half the global population has still never accessed the internet, and hundreds of millions more struggle with slow, costly and unreliable connections, often through remote locations like internet cafés.

The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's 2020 State of Broadband report, released at the Commission's 10th anniversary meeting includes a rallying call to world leaders and heads of industry to place universal broadband connectivity at the very forefront of global recovery and sustainable development efforts.

The State of Broadband 2020: Tackling Digital Inequalities, A Decade for Action, highlights stark disparities in access to high-speed connectivity that have prevented billions of adults and children from benefiting from remote working, learning and communication. The report also takes stock of progress made in expanding access to and adoption of broadband infrastructure and services, and achieving the Commission's seven 2025 advocacy targets.

Paul Kagame, co-chair of the

Broadband Commission and President of Rwanda said: "The first decade of the Broadband Commission has made a real impact by highlighting the transformational power of universal access to high-speed internet connectivity and smartphones. Ideas that seemed futuristic ten years ago, are now mainstream. The next decade will be about using digital tools to speed up the recovery from the Covid pandemic and make up some of the lost ground on the SDGs."

Carlos Slim Helú, President of the Carlos Slim Foundation and Co-Chair of the Broadband Commission, said: "Digital technologies are offering services that are creating big changes. Regulators and governments should be aware of the vital importance for society and development that telecom networks play, and that high taxes, spectrum charges and regulation are barriers to digital inclusion. Today our challenge is to look for universal connectivity and to make it available for countries and people. Broadband Connectivity is the bridge to move to economic development and welfare."

"Leaving no one behind means leaving no one offline, now more than ever before," said Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations' specialised agency for information and communication technology and co-chair of the Commission. "Increasing and coordinating ICT infrastructure investments will be instrumental, not only in connecting the 3.6 billion people still offline, but also in driving the development of new technologies central to the digital economy."

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By K. Riva Levinson

WHERE were you this July 4th when the views expressed by contributors are their own and not the view of the hill celebrated its 245th birthday and its independence from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

I was at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., along with 34,000 largely un-masked spectators, thanks to America's success in vaccinating our way out of the worst mass casualty event in U.S. history. This was an all-American accomplishment. Delivered by U.S. private sector innovation, powered by Trump's Operation Warp Speed, and realized by Biden's Build Back Better. However unintentional, it was an epic bipartisan success.

Nat's fans (my family included) clad in red, white, and blue, were celebrating a return to normal. As for me, I was in culture shock -- feeling disoriented and unsettled, having just returned from three weeks of travel in West and East Africa where many countries are in their third wave of COVID-19 fueled by the Delta variant.

Last week, Africa saw a 43 percent uptick in COVID-related deaths -- with infections, hospitalizations, and patients in need of oxygen all on an accelerated rise. Lock downs and curfews are returning, and economic hardship is acute.

In America, healthcare providers are literally begging to put shots in arms. In Africa, the vaccine supply that had been available has run out, as the global plan to help the world's poor, COVAX -- the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility -- has bogged down.

The Serum Institute of India, the primary vaccine supplier, canceled its supply commitments, having to re-direct vaccine at home -- and despite high expectations, COVAX proved good at collecting financial pledges but not actual cash, putting African countries at the end of the line to purchase vaccines from for-profit drug manufacturers. As a result, only 1.2 percent of Africa's population of 1.3 billion is fully vaccinated.

Americans have earned the right to celebrate the success of our mass vaccination campaign, which has enabled sports arenas across the country to operate at full-fan capacity. However, we have all learned the hard way that an infection anywhere can be a contagion everywhere, and this remains an undeniable, unassailable, indisputable truth, whether we chose to be vaccinated or not.

Africa did not deserve to be in

## Africa doesn't deserve last place in the vaccine race



last place in the race to fight the coronavirus pandemic. At first, many African nations did better than their western counterparts, taking aggressive steps in locking down their economies. Public health measures -- including frequent hand washing, social distancing and mask wearing -- were swiftly introduced, winning community-buy in.

The Africa Center for Disease Control, established in 2017 after the Ebola epidemic, launched a continent-wide platform for procuring laboratory and medical supplies and secured 270 million doses of vaccines with another THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL. 90 million on standby, made possible in part through the \$2 billion facility approved by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank).

However, regional solidarity can only go so far when there is "a deliberate global architecture of unfairness," says Stive Masiyiwa, the African Union's special envoy tasked with leading efforts to procure COVID-19 vaccines.

Masiyiwa argues that the continent has been crippled by the global COVID-19 supply chain crisis in which governments with deeper pockets hiked prices of vaccines, while national export controls on essential commodities and raw materials further blocked access. He notes that without its own vaccine production, Africa has been rendered a continent of beggar vaccine nations.

Masiyiwa's apportionment of blame to external actors does not diminish the agency of Africans in their fight against the pandemic, nor does it appropriate the responsibility of African governments. Uneven governance and lack of transparency has also taken its toll across the continent. Until recently, Tanzanians lived under a president who denied the existence of the disease and the utility of scientific treatments. But these domestic circumstances do not account for the disparity of outcomes.

Larry Summers, former U.S. Treasury Secretary and one of the co-chairs of the G-20 panel put together to look at post-pandemic preparedness, recently said "this is a profound moment in international relations." Agreed.

Like Summers, I believe that the United States must confront the vaccine imbalance as well as tackle the injustices in the global health infrastructure that got us here. Both will be essential to a sustained economic recovery in Africa and to building international solidarity to combat other challenges, including the existential threat of climate change.

In the short-term, it will be all about ramping up production, redeploying excess vaccines from wealthier nations, and ensuring that cash is available -- in real-time -- to help Africans purchase and administer the doses. This will be especially important with the African Union doses where Johnson & Johnson is positioned to deliver but full funding has not been

secured. It will also demand giving African nations the fiscal space to absorb the shock of the COVID-19 recession.

The Biden administration has taken some important initial steps. This week it initiated delivery of 25 million doses to 49 African countries, with the first shipments to Burkina Faso, Djibouti and Ethiopia coming in days.

In addition, at the recent G-20, U.S. Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen supported the IMF's allocation of \$650 billion Special Drawing Rights -- a reserve asset created by the IMF and exchangeable for hard currency -- with the presumption that G20 members will donate their share of the allocation to low-income countries.

In the longer term, it is going to take more.

It's going to take an "all-in" mentality by the Biden administration -- and "all-in" will mean heeding the advice of Larry Summers and his co-chairs to invest \$15 billion a year in additional funds for a major overhaul of the world's health governance infrastructure. It will need to entail debt forgiveness, not just debt suspension, and bringing on board the private sector creditors and credit agencies. Finally, it will demand holding China accountable -- but that is a column for another day.

Addressing systemic societal inequities should not stop at the water's edge. As Kenyan journalist Nanjala Nyabola writes, we cannot permit rich countries to use charity as a buffer for injustice.

# Don't forget leprosy' campaign amid COVID-19 pandemic

JOHANNESBURG

**A** VISIT to a leprosy facility in Korea with his father, Ryoichi Sasakawa, spurred Yohei Sasakawa to dedicate his life to eliminating both the disease and discrimination of those affected.

He was speaking in an emotional pre-recorded address ahead of his 20th anniversary as WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and at the launch of a 10-month 'Don't Forget Leprosy' campaign by the Sasakawa Health Foundation.

Sasakawa said while he had achieved much in the 20 years, including getting the UN General Assembly to adopt the guidelines for eliminating discrimination of people affected by leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the success of an international campaign to eradicate the disease.

In the past 18 months, while the world grappled with the pandemic, there was an estimated 30% to 50% decrease in detecting new leprosy cases. This could lead to increased transmission of the disease and more cases of disability, the webinar heard. In many communities, protocols, including lockdowns, had made it difficult to access treatment. This resulted in a loss of livelihoods and exacerbated discrimination that people affected by leprosy often face.

"Even amid the pandemic, it is very important that everyone involved in leprosy work continues what they are doing. We must not allow leprosy to be forgotten," Sasakawa said.

Special guest Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Southeast Asia, said the pandemic could undo decades of progress unless addressed.

"Let us be clear COVID-19 will be with us for some time. It is not enough to maintain minimal leprosy services. Rather such services must be restarted or expanded, with a focus on intensifying outreach activities to identify cases and begin treatment to all who need it," Singh said.

However, as much as the pandemic was a threat, it had also allowed a focus on new technologies.

For many months now, "e-learning materials have helped community volunteers identify potential leprosy cases, and then refer them on to health workers," Singh said. This was being extended to counselling and mental health support and should be harnessed in this campaign to fight both the disease and discrimination of those affected.

Sasakawa said in his 20 years as a goodwill ambassador, he had been on 200 trips to 100 countries. Here he spread the message of eliminating both disease and discrimination.

In his keynote address, he likened his campaign to a



Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination answers questions from Patricia Soares, a guest at the launch of the 'Don't Forget Leprosy' campaign. They are with Takahiro Nanri, Executive Director of the Sasakawa Health Foundation.

motorcycle with the front wheel symbolising the elimination of the disease and the back wheel eliminating discrimination.

"Both wheels must turn at the same time if we are to make progress toward a world without leprosy and its associated problems," he told the webinar. This symbol is included in the campaign's logo.

During an extensive question and answer session, Sasakawa said it was crucial that those affected return to work to support themselves. There were several initiatives, beyond just speaking to top politicians, that could be used.

These initiatives included reskilling but also included getting big businesses involved in the employment of people with disabilities. Sasakawa referred to the Valuable 500 project, launched in 2019 at World Eco-

nomics Forum in Davos, Switzerland. This project, supported by the Nippon Foundation, called on the top 500 companies to promote the inclusion in business of people with disabilities.

Sasakawa said while he was a person who "believes the solution lies in the field", the pandemic taught him it was now crucial to include new technology - webinars and social media - in the tool kit to end the disease and discrimination.

"Today, thanks to these technological tools, we are able to share the best practices that are happening in various countries and share with the world," he said.

The Initiative is a strategic alliance between WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Yohei Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Health Foundation for achieving a world without leprosy and problems related to the disease. Since 1975, The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Health Founda-

tion have supported the national leprosy programs of endemic countries through the WHO, with support totalling some US\$200 million to date.

Leprosy is an infectious disease that mainly affects the skin and peripheral nerves. Around 200,000 cases are newly reported each year. Leprosy is curable with multidrug therapy but, left untreated, can result in permanent disability. An estimated 3 to 4 million people in the world today are thought to be living with some form of disability as a result of leprosy.

The campaign will feature a total of six webinars, online media briefings, TV and radio spots, social media messaging and videos featuring the Goodwill Ambassador. It will also incorporate other awareness-raising activities, including the annual Global Appeal to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy issued at the end of January.

IPS

## Does Jacob Zuma really still have the power to influence events in South Africa?

By Cyril Madlala

**I**F there is at least one incontrovertible fact about the mayhem that shocked South Africa three weeks ago, it is that were it to happen again tomorrow, we would still not be ready to respond appropriately.

That is so because sometimes the search for answers is mired in an understanding and analysis designed to give meaning to our own biases and perceptions that are at best a product of honest, yet naively off-the-mark reflections.

This becomes evident as we run through some of the common threads of the conversations around what propelled the unprecedented levels of rioting and looting that has left the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng estimating the cost in billions of rands.

The first is that supporters of imprisoned former president Jacob Zuma were mobilised and incited to revolt against the government of President Cyril Ramaphosa. In this "attempted insurrection/coup/counter-revolution" scenario, unwitting souls were hoodwinked into believing that they were part of a noble cause against an injustice visited upon a harmless, 79-year-old grandfather who should be left alone to enjoy the last years of his life after struggling for the emancipation of his people for so long.

The suggestion here is that no "right-thinking" person would participate in the riots in support of somebody who has defied the law. After all, as we have seen in the aftermath, it is counter-productive to destroy property to extract concessions from authorities, because it is those very same communities that end up suffering.

However, it would have been a mistake to assume that people would not do something like this merely because it is stupid to behave in this fashion.

In different parts of South Africa, and specifically in KwaZulu-Natal, on



properties targeted by looters joined hands to defend their territories, while those who had little or nothing they could call their own jumped on a once-in-a-lifetime glimpse at what life could be like with a fully stocked refrigerator.

A lasting memory for some would be of a social media video of a dirty street kid washing himself with stolen milk. He could not have struck anyone as a budding revolutionary inspired by the heroics of the youth of 1976 on a mission to overthrow a government.

To some, it might be a mystery - or an indication of a bigger sabotage mission - that senseless acts of arson and destruction accompanied the looting. Otherwise, why would people not just take the goods?

A particular feature of crime in South Africa is "unnecessary" violence. When frail, unarmed, senior citizens become victims of burglary and armed robbery in their homes, they are often subjected to extreme brutality despite offering little or no resistance.

Break-ins at schools to steal food supplied under the national nutrition programme are a challenge faced regularly by principals, even in the most poverty-stricken communities where one would expect greater appreciation for the importance of that meal to a child whose family can afford nothing else for that day.

Indeed, many beneficiaries would today be embarrassed to admit that valuable computers and other equipment donated under various social investment initiatives have been stolen or destroyed by elements within those very communities in dire need of a helping hand.

It could be that we are looking up to the police and our spooks to get to the cause of the mayhem, when the answer lies in the broken moral fibre of our society that no longer frowns upon the flaunting of ill-gotten gains, be it a bag of potatoes from a looted mall three weeks ago or millions of rands misappropriated from taxpayers over many years. **DM**

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**INVITATION FOR TENDER TO SUPPLY "SUPPLIES FOR THE SBCC PROJECT CAMPAIGN"**

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share. We improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment, we strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) was founded in 1977 by Dr. Jane Goodall. The JGI with its partners makes a difference through landscape and community-centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, environmental education to young generation, and the innovative use of science and technology. We work closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action. JGI-TZ has a longstanding history on community-led integrated conservation in Western Tanzania.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania for Wildlife, Research, Education and Conservation (JGI-TZ) intends to use part of the funds donated by USAID to procure **supplies for the SBCC project campaign** in the implementation of our program deliverables for the "Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania".

The items, units and specifications are specified and listed in the table below:

S/No.	Item(s)	Units	Specifications
1.	Gumboots (Branded)	59	Dark Green (Heat Printing)
2.	Wheelbarrow (Branded)	59	Load 150 Kg (Stencil - painting)
3.	Stencil (for lead farmers and JGI to keep)	75	Recommend the durable material
4.	Buckets (Branded)	450	20 liters White
5.	Mascots	4	Tree mascot
6.	Kanga	1000	Artwork will be shared
7.	Branded T-shirts (Branded)	1000	Round Collar (Heating transfer)
8.	Rollup Banner Printing	4	
9.	Uniforms: (Polo shirts & hats) for Men (Branded)	59	Shirt - Khaki (embroidery), Trouser - Dark Blue
10.	Hats (branded)	59	Embroidery
11.	Billboard Printing	8	Size 6 Square Meter
12.	Stickers (branded)	2120	1000 A5 size. 1120 the smaller size for machetes, trowel, shovels, hoe handle, rake handle.
13.	Covid facemasks (branded)	2000	Clothing embroidery
14.	Football (Branded)	50	Screen Printing
15.	Netballs (Branded)	50	Screen Printing
16.	Cloth bags (Branded)	1000	Mix with Kitenge and dark green fabric on the imprint area

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania now invites sealed bids from reputable and registered firms that wish to tender for the supply of the above items under the following conditions:

- Bidders are must tender for all items as a complete system.
- Application for the bid is free of charge.
- Tender will be conducted in accordance with the JGI Tanzania Policies and Procurement Procedures.
- Sealed Bids marked clearly "TENDER TO SUPPLY SUPPLIES FOR THE SBCC PROJECT CAMPAIGN" should be addressed to:  
**Executive Director  
The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania  
Mikocheni, Lucy Lameck Street/Serengeti Road - Plot # 375  
P.O. Box 70728  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**

And be deposited into the Tender box located at the JGI Tanzania office - Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam.

- The deadline for the submission of tender is Fourteen (14) days from the date of the advertisement.
- Electronic and/or late applications will not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.
- The delivery point for the goods is at our office premises in Kigoma municipality.

**SECRETARY, JGI TANZANIA TENDER BOARD**

# Daphne Caruana Galizia's family hope 'lessons are learnt' to protect investigative journalists

BRATISLAVA

**T**HE family of slain journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia has called for "lessons to be learnt" after an independent inquiry found that the Maltese state bore responsibility for her death.

Caruana Galizia, Malta's most prominent investigative journalist, was killed by a car bomb in October 2017 outside her home in the village of Bidnija. Her investigations had exposed high-level government corruption linked to businesses.

The inquiry findings into the killing released last week delivered a damning verdict of the state's role in her murder.

In a 457-page report, the inquiry panel of one serving and two retired judges, said that her death had been preventable, and that responsibility lay with the state for creating "an atmosphere of impunity... which led to the collapse of the rule of law".

Summing up their findings, they said: "...acts, certainly illicit if not illegal, were committed by persons within State entities that created an environment that facilitated the assassination. This even by failing to do their duty to act promptly and effectively to give proper protection to the journalist."

Andrew Caruana Galizia, Daphne's son, told IPS: "The findings of the report are an enormous vindication for us, although it is painful to see it recognised that my mother's death could have been prevented."

"But what is most important is that lessons be learnt from these findings and to make sure that no journalist

in Malta will suffer the same fate as my mother."

Caruana Galizia's murder made headlines worldwide, focusing attention on the rule of law in Malta and journalist safety and highlighting the murky links between Maltese politicians and big business, which she was investigating.

Prosecutors claim local businessman Yorgen Fenech, who had close links to senior government officials, masterminded the murder. Fenech, one of two men awaiting trial on charges of involvement in the murder, denies responsibility.

The Prime Minister at the time of her killing, Josef Muscat, was also eventually forced to resign after investigations implicated close contacts of his in the killing.

The inquiry highlighted alleged links between the Maltese government and criminals and how that encouraged the killers. The inquiry's report stated that: "What is impressive in this case is the severity and extent of this impunity at the highest levels which made those who committed the crime feel safe in doing so."

"Another shocking factor was the fact that all the institutions in the country failed to react appropriately and effectively to counteract this impunity as they were duty-bound to do, a shortcoming which can be attributed precisely to the ties which were exploited between those in power and those who advanced their dubious interests."

And it called for steps to be taken immediately to bring in checks on ties between politicians and big business.

It also recommended a series of measures be implemented to increase journal-

ism safety.

Press freedom watchdogs, who, along with Caruana Galizia's family and international groups, had campaigned for years for an independent investigation into the killing, said it was vital action was taken to create a safer environment for journalists to work.

Jamie Wiseman, Europe Advocacy Officer at the International Press Institute (IPI), told IPS: "It is crucial that steps are taken to improve the environment for the safety of journalists, including the introduction of legislation criminalising violence against journalists, condemnation by state officials of all attacks against media workers, and the establishment of a journalist safety committee composed of government officials, media representatives, civil society and the security services. "Serious implementation of these changes would go a long way to ensuring the tragic killing of a journalist never occurs again in Malta."

But groups like IPI are hoping the inquiry and its findings will also have an effect beyond just journalists and journalism in Malta.

Caruana Galizia's assassination drew almost unprecedented international attention in part because it took place in an EU country.

At the time, Europe was seen as one of the safest places for journalists to work in the world.

Since then, there have been other prominent killings of journalists in the EU, including that of Jan Kuciak in Slovakia just a few months after Caruana Galizia was murdered, and in the last few months Giorgos Karaivaz in Greece, and Peter de Vries in



Flowers, candles and tributes to Daphne Caruana Galizia left at the foot of the Great Siege Monument, opposite the Law Courts in Valletta.

the Netherlands.

Fears have been raised about growing violence against journalists in Europe, stoked by aggressive rhetoric and clampdowns on media freedom by populist leaders in many countries, including Hungary, Poland, and Serbia.

In the case of Kuciak's murder specifically, press freedom and rights organisations

said repeated verbal attacks and denigration of journalists may have emboldened the killers. Rob Mahoney, Deputy Executive Director at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), said the inquiry's findings would send out a message to those who believe they can kill, threaten, and attempt to silence journalists with impunity.

"It is a very important first step on the road to ending a poisonous culture of impunity, particularly in the European Union. Journalists need the rule of law and an independent judiciary to fulfil their function of providing information to citizens in a democracy. This inquiry underscores that."

"I hope it will show the pub-

lic how without brave investigative journalists, crime and corruption at the highest levels of government and business will run rampant."

Andrew Caruana Galizia added: "One tragic finding from the inquiry was that it confirmed that at the time of my mother's death, Malta was in the process of being taken over by mafia organisations, and that the only thing that stopped that happening was the death of my mother and the people demanding change after that."

"There is similar corruption and state capture by criminal groups in other parts of Europe, so what is happening here could send a message to other countries [where a similar process might be underway]."

Meanwhile, press freedom groups point out that while the inquiry's findings have confirmed much of what they have said for years was linked to Daphne's death, such as issues around the rule of law and the creation of an environment that allowed a journalist to be killed, they, and her family, are still waiting for full justice for her murder to be served.

So far, only one person has been sentenced in connection with the killing - earlier this year, a man pleaded guilty to taking part and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Rebecca Vincent, Director of International Campaigns at Reporters Without Borders, told IPS: "What must be remembered is that this is separate from the criminal investigation and the people behind Daphne's killing need to be brought to full justice. The inquiry is a crucial step towards justice - but it is just a start."

IPS

# Peace monitors welcome swearing in of South Sudan's parliament

JUBA

**S**OUTH Sudan's peace monitors have welcomed the swearing-in of 595 legislators in both the Upper and Lower Houses after several delays by the parties to the 2018 revitalized peace deal.

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) said in a statement issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, that the swearing-in of the 503 members of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) and 92 members of the Council of States Monday will help speed up the enactment of key legislations recommended in the peace deal.

"These two bodies form the Transitional National

Legislature (TNL). A legislature made up of members from the different parties to the Revitalized Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and representing the diverse people of South Sudan performs vital tasks including making and debating legislation, and performing oversight tasks," it said on Tuesday.

The peace monitors, however, urged the parties to take necessary steps to swear in the remaining 55 members of the two bodies.

In May, President Salva Kiir reconstituted the TNLA and the Council of States but the swearing-in was delayed due to bickering over positions among the various signatories to the peace agreement signed in Ethiopia to end more than six years of con-



flict.

The TNLA will be presided over by Jemma Nunu Kumba, a woman member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) led by Kiir while Deng Deng Akon, a member of SPLM-In Opposition under First Vice President Riek Machar, will preside over the Council of States (CoS).

"Much work awaits the members of the reconstituted TNLA and CoS, such as the ratification of the amended security bills and the Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 8 (2020), which were drafted by the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) and presented to the Minister of Justice and Consti-

tutional Affairs," it said.

RJMEC commended the appointment of the first woman speaker of the TNLA and another deputy woman speaker of the CoS, saying their appointment is in line with the spirit of the R-ARCSS.

The R-ARCSS called for 35 percent affirmative action for women's representation in

the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) formed in February 2020.

"With the momentum created, RJMEC expects that the RTGoNU will now focus on the completion of the outstanding governance issues, including the reconstitution of the state legislature, and the restructuring and reconstitution of institutions and commissions at the national level," said the statement, while urging the reconstituted TNLA to use its good offices to push forward the completion of the outstanding security issues, including the graduation and redeployment of the 83,000 unified forces.

These unified forces are supposed to have been graduated during the pre-transi-

tional period that elapsed in 2020.

South Sudan descended into conflict in December 2013, following a political dispute between President Salva Kiir and his deputy Riek Machar that caused a split within the army leaving soldiers loyal to their respective leaders to fight.

A peace deal signed in 2015 collapsed in the aftermath of renewed violence in July 2016.

The revitalized peace deal signed in 2018 under pressure from regional leaders and the international community remains the only hope to durable peace in the world's youngest nation, following years of violence that left tens of thousands of people killed and millions more displaced both internally and externally.

Xinhua

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# Mkapa fought for quality healthcare in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

AS Tanzanians commemorate one year since the late former President Benjamin Mkapa passed away, the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Dorothy Gwajima recalls how various transitions and major reforms during his lifetime have continued to bring impact in the country's health systems.

She notes that for years, the health sector in Tanzania has gone through different transitions and reforms due to various initiatives taken by the government and stakeholders with the late Mkapa being one of the national leaders who invested heavily to ensure that Tanzanians have access to quality healthcare wherever they are.

Speaking during the Mkapa legacy symposium organized by Mkapa Foundation last month, when giving her welcome remarks Dr Gwajima pointed out some key impacts initiated by the late Mkapa during his leadership and how they have continued to reflect on the country's plans until now.

Dr Gwajima profiled Mkapa as a great initiator, believer, and champion of system strengthening and institutionalization.

Late Benjamin Mkapa set out key fundamental and sustainable improvements in the Health Sector through the establishment of Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) in 1999. He championed the first Program of Work Plan (1999-2001) as the first Health Sector Strategic Plan during the Public Sector reforms which were initiated by him in 1996.

As of today, the SWAp stakeholders have continued with the tradition of developing a Five-Year Strategic Plan that aligns with the Five-Year Development Plan. In aligning with these initiatives under President Mkapa, the country through the Ministry of Health, this year has launched the Fifth Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP 2021 - 2026) that focuses on leaving no one behind as a means towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC)," she said.

Dr Gwajima highlighted other initiatives under Mkapa term that resulted from the health sector reforms include the initiation of Health Basket Fund, National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and Community Health Fund (CHF) which had all set footsteps towards Universal Health Coverage.

"It is my pleasure and great honour to address this important day that marks our thoughtful gratitude to a person who transformed our country's economy and health sector through his leadership style that embraced principles of good governance and accountability, we are flourishing until today," Dr Gwajima said.

As Gwajima points out this remarkable transformation in the health sector that was done during Mkapa term, still his strong foundation and that of his successors have helped the health sector to continue record achievements over the years.

Today the sector has registered number of strategic health sector per-



Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima addressing delegates during the Mkapa Legacy Symposium to commemorate Mkapa's life held on 14 July 2021 in Dar es Salaam.

formance in Reproductive Maternal, Newborn, Children and Adolescent Health, HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control, Infrastructure development, increased availability of medical commodities in all level of service delivery and management and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

On the other hand, the government has continued to improve the availability of qualified human resources for health, use of technology and promotion of good governance, leadership and accountability in all levels of health service delivery.

Despite all the achievements, the country is still facing a high burden of non-communicable

diseases, high death rates of women and children and weak systems for disease epidemics and disaster management.

Various health systems challenges such as limited access to health care due to weak infrastructure capacity, human resource for health shortage, limited access to relevant health technologies are some of the key problems hinder progress in the fight to end preventable maternal and child deaths.

The government needs to continue to invest in durable solutions that will transform health care systems particularly for our women and children, remembering their health is our wealth.

Tanzania, like any other country in the world,

still continues to face a risk of health emergencies including diseases of epidemic potential such as COVID-19 pandemic which has caused devastating impact on economic and social consequences.

Dr Gwajima however said the country has nineteen (19) strategic areas to control and contain COVID-19 and mitigate the risk of the pandemic to the overall health systems including service delivery channels.

"As the sectoral ministry responsible for health, we will continue to focus on strengthening systems for early warning, preparedness, response and monitoring of COVID-19 in the country" she said.

# More than 100,000 children in Tigray at risk of death from malnutrition-UNICEF

By Stephanie Nebehay

UNICEF spokeswoman Marixie Mercado, speaking after returning from Tigray, said that one in two pregnant and breastfeeding women screened in the region were acutely malnourished, leaving them and their babies prone to sickness.

"Our worst fears about the health and wellbeing of chil-

dren in that conflicted region of northern Ethiopia are being confirmed," she told a U.N. briefing in Geneva.

"UNICEF estimates that over 100,000 children in Tigray could suffer from life-threatening severe acute malnutrition in the next 12 months - a tenfold increase compared to the average annual caseload," she said.

There are no mortality esti-

mates, she added, calling for unfettered access and a "massive scale-up in assistance".

Spokespeople for the prime minister and a government task for Tigray did not immediately respond to requests for comment on UNICEF's estimates.

Fighting began between the Ethiopian central government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) last

November. The TPLF recaptured most of its home region in June and July, but most aid is blocked.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's spokesperson, Bilen Seyoum, told a news conference this week that any barriers to access for aid groups to Tigray were being closely monitored by the government.

Children, women and other

civilians bear the scars of the conflict and trauma endured, Mercado said.

"For example we spoke to one young woman who is a survivor of sexual assault, she watched her grandmother get killed, she was raped by several men as she watched her nine-month old baby being tossed around by other men," she said.

It has been two weeks since

a convoy of the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) was able to enter the Tigray regional capital Mekelle, spokesman Tomson Phiri said.

"A convoy of over 200 trucks is on its way now from Semera to Mekelle. This is a drop in the ocean," he told the briefing.

"We need at least 100 trucks to be making their way every day into Tigray if we are to

stand a chance to reverse the catastrophic situation which we have today."

The United Nations needs satellite phones and other critical communications equipment for its aid operation in Tigray, U.N. spokesman Jens Laerke said, urging the Ethiopian government to grant permission as well as longer visas for aid workers.

# Zbar women learning how to swim and farm natural sponges

JAMBIANI

ZANZIBAR women are learning how to swim and farm natural sponges that can withstand climate shocks and protect their income

Nasir Hassan Haji never thought of herself as a farmer or a swimmer, but as she waded into Zanzibar's blue waters with goggles pulled over her headscarf to examine her floating sponge farm, she realised she had surprised herself by becoming both.

Alongside 12 other women in Jambiani village on the Indian Ocean coast, Haji has come to rely on the climate-resilient, natural sponges bobbing on thick ropes where they grow for months before the women harvest, clean and sell them to shops and tourists.

"I learned to swim and to farm sponges so I could be free and not depend on any man," Haji said later, sitting on the floor in her home on the Tanzanian island.

Before farming sponges - which resemble a white, textured rock but are actually simple, multicellular animals - Haji cultivated seaweed, until increasing ocean temperatures fuelled by global warming made it difficult to grow her cash crop.

Haji and other women dependent on the ocean for their livelihoods - from seaweed farming to fishing and tourism - have seen warmer, rising seas threaten their work, but they are adapting by finding ways to diversify what they do to get by.

Local conservationists say this has become even more urgent as COVID-19 travel restrictions around the world have stalled the flow of tourists to the tropical holiday destination, forcing islanders to look to nature to eke out a living.

"We are seeing people who relied on tourism now turning to fishing or cutting wood from the forests... It is a tug of war between economics and the environment," said Mohamed Okala, a conservationist and tour guide from Jambiani.

Locals say they have already seen fish stocks depleting over the past year. But for women like Haji, sponge farming has acted as a buffer against both the climate and economic shocks the island has endured.

"I am building my own house and educating my children," said the single mother of four, aged 46, as she went to stir a pot on a nearby fire. "Women were left behind before, but now that is changing."

Research by the State University of Zanzibar shows that more than 90% of seaweed farmers on the island are women, and that they have seen changing water temperatures, rainfall patterns and ocean salinity hit production in recent years.



Nasir Hassan Haji holds up her harvested sponges in a bag from her home in Jambiani in Zanzibar, Tanzania, June 21, 2021.

Using data that shows Zanzibar warming over the past 40 years, a 2012 study from the Global Climate Adaptation Partnership and Britain's former Department for International Development projected the island's average maximum monthly temperature would rise by 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius by the 2050s.

The women seaweed farmers typically sell their produce to middlemen who export it to countries like Denmark, Vietnam, France and the United States where it is used as an emulsifying agent in creams, soaps and foods.

Haji had farmed seaweed since she was a young girl until six years ago, when a friend told her the environmental charity marinecultures.org was teaching women to swim and farm sponges that could be

used for cleaning and bathing.

Since 2009, Christian and Connie Vaterlaus, the charity's Swiss founders, have collected sponge particles from around the island to grow in their nursery, which became the launch-pad for burgeoning sponge farms.

"I met someone in Micronesia who was sponge farming and I saw the benefits of bringing this idea to Zanzibar," said Christian Vaterlaus, as he looked out at the ocean from his Jambiani office, noting there are only a few sponge farms in the world.

The sponges, he said, are more resilient to a shifting climate than seaweed, need less maintenance and sell at higher prices to hotels and tourists, offering an eco-friendly alternative to synthetic sponges.

The sponges also filter and feed

on particles in the water and provide an alternative to overfishing, easing strain on the coastal ecosystem.

The 13 women farming with the help of marinecultures.org are growing about 1,500 sponges, and the charity trains about four additional women each year.

In a good month, the farmers can sell 10 to 20 sponges for up to \$20 each, said Vaterlaus - and in the process he has seen some of the women become conservationists.

"When people realise that farming the sea is more sustainable than overfishing it, (the sea) is seen as a friend that provides you with a living and it is important to protect it," he said.

But maintaining demand has been tricky, he added, especially when COVID-19 hit, slashing the

number of tourists to the island.

The sponges are only sold locally for now to minimise costs and push a larger share of the revenue to the women farmers, said Vaterlaus.

A walk through Jambiani's shallow ocean water during low tide reveals ubiquitous dark, spiky sea urchins which feed off coral algae, speckling the ocean floor.

"These are over-populating as our fish species - which eat and control the urchins - become more threatened," said Okala, the local conservationist, carefully watching his step to avoid standing on one of the prickly invertebrates.

In small numbers, the urchins are essential to coral health. In excess, they can inhibit coral growth, he explained.

"The balance has been upset... If we keep fishing to feed our stomachs today, we will have nothing left tomorrow," he said.

Aware of this looming risk, marinecultures.org is also focusing on coral reef rehabilitation and efforts to regulate fishing zones and use techniques that give certain species, like octopus, a chance to recover.

But such initiatives only work in the right conditions.

The sponges, for example, do not grow in the south of the island, possibly because sea temperatures there are cooler, Vaterlaus said.

But his charity is expanding sponge farming into environments similar to Jambiani, in both Madagascar and Tunisia.

"We don't really understand what is coming when it comes to climatic changes, but we have to be optimistic and we need to try to adapt now, while we still have a chance," he said.

# Street protests could pressure Cuba to speed up economic reforms

HAVANA

**T**HE anti-government protests that broke out in Cuba last month are expected to damage the Communist-run island's struggling economy as relations with the United States deteriorate further, but they may quicken the pace of reform, experts said.

Thousands took to the streets of the capital Havana and other cities on July 11 to vent anger over widespread shortages of food, medicine and other basic goods, frequent power outages and a lack of civil liberties.

While President Miguel Diaz-Canel's government quickly snuffed out the unrest, U.S. President Joseph Biden responded by branding Cuba a "failed state" and sanctioned <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/biden-meet-cuban-american-leaders-amid-calls-tougher-action-havana-2021-07-30> the Cuban military and police, slamming the door on hopes of a return to the era of detente begun under former U.S. President Barack Obama.

"The negative result of the protests on July 11 is that hopes the Biden administration would lift at least the Trump-era sanctions are dashed," said Omar Everleny, a Cuban econ-

omist and former University of Havana professor.

### Political Cartoons on World Leaders

"The positive is that it signals we have to do what we have to do in terms of improving the economy without waiting for the United States," he added.

Since the protests, which were the first of their kind in Cuba since the 1990s, the government has promised to fast track approval of long-awaited regulations giving legal status to existing and future small and medium-sized businesses.

It also has announced several tweaks to the state-dominated and centralized economy, including allowing travelers to bring in unlimited amounts of food and medicine on a duty-free basis and permitting residents to sell new and used goods.

Foreign executives, however, worry that last month's protests will make it even more difficult to work with Cuba, which has been almost totally excluded from the international financial system by sanctions imposed by the United States.

"Now, always-conservative compliance officers have one more reason and new sanctions to make even simple banking nearly impossible," a

European businessman with years of experience on the island said on condition of anonymity.

Ricardo Torres, an economist and professor at the University of Havana, said Cuba's reputation as a stable country had been tarnished by the July 11 demonstrations, "perhaps putting off foreign investors and even local entrepreneurs."

### 'SO MANY RULES'

Cuba's import-dependent economy, already under a nearly six-decade U.S. trade embargo, has been squeezed further by sanctions imposed by former U.S. President Donald Trump's administration. The fallout from the coronavirus pandemic has added to the woes. The island's tourism sector, a key source of foreign revenue, has been shuttered for much of the past 18 months.

The Cuban economy contracted 10.8% in 2020, according to official figures. It fell another 2% in the first six months of 2021 when compared to the same period last year. Imports have fallen around 40% over the last 18 months.

Diaz-Canel, who took over from Raul Castro in 2018, blamed last month's protests on the United States, accusing Washington of attempting a soft coup, but he also signaled



People shout slogans against the government during a protest against and in support of the government, amidst the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Havana, Cuba July 11, 2021. FILE PHOTO:

he was open to reforms and a reevaluation of Cuba's policies.

The government has admitted it is in dire need of help as a COVID-19 surge driven by the Delta variant threatens to overwhelm the health system and undermine what little economic activity exists. The crisis has prompted China, Russia, Mexico, Vietnam and other countries to send aid to Cuba.

The Cuban government de-

clared a state of emergency a year ago and said it would prioritize development of COVID-19 vaccines, food production, decentralization of state companies and growth of the private sector.

But the reforms are taking too long to implement and the entire economy is over-regulated and bureaucratic, said a European investor who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

"They need to get things done quickly. There are so many rules, and everyone is terrified of breaking the rules," said the investor, who pointed to a state-run pig farm where the animals were dying because permission was needed to buy feed as an example of the system's failures.

"They need to issue some sort of decree that not only allows managers to act and seek permission later, if at all, but

punishes them if they don't," he said.

Everleny, like many other local economists, said he supported the reforms, but added that the government needed to do more.

"They need to remove all obstacles hampering private businesses and allow anyone to grow and sell food now without endless bureaucracy and permissions," he said.

# Origin-tracing of COVID-19: Only science and cooperation can reveal the path to truth

By XU Chen

**C**URRENTLY, COVID-19 is still raging around the world, with more than 190 million confirmed cases and more than 4.2 million deaths worldwide, which has posed a grave threat to the entire humanity. Staying united to fight the pandemic remains the pressing priority for the world.

Origin-tracing is a key element in fighting any pandemic. It will help the world better understand the cause of diseases, prevent and respond to the similar health crises in the future, so as to improve the system and capacity for global governance in public health.

Therefore, all the parties involved should follow the resolution on COVID-19 response adopted at the 73rd World Health Assembly, and take a scientific, objective and impartial attitude in advancing the research of COVID-19 origins.

Origin-tracing has always been a scientific challenge, and human knowledge in this area is limited. Scientists have spent about 13 years determining the origin of the SARS epidemic, and confirmed that HIV-1, the main virus responsible for human AIDS, originated in wild chimpanzees after researching for more than 20 years.

The origin of Ebola has not

been determined yet, although the disease has caused epidemics since the 1970s. Likewise, the probe into the origins of COVID-19 might take years.

It has been proven that origin-tracing of any virus must rely on scientists, adopt scientific approach and methods.

Only in this way the seriousness and accuracy of the relevant research can be assured and a reliable basis can be laid down for the mankind to understand and respond to the virus.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, China has taken a scientific, professional, serious and responsible attitude in tracing the origins of the virus.

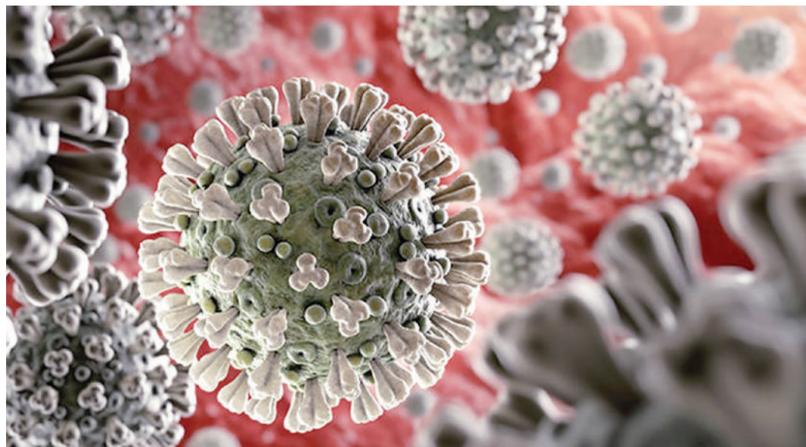
China is the first country working with the WHO in global origins tracing. Earlier this year, international experts from 10 countries including the US, UK, Japan and Australia formed a joint expert group with their Chinese counterparts, and conducted a 28-day joint study in China.

Foreign experts on the team hailed China's openness, transparency and responsibility, with one of them saying that he had visited all the places he wanted to go and met with all the people he wanted to see.

He also denounced the reports by some US media outlets which said the expert team failed to acquire original data in Wuhan, saying these reports were distorting facts and disappointing.

On March 30, the WHO published the authoritative WHO-China Joint Report, which concluded that lab leak is extremely unlikely and drew other clear conclusions. Furthermore, it recommended conducting further research around earlier cases globally.

However, while China is working with the WHO in global origins tracing, there exists a



trend of baseless accusations against China.

Turning a blind eye to the conclusions of the WHO-China Joint Report, and ignoring the evidence of virus-positive test samples prior to the outbreak in China in scattered countries, including the US, Italy, France, etc., they maliciously hype the so-called "lab leak" hypothesis, clamor for renewed and "independent" investigation on China, and even direct the intelligence agency to file a so-called "investigation report".

This shows that they don't care about facts or truth and have zero interest in a serious science-based study of origins. Their aim is to use the pandemic as a tool to pursue the game of stigmatization and political manipulation.

It must be noted that politicization of origin-tracing is contrary to the original purpose and principles of origin-tracing per se, and will

breed a "political virus" that can seriously hinder international anti-epidemic cooperation, thus creating great difficulties and obstacles for countries to fight the epidemic and save lives.

Politicizing origin-tracing has aroused opposition and dissatisfaction from the international community especially the scientific community. Recently, 60 countries sent letters to the World Health Organization Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to defend scientificity and authority of the WHO-China Joint Report and to oppose politicization of origin-tracing.

In a letter published by The Lancet on July 5, 24 internationally-renowned scientists thought that "suggestions of a laboratory-leak source of the pandemic remain without scientifically validated evidence".

China was the first country to report to the WHO COVID-19 confirmed case. That does not mean the world's "patient zero" is from China.

It has been widely reported that a series of studies done in various countries have already found traces of the coronavirus elsewhere in the world long before the pandemic broke out in China.

At least five states in the US had earlier COVID-19 infections before the first officially reported confirmed case.

Therefore, origin-tracing study should be conducted in various countries and regions across the world synchronously and constantly, and get rid of interference of "presumption of guilt" and double-standard. As a contributor to the global fight against the epidemic, China is willing to continue to cooperate with all parties in the international community on origin-tracing of COVID-19 in a positive, open and transparent manner. We hope the WHO can work with the international community to jointly maintain scientificity and integrity of origins study, to resist the headwind of politicization and to safeguard the sound atmosphere of global anti-epidemic cooperation.

**XU Chen is Chargé d'Affaires ad Interim of Chinese Embassy**

# RADIO One

# RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME						
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



Thursday 5 August 2021

# TCB targets to more than double number of agents to 10,000 by 2024

By The Banker Reporter

**T**ANZANIA Commercial Bank (formerly TPB Bank Plc) plans to expand its market outreach by increasing the number of its agents from the current 3,500 to 10,000 in the short-term.

TCB's Director of Technology and Operations, Jema Msuya said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week after the signing of a collaboration agreement with Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania Limited, that increasing the agents is a decisive factor in driving the bank's financial inclusion agenda.

"Financial inclusion is a key aspect of our operational strategy and through our over 3,500 agents we have been able to take banking services closer to where people live and do business. In the next three years, we plan to increase the number of agents to more than 10,000," Msuya said.

Speaking earlier, TCB's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi said the enhanced partnership with StanChart Tanzania will be a mutual beneficial relationship for the two banks and their customers. Under the new arrangement, he explained, SCB customers will have access to TCB's extensive branch network of more than 80 physical outlets across the country plus agents. Initially the partnership was available only in Mbeya, Tabora, Kagera and Dodoma regions.

"Our bank has 48 branches, 36 mini-branches and over 3,500 banking agents countrywide. Our partnership with Standard Chartered Bank will also enable some of our customers to make business transactions within them hence increasing business transactions between both banks," he

noted.

Principally, the two lenders' strategic partnership allows SCB customers to be served through the TCB system where it has no physical presence. Moshingi noted that since running physical branches is expensive, the collaboration enables SCB to cost effectively address operational shortcomings.

The TCB chief said his bank benefits from the setup in terms of increased international exposure by leveraging SCB's superior positioning on the global markets. According to him, the partnership has huge business potential for both banks and their customers.

"Today, we are resigning and revamping the partnership with SCB signed six years ago. The partnership is important because SCB has limited branch network and it is based on financial considerations," Moshingi stated.

Currently SCB, which has a presence in 60 of the world's most dynamic markets, and operates in a further 85, has only three branches in the country located in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Mwanza.

Its Chief Executive Officer, Sanjay Rughani said the purpose of their bank is to partner and connect people to prosperity through which it supports the government's financial inclusion agenda. "Standard Chartered Bank is keen on forming strategic partnerships that promote our customers experience and extend value to them. Through this enhanced partnership, we have an opportunity to serve our customers better in an additional 19 regions where Tanzania Commercial Bank has physical presence," Rughani noted.

With the enhanced partnership, SCB customers



**Chief executive officers of Tanzania Commercial Bank, Sabasaba Moshingi (L) and Sanjay Rughani of Standard Chartered Tanzania Limited shake hands after signing an agreement to rekindle their strategic partnership at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.**

will now be served in over 20 regions including Arusha, Manyara, Kagera, Dodoma, Dar es

Salaam, Iringa, Shinyanga, Kigoma, Mwanza, Lindi, Mbeya, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Mtwara,

Njombe, Mwanza, Singida, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Tabora, Tanga and Zanzibar.

## ICT Minister commends bank, postal services firm for partnership

By The Banker Reporter

THE partnership forged between CRDB Bank Plc and Tanzania Postal Services will go a long way in ensuring that the government's financial inclusion agenda is speeded up and cover a wider population in rural areas.

Information Communication Technology Minister, Dr Faustine Ndungulile said in Dar es Salaam this week when presiding over CRDB and TPS agreement signing ceremony that the partnership will also take formal banking services closer to the people.

"I am happy to see CRDB Bank investing massively in digital banking channels which allow many Tanzanians to access formal banking services without visiting a physical branch," Dr Ndungulile said while urging the partner parties to further extend services to rural areas.

He said the government through its third Five Year National Development Plan has planned to foster growth of the number of people who access formal financial services by making sure that the majority in rural areas have such services.

"I thank CRDB and TPS managements for the partnership which



**Minister of Information Communication Technology, Dr Faustine Ndungulile speaks during the signing ceremony of a collaboration agreement between CRDB Bank Plc and Tanzania Postal Services in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Photo courtesy of CRDB.**

aligns well with the government's plans to increase the number of people who have access to formal banking services," he added while stressing that the state appreciates the role that banks and financial institutions play in the development of the country.

The ICT Minister urged mem-

bers of the public to seize opportunities being provided by the CRDB and TPS agreement to get formal banking services because the state owned postal company has branches in almost all the administrative districts of the country.

"A recent Finscope report shows that only 16.7 percent of Tanzani-

ans have access to formal banking services but if we use this opportunity well then the numbers will likely go up," Dr Ndungulile stated while pledging state support to banks and financial institutions seeking to extend services to remote areas of the country.

Briefing the ICT Minister on the

deal, CRDB's CEO and Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said through the deal, the banks will have access to use over 100 TPS branches countrywide to offer banking services.

Nsekela said the agreement is part of his management's innovative thinking in ensuring that formal banking services are extended to all parts of the country. "I urge our clients and non-clients to use CRDB Bank Wakala services that will be available at all postal branches in the country," he said while adding that all transactions will be accommodated by the arrangement. "CRDB Wakala is a great success to us because currently, over 40 percent of transactions are done through them which is far much bigger than what physical branches do," he added saying the bank has a network of some 20,000 agents countrywide.

TPS's acting CEO, Macrice Mbondo assured Minister Ndungulile that his management will ensure that its services are available throughout the country and at an affordable rate to the public.

Mbondo said the deal with CRDB means a lot to them because TPS will earn income through the collaboration saying the state owned firm will boost its coffers. "But we will also be part of a solution to the challenge of poor access to formal banking services in rural areas," he noted while promising to work closely with the bank's officials to advance financial inclusion.

## Nigerian digital bank, Kuda, raises \$55m at a \$500m valuation

LAGOS

KUDA, a Nigerian digital bank, has raised \$55 million in a Series B funding round co-led by existing investors - Valar Ventures and Target Global, including SBI and a host of previous angel investors.

This follows a recent raise of \$25 million led by Valar Ventures, the firm co-founded and backed by Peter Thiel, with Target Global and other unnamed investors in March 2021.

Kuda says that the funds raised through its London entity, will be used to expand its Nigerian operations and to prepare for its launch in other African countries. Kuda claims it now has 1.4 million registered users, a 124% growth from the 625,000 it stated it had in its \$25 million raise in March 2021.

Founded in 2019 by Babs Ogundeyi (CEO) and Musty Mustapha (CTO), Kuda has a microfinance banking license from the central bank of Nigeria so it does not partner with other banks to manage and bank deposits.

Kuda recently launched an overdraft product which it claims, has been a major factor in its customer growth. According to Babs Ogundeyi, "It's a unique product, an overdraft that we pre-qualify the most active users for." In Q2, the bank qualified over 200,000 users and pushed out \$20 million worth of credit.

He added that, "With a 30-day repayment, so far default has been 'minimal' because of the company's approach. We use all the data we have for a customer and allocate the overdraft proportion based on the customer's activities, aiming for it not to be a burden to repay."

## Fintech lender throws SA's SMEs a trade finance lifeline

JOHANNESBURG

FINTECH lender Payabill has enhanced its business portfolio and will offer international trade finance to local small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Payabill is a 100% digital lending business that provides working capital and trade finance to small businesses.

In a statement, the fintech firm points to the struggle South African SMEs experience in accessing international trade finance, saying the process is often complicated and requires knowledge of regulation, compliance and forex.

In addition, small businesses sometimes do not meet the credit requirements of banks and other specialised firms, especially with respect to international trade finance. The company says international trade finance can help businesses increase revenue, decrease competition, create easier cashflow management and benefit from currency exchange if

bought at the right time at fixed costs.

Eli Michal, CEO of Payabill, explains: "We were established in 2017, and have been providing trade finance to SMEs by settling our clients' suppliers directly and allowing clients to select their own extended payment terms. We had constant requests from SMEs for support of finance imports.

"We were able to collaborate with our equity partner's Sasfin Forex division to develop a bespoke credit offering. It allows SMEs to access this vital funding to provide international working capital solutions to grow their businesses. Our offering is 100% digital, fast and compliant. Clients choose how often they wish to make payments and over what time period so that they don't take on any additional strain."

According to Michal, to be eligible for this type of finance, SMEs must have been operating for more than a year, be registered as a close corporation or proprietary company,

and have an annual turnover of between R500 000 and R30 million. Payabill's international trade finance settles international suppliers from R5 000 up to R500 000 or higher, he states.

"We take risk where it matters at the coalface of SA's businesses by helping smaller businesses that have little security and struggle to get funding. We pay suppliers when sales aren't yet guaranteed and take risks where no one else would consider it. We are intent on helping those businesses that are locked out of the market at a time when SA businesses need all the support they can get."

The fintech firm allows a business to settle an international supplier and negotiate suitable terms of up to 90 days, accepting pro forma invoices for immediate settlement. Payabill says it's paid almost 500 suppliers by offering various forms of trade finance, to date.



Eli Michal, CEO of Payabill.

# NIT signs pacts with LHRC, MS-TCDC to promote gender balance in training under EASTRIP

By The Banker Reporter

**I**N a bid to ensure that gender equality is considered in training of transport experts at National Institute of Transport (NIT) under the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS - TCDC) have signed an agreement with NIT to observe gender equality during project implementation, training and operations at NIT.

Speaking shortly before witnessing a signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam on Monday, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority's Director General, Hamza Johari who presided over the signing ceremony as the Guest of Honor said the agreement between the Institutions is important for the gender promotion and development of the country as a whole.

"These agreements that the National Institute of Transport is signing with LHRC and MS-TCDC are set to improve gender diversity and equality in the training programs offered under EASTRIP at the Institute," Johari said.

Johari who is also NIT's Chairperson for Industrial Advisory Committee established under EASTRIP noted that the signing of the agreements will also improve implementation of the World Bank funded project at NIT in terms of gender equality.

He called on NIT management to make sure that the Institute engages in collaborations with more stakeholders in the transport and logistics industry to ensure enough support that will help in training adequate human resource capital to meet market demand.

"We are now in the lower-middle income economy group as per World Bank categorization, therefore NIT must be strong in training experts that will go hand in hand with growing market demand," the TCAA Director General added. "NIT must produce enough experts that have world class quality," Johari who is also the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) Chairman for Africa, noted.

Speaking at the sideline of the signing ceremony, NIT Rector, Engineer Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said the signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed with LHRC and MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation will help improve the gender component in the World



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority's director general, Hamza Johari speaking at the event. Photo courtesy of NIT.

Bank backed project. "The LHRC and MS-TCDC will help us reach our goal of training that meets international standard particularly in respect to gender equality," Prof Mganilwa said.

He pointed out that NIT has already seen a surge in male students for aircraft maintenance, mechanical, automobile engineering and ship building than female students. "We do hope that these two institutions will provide more inspiration to female students to join these niche programmes," he said.

On her part, LHRC Executive Director, Anna Henga said they will provide gender sensitization and training to women to join the NIT courses

as required by the EASTRIP project. "We promise to work more closely with NIT so as to help them implement the project accordingly with the rules and procedures in promoting gender balance," Henga said.

In remarks after signing the deal, MS-TCDC Programs Director, Sara Teri also backed the agreement with NIT saying it will ensure equality among men and women joining the courses: "Our institution offers academic programs that aim at strengthening good leadership, governance in the areas of development in African countries." Teri also said, "that the agreement with NIT promises to provide a

better knowledge on gender to the curriculum development and other areas that can influence gender equality."

Furthermore, in promoting gender balance, NIT is planning to introduce Transport Excellence Scholarship (TES) for local female students for professional programmes, diploma and bachelor degrees eligible only for Tanzanians and scholarships for Master Degree which will be eligible for both local and regional students to study at NIT. These Scholarships will be offered from the financial year 2021/22 to 2023/24. Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority's director general, Hamza Johari speaking at the event. Photo courtesy of NIT.



SUGECO founder who is also a lecturer at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Dr Anna Temu (R) explaining to minister for Agriculture, Professor Adolf Mkenka (left in black trouser) and other stakeholders on how 'Kizimba' Business Model works. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

## Kizimba Business Model kicks off, secures reliable market at Darsh Industries

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

KIZIMBA Business Model (KBM) which is run by Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) in Mvomero district, Morogoro region has already secured reliable market for agribusiness products for youth that will ensure constant supply of fresh horticulture produce to consumers.

Assurance of the horticulture market from Iringa based Darsh Industries Limited will also ensure that youth entrepreneurs involved in the project earn regular income from the company which specializes in process fruits and vegetables.

Rajkumar Shinde from the Darsh Industries Limited assured Minister for Agriculture, Professor Adolf Mkenka who made a prompt visit of the project in last week that his company will provide a reliable market for commodities produced by SUGECO graduates.

Citing an example, he said Darsh Industries Limited has capacity to buy 250 metric tonnes of fresh tomatoes per day. He said the requirement of the raw materials by the industries is higher compared to what is being supplied by the farmers in Iringa region. "We need more and that's why we have partnered with SUGECO to buy from them because the produce will have high quality since its supervised and managed well," Shinde said.

According to SUGECO, KBM is an entrepreneurial approach for agriculture sector development where a block of land is developed with all necessary infrastructure and facilities divided into small units called 'Kizimba' and leased or transferred to individual farmers.

With his famous slogan 'Ukitaka mali uitapata shambani,' Minister for Agriculture Prof Mkenka urged the youth who are looking for jobs to join the agriculture sector because it is one of the most reliable sources of income.

Prof Mkenka said KBM will provide youth with a wide range of experience and practical skills from which they can be able to employ themselves and create jobs for their peers. "I am told that young people who will join this project will be able to get a minimum of five hundred thousand cash per month. This is a good project and I encourage other youth to venture in agriculture for reliable income," he said.

He said the government will work with youth projects to secure more local and international markets for their produce. Prof Mkenka directed National Irrigation Commission to work

with SUGECO at the site to ensure that production is done throughout the year.

"The government would like to call on banks and financial institutions to create an enabling environment that will allow youth access to credit so that they can engage in 'Kizimba' Business Model, increase production and productivity to create employment.

Mvomero District Commissioner, Halima Okash commended all stakeholders for creating an enabling environment for youth to employ themselves and their peers. "There are many youth out there who don't have jobs who can benefit from this project. I assure you that the government will provide full support to the end," Okash said.

Briefing the Minister about the project, SUGECO Executive Director, Revocutus Kimaro said the project area has a total of 1,500 acres of sixty acres have been cleared and more than 10 acres ploughed with expectation to clear and plough the whole areas by the end of this month.

"We expect to start growing Habanero chili. We expect to get and grow improved seeds from one of our partners and supply the produce to Darsh Industries Limited," Kimaro said while adding that the project is expected to grow more than 200 acres that will be able to employ over 480 youth.

"We are committed and determined to feed Darsh Industries with high quality products. To start with, the project will start with horticulture crops such as Habanero chili," he said.

The KBM has its origins in the local government authorities (LGA) whereby business structures are built with necessary infrastructure and divided into units. The units are leased to individuals for various business operations as Kizimba.

Cuso International-Tanzania Country Representative, Romanus Mtung'e, said one of the key objectives of Cuso in supporting the 'Kizimba' initiative to reach many young farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs for the creation of the competent human resource in agriculture sector relevant to market demand and potential to improve productivity.

Mtung'e said Cuso International will keep supporting SUGECO in the entire business ecosystem of the 'Kizimba' entrepreneurs. "The support will include bringing in the country expert volunteers and recruiting national volunteers to support SUGECO's staff capacity building and the agribusiness entrepreneurs to be able to have effective access to knowledge, market, finance, technology and business formalization processes," he said.

## Apple Pay enabled for FNB customers

JOHANNESBURG

FNB announced that it has made Apply Pay available to its customers. "Over one million customers use the iOS version of the FNB App where they can add their card to Apple Pay or open the app to add FNB cards," the company said in a statement.

FNB payments executive, Raj Mankanjee, says the bank is witnessing a wave of contactless payments adoption by its credit, debit and fusion card-holders. "In March and April this year, FNB customers consecutively made over 30 million contactless transactions topping R10bn each month," he says.

CEO of FNB Card, Chris Labuschagne says, "Apple Pay will further accelerate the adoption of contactless payments for customers and it is available to all FNB customers with compatible Apple devices. Once Apple Pay is set up on the device, it can be used immediately to make payments. Our customers can add their virtual card via the FNB App and make a purchase using Apple Pay which provides customers with control via the FNB App."

To set up Apple Pay on iPhone using the FNB App, select 'Cards', choose to create a new Virtual Card specifically for Apple Pay or alternatively select an existing Virtual Card, then select 'Add to Apple Wallet' and follow the instructions. Customers can also use Apple Pay on iPhone, iPad and Mac to make more purchases in apps or on the web.

# StanChart chief for Africa, Middle East region lauds investment in digital channels

By The Banker Reporter

INVESTMENTS made in digital banking platforms across nine key African markets including Tanzania have pushed Standard Chartered Bank's pre-tax profit by 37 percent defying the coronavirus outbreak.

StanChart Regional CEO for Africa and Middle East, Sunil Kaushal said investments in digital channels made in Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria - have transformed the way the bank does business and connect with clients.

"The pandemic, rather than becoming a stumbling block, has accelerated our growth by increasing our customer base by over half a million, which is 50 percent higher than our legacy base," Kaushal said.

He said the first half of this year's performance is the best ever in over five years and is a result of all the hard work the team has put over the years and the execution of some tough decisions made to drive efficiencies and reduce risk.

"This has happened during a period when the backdrop while improving remains uncertain and challenging and is a true testament to the resilience of our underlying business. We have remained focused on clients and people and have made very good progress on our priorities," he added.

The StanChart regional chief further noted that the recent ex-



Sunil Kaushal, regional CEO for Africa and Middle East.

pansion of network into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia means that the bank will leverage our presence in the Kingdom to promote trade, investment and capital flows in support of the Saudi Vision 2030," Kaushal noted.

He further stated that as the bank moves forward, the region is focused on executing swiftly against the strategy to drive growth and that management is determined to support clients achieve prosperity whilst being the most responsible and sustainable bank.

According to performance highlights of the bank: Income remained flat year on year and one percent higher on a constant currency basis despite being impacted by rate cuts and currency devaluation. Underlying income was up eight percent reflecting growth in wealth

management income and healthy pipeline conversions.

The results also show a healthy operating profit of US\$476 million compared to US\$91 million during the same period last year thanks to significantly reduced credit impairments, wealth growth, productivity actions and a strong pipeline which was partly offset by flow-through impact of rate cuts.

The half year results also indicate that there has been significant improvement in the region's Return on Tangible Equity (ROTE) ratio; A great turnaround story in the UAE; with significantly improved returns; and The Bank's income in Africa grew by six percent on a constant currency basis driven by the digital banking momentum.

# Fostering quality education in the country through investment infrastructure

By Annette Nkini

LEARNING should be exciting and inspiring for every child, especially when there is a conducive environment and infrastructure to motivate them. In November 2015, the government introduced free education from primary through to secondary school.

The implementation of this is attributed to an increase in enrolment of students in primary and secondary schools by about 5.1 percent by 2016 and 32.038 percent by 2020, according to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute for statistics. This is a significant record in the education sector, however, it has created a strain on the amenities the government can provide.

According to the education budget brief 2020, the country continues to put much effort

into capital investment, particularly on the construction of schools, to keep pace with the increase in enrolment. Currently, student classroom ratios are 1: 76 at primary level and 1: 40 at secondary level. International best practice points to a maximum of 30 children per classroom. Therefore there is need for all stakeholders to support the government to ensure the successful implementation of quality education for all.

Stakeholders contribute to the education sector through their corporate social investment, for example in the last five years, Stanbic Bank Tanzania has contributed over 1bn/- towards the construction of classrooms, water and sanitation facilities, purchasing of desks and other school facilities across the country. This goes a long way in helping address the educational infrastructural challenges facing the country.



It is generally agreed that suitable spaces to learn have a direct positive impact among students. Let's take a look at how proper education infrastructure can support better learning.

Positively impacts attendance and performance

Multiple reports highlight that if schools provide better facilities to students, the drop-out rates are much lower and if the infrastructure is not up to the mark, this ultimately impacts the desire of students to go to school and continue with learning.

A second home for students

A school is considered to be the second home for students hence, they must experience a comfortable and positive environment at all times. Therefore, creating a motivating and comfortable atmosphere will stimulate students' desire to attend school every day and thus, complete their academic cycle on schedule.

Proper infrastructure also motivates teachers

Apart from creating the right environment for students, teachers too need a motivating atmosphere to impart knowledge to the students. A strong teacher-student ratio

in school, helps teachers concentrate on each child better and at the same time, a student can also learn better.

Therefore investments in school infrastructure will drive quality education and lead to more rapid and sustainable economic growth and development. The future of our nation lies in the hands of a thriving youth population and with quality education, training and skills which will enable us achieve our development vision. That is why this year Stanbic Bank is allocating resources towards supporting quality education by providing the needed infrastructure.

Together with other stakeholders, we have pledged to donate 2,000 desks to primary and secondary schools across the country. And, being cognisant of the need to sustain and protect the environment, we will also plant one tree for each desk donated because we believe that together, we can ensure the dreams of our students are achieved through quality education.

**Annette Nkini (pictured), Communication and Brand Engagement Manager at Stanbic Bank Tanzania**

# Maintain distance: When advertisements are too much



By Alley Mtatya

MARKETING campaigns are rolling out fast and end these days. One barely gets time to grasp or swallow the creative juices behind the masterminds of Frankenstein's creation and that's something we as marketers and

communicators, grapple with every day. Ambitious and anxious to achieve the core business objective, 'make super profit.'

Case in point: I am, no, we all are a digital marketing targets for banks, retailers, insurance companies, supermarkets, clothing stores etc. because, well, any business can

consider me or you as a potential customer even when we are not in dire need of what they are selling, promoting or advertising. Especially when you're in a third world country with a high illiteracy rate the thought process is not up to speed.

In a fast paced world businesses are evolving and they move with the trend and culture of youth but often we forget the mass market cannot move with the same pace. From 6am to 6am, January to December there's a constant bombardment of various advertisements; campaign after campaign.

Ultimately, it's a matter of judgment

Till your customer is faced with a decision about whether or not to act or mute a piece of content, I'd encourage you (marketer) to ask yourself two questions; over the long-term, has this piece of content been digested and acted on? Or will it simply be gibber to the mind? And honestly, a new pair of jeans isn't exactly my priority right now, in reality I hadn't come to a decision just yet.

So in my mind, their advert has taken a hit, though not enough to get me to unsubscribe or buy. But it got me to think or maybe I just did not grasp that quick, the deal behind the sale but I surely did love the jeans. We all have that gibbered syndrome.

It came, it gibbered, it ended

Most marketing campaigns end up here (it left that fast). Particularly in the corporate world they are probably gearing up for another communication, either win or lose on the previous marketing campaigns they will move on. Business should consider using attribution modelling to invest their marketing dollars or Tanzanian shillings wisely, go full funnel on your content marketing campaigns.

For most content advertisers, a win happens once a prospect has found your content, engaged with it, and converted to a sale or

a lead. But what happens next for those that missed it, didn't understand it or weren't persuaded by the offer, or needed another of your products or service?

The marketing campaign process flow brings the most value when it supports the entire buyer's journey, from the late registrars or least educated or undecided, through to the sale, client conversion, customer on-boarding and elevating to ambassadorship of your brand. The Winner finds them (the undecided) and completes their conversion or at least to be content on following and completing the buyer's journey.

Take the temperature of the marketing campaign and then adjust your marketing and communications accordingly to get back and pick up the lost sheep (indecisive customers).

Run it again, let effect take course.

It helps to deploy both digital and direct marketing to work coherently. Google Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a real gift to the digital marketing universe that is really not used enough.

The main reason it's not used enough is that it comes across as overly complex, admittedly, it is. But learning the basics of incorporating a digital campaign can help you better understand how people truly reacted to your campaign, like; Who engaged? Who converted to business? Who was undecided? Who ignored and where you have an opportunity to go back and persuade the lost sheep - which is more intuitive and useful. I often dread on the saying business as usual. Move on to the next agenda.

Digital marketing roundup

Google Analytics and AI can help you round up 'A lost sheep campaign,' just by using data to identify; who started an application or initiated an order or registered or viewed your advertisement but did not complete or convert to business.

Let us run a small round it up campaign with a special offer or detailed description of the product or service or even add additional services or products that a customer may have looked at but was not included in the first campaign, here we begin to lure the lost sheep and sweep for leftovers.

Most often campaigns run and end but never re-run or run sequels but instead get into gear for the next agenda (new campaign). There are beautiful tools such as websites, social media sites, external landing pages or systems and software's developed and used internally to capture business transactions that are equipped with analytics to help with decision making on the effects of the campaign.

A marketing campaign comes and goes, if it sweeps (as it should) then even better but most important there must be a distance till the next new campaign as does digestion takes time so do your customer's thought process. Think about it!

**Alley Mtatya is Marketing Coordinator at Access Microfinance Bank Tanzania.**

**BANKING & FINANCE**

# Global lenders reap \$170bn in most profitable year ever

LONDON

NEVER mind banker burnout, return-to-office headaches and new pandemic waves. A simple reality stands out for the biggest global investment banks: they're minting money like never before.

As the dust settles over earnings season, a total profit of more than \$170 billion from a dozen of the biggest firms in the past four quarters shows how far the industry has come from the frazzled early stages of the pandemic. JPMorgan Chase was the standout, earning the equivalent of \$131 million a day.

A string of trading wins certainly helped the sector in the early days of Covid-19 and as last year's market volatility faded, investment bankers were ready to fuel the boom in takeovers and fundraising through special purpose acquisition vehicles.

Banks with wealth and asset management units enjoyed buoyant equity markets as the world economy began to recover, aided by unprecedented government support programmes. The same trend also proved a boon to retail units, long seen as a drag on earnings, as they started to unwind loan loss provisions.

Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley

also broke their profit records, while European counterparts UBS Group and Barclays posted their highest earnings in a decade as the likes of Deutsche Bank and Societe Generale credited the improving world economy for boosting their business. Banking stocks reflect this strong run of results, with the Dow Jones US Banks Index up 59 per cent over the past year and the Eurostoxx Banks Index up 56 per cent.

Elevated market activity benefited traders who were once out of favour at Deutsche Bank and Barclays, while JPMorgan's investment bank posted its best quarter in history thanks to deal-making and advisory fees.

This upswing in corporate activity mirrored optimism in many parts of the global economy after months of Covid restrictions. In turn, banks felt confident enough to start unwinding vast reserves built for an economic meltdown that hasn't arrived. In Europe alone, the top 9 banks reported an 88 per cent decline in provisions in recent weeks.

"All of the banks we rate in the UK and Europe are still holding back material reserves for expected credit losses given the remaining uncertainty," Laurie Mayers, associate managing



Laurie Mayers, associate managing director at Moody's Investors Service in London.

director at Moody's Investors Service in London, said. "The more positive outlook for major economies including house price inflation is, however, driving pressure on

banks to release provisions."

Some lenders such as HSBC Holdings are using their extra headroom to reward shareholders as central banks start to relax limits designed to promote lending during the pandemic. "We definitely feel more confident," the UK lender's chief financial officer, Ewen Stevenson, said on Bloomberg Television. "We will keep buy-backs under review" together with dividends, he said.

With the pandemic still blazing in several regions of the world and rock-bottom interest rates weighing on banks' lending income, it remains to be seen if the industry can continue breaking profit records. Investors may cast a sceptical eye towards the reserve releases that have flattered earnings in recent quarters, yet they "are a function of the underlying macroeconomy and underwriting acumen," said Jefferies analyst Joseph Dickerson.

"Some of the revenue trends may sustain themselves, particularly as fee income continues to recover and while large-scale writebacks may not repeat, we continue to believe that consensus estimates for credit costs are too conservative," Mr Dickerson said.

Susannah Streeter, senior investment and markets analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, said in a note after HSBC's earnings that the investment banking upswing could be subsiding, having supported lenders through the lean months for retail banking.

## WORLD

## Fears voiced for N. Africa and Middle East jabs pace

NAIROBI

THE increasing COVID-19 transmissions in the Middle East and North Africa could spark a domino effect with catastrophic health, social and economic repercussions, unless vaccination rollouts are stepped up and protection measures reinforced, warned an international organization.

In a statement on Monday, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said concerns for the future are mounting as variants continue to spread.

Currently, health systems in several countries are on the verge of collapse and vaccination rates in the region continue to lag behind.

According to the World Health Organization, only 5.5 percent of the region's population has been fully vaccinated.

The IFRC said only 10 doses per 100 people have been administered in most of

the countries across the region, including Libya, Algeria, Egypt and Iraq. In Syria and Yemen, there has been less than one dose administered per 100 people.

The organization said Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia reported the highest number of new cases in the past weeks. Tunisia, which is already experiencing a fourth COVID-19 wave, reported the greatest increase in new reported deaths. It is the third-most affected country in the continent in terms of COVID-19 infections and deaths.

According to data from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Tunisia had reported 595,532 infection cases and 20,067 deaths as of Monday.

Haytham Qosa, head of the IFRC Middle East and North Africa health unit, said leaving countries behind on vaccines will only serve to prolong the pandemic not just in the region, but also globally.

Many countries are facing other vulnerabilities, including conflict, natural



A Libyan worker unloads a shipment of the Chinese Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine at Mitiga International Airport in the capital Tripoli on Monday. Xinhua

disasters, displacement and other disease outbreaks. This makes people even more vulnerable to the devastating impact of COVID-19.

"This alone should be reason enough for global solidarity to ensure equitable vaccine access in the region," Qosa said.

Hosam Faysal, head of the IFRC's disasters, climate and crises unit, said new waves are reminders that the battle against COVID-19 is unfortunately not over yet.

On Thursday, the WHO said the Delta

variant, which has been reported in 15 of 22 countries in the Middle East, is fueling the fourth wave in the region.

Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean region, said until and unless vaccination coverage is increased equitably for everybody, everywhere, the virus will continue to circulate and mutate to produce new variants.

Agencies

## Wuhan launches citywide COVID-19 testing campaign

WUHAN

ALL 12 million residents of Wuhan, Hubei province, will be tested for novel coronavirus after a new cluster was detected in the Chinese city hardest hit by COVID-19 last year.

Control and prevention measures were reactivated in Wuhan on Tuesday following the confirmation of three locally transmitted cases on Monday. They are the first cases detected in the city since June last year.

Wuhan authorities have decided to launch citywide nucleic acid testing immediately, Li Tao, deputy secretary-general of the city government, said at a news conference.

"Comprehensive screening can effectively block possible sources of infection and eliminate hidden dangers," Li said.

Since Saturday, Hubei has reported six confirmed locally transmitted cases, and

eight asymptomatic carriers, according to data from the provincial health authority.

One of the three infected people, surnamed Tang, came into contact with a tour group from Hua'an, Jiangsu province, in the waiting hall of Jingzhou Railway Station in Jingzhou, Hubei, on July 27.

The other two patients are close contacts of Tang, said Li Yang, deputy director of the Hubei Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention, on Tuesday.

The three patients are all infected with the Delta variant. The three cases are related to the Hua'an ones, according to results of epidemiological survey and gene sequencing, Li said.

The Hua'an tour group had visited an outbreak hot spot, Zhangjiajie, Hunan province, before their short stay in Jingzhou Railway Station. Several people in the group have tested positive for COVID-19.

The three Wuhan patients,



Residents line up to have their swab samples taken for COVID-19 nucleic acid testing in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei province on Tuesday. XINHUA

as well as one from Huanggang and two in Jingzhou, are at a designated COVID-19 hospital for medical treatment, Liu Dongru, deputy director of the Hubei Health Commission said at a news conference on Tuesday.

They are all in a stable condition. Liu said virus prevention and control measures have been activated at all levels in Wuhan to prevent the spread of the virus.

Restrictions have been imposed on traffic and public transportation in the city.

Twenty-three bus lines had been suspended by 10 am on Tuesday. Bus service to provinces including Jiangsu, Hunan and Henan, which have reported outbreaks in recent days, has been suspended, as has service at some subway stops in the city.

Shows and performances at scenic areas in Wuhan were

also suspended as of Tuesday and summer classes at training centers canceled.

Supplies of daily necessities, including rice, flour, meat, eggs, vegetables and milk, are abundant and prices are stable, the city's commerce bureau said.

All outlets of the 13 major supermarkets as well as over 400 gas stations are operating as usual, the bureau added.

"We have increased supplies to the stores around the closed residential communities. If there is any store running out of stock we can replenish it within two to three hours," said a staff member at Zhongbai Holdings Group, a retail outlet chain operator, in Wuhan.

Wuhan resident He Zhiqiang said, "Stocks of some goods are running out at online platforms, but supplies are ample at supermarkets."

Xinhua

## Malaysia's embattled PM vows to stay on after meeting king

By Bloomberg

MALAYSIA'S Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said his government has the numbers needed for him to remain premier and there is no reason for him to offer to resign.

His comments Wednesday followed a meeting with the nation's monarch and after the largest political party in the country's ruling coalition retracted support for the embattled premier's government.

"Yet, I am also aware that my position as prime minister is often questioned. Hence, I have informed his Majesty that I will determine my legiti-

macy in parliament," Muhyiddin said in a televised address.

Muhyiddin said this would be done through a vote of confidence in the legislative assembly next month -- his first since he was appointed prime minister by the king in February last year. "The king consented to my proposal," added Muhyiddin.

Opposition MPs such as former Science Minister Yeo Bee Yin took to Twitter to urge Muhyiddin to prove his legitimacy immediately rather than wait until September. Sabah-based opposition party Warisan said parliament could convene at once with the mo-



tion of confidence being the sole issue up for debate.

Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, president of the United Malays National Organisation, late Tuesday had again urged Muhyiddin to step down shortly after fellow party member Shamsul Anuar Na-

sarah resigned as energy minister.

UMNO had presented letters to the king from party lawmakers declaring they withdrew support for Muhyiddin, Ahmad Zahid said, without revealing their names.

The current administration has lost its majority and Muhyiddin "must take responsibility for the failure under his leadership," he added.

## A Battle of Letters

Muhyiddin on Wednesday said he in turn presented the king with enough letters from lawmakers to prove he still had the confidence of

the majority. Just eight UMNO lawmakers had written to the monarch to pull their support from him, he added.

The prime minister was flanked by nine colleagues at the briefing, including Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob, who is a UMNO member, Trade Minister Azmin Ali and Transport Minister Wee Ka Siong. Malaysia's ringgit weakened 0.2 percent to 4.2265 per dollar, set for its biggest decline in two weeks. The main stock index was set

for its lowest level since November when trading paused for the midday break.

Agencies

## South Africa's virus epicenter shifts south to Cape Town

JOHANNESBURG

THE epicenter of a third wave of coronavirus cases in South Africa that's being driven by the highly infectious delta variant has shifted from the economic hub of Gauteng to Cape Town and the surrounding Western Cape province, where hospitals are at risk of being overwhelmed.

The Western Cape had more than 38,000 active COVID-19 cases by midday on Tuesday, while there were less than 24,000 in Gauteng, which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria. Almost 3,700 virus patients are currently in hospitals in the coastal region, with 708 of them in intensive care.

The province has increased the number of beds dedicated to coronavirus patients, secured more ventilators and employed additional health-care staff, its Premier Alan Winde said on Tuesday. Three field hospitals have also been opened and an agreement with private hospitals to accommodate excess patients if capacity at state facilities is reached, remains in place, he said.

"The health department indicates that the system is coping, while under pressure," but there is always a concern that capacity will be inadequate when infections peak and that hasn't yet happened, Winde said. "We continuously monitor our capacity, especially in our critical-care space."

South Africa has confirmed more than 2.47 million COVID-19 infections across the nine provinces, and almost 73,000 of those who were diagnosed with the disease have died. Gauteng accounts for about 35 percent of the total cases and the Western Cape 16 percent.

Agencies

## Lavrov slams West's unfounded attacks against Russian vaccines

MOSCOW

MOSCOW has registered Western countries' unfounded attacks against Russian vaccines, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with the Komsomolskaya Pravda daily.



"We have noted unfounded attacks by a number of Western countries against Russian vaccines. At the same time, I would like to emphasize that the Russian Direct Investment Fund and experts of the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology promptly provide detailed answers to all specific questions," he said.

Lavrov noted in particular that representatives of France were politicizing that "purely scientific and humanitarian issue."

"That stance is out of sync with the approach shown by Paris earlier. We remember the remarks of President Emmanuel Macron that the decision on registering the Russian drug would be based on scientific considerations rather than political ones.

My counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian said that, if Sputnik V was approved and certified by the European Medicines Agency and also in France by the High Council for Public Health, there would be no obstacles to its distribution," he went on to say.

Russia's top diplomat also noted that France was one of the first countries that started a dialogue around vaccines. "In late November 2020, a delegation of French experts came to Russia.

They held talks with the top officials of the Russian Direct Investment Fund and the Gamaleya National Research Center. They were also able to familiarize themselves with Russia's groundwork in the production of coronavirus vaccines," he said.

Agencies

## AU, TRAFFIC to jointly combat illegal wildlife trade

ADDISABABA

THE African Union (AU) and TRAFFIC, a global wildlife trade monitoring network, on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly combat illegal wildlife trade.

The collaboration supports AU members in their policies of environment as well as wildlife management and trade, according to an AU statement Tuesday.

"It acts as a framework to combat the illegal exploitation and trade in Africa's rich wildlife with a joint goal of protecting flora and fauna on land, wetlands, and marine ecosystems."

TRAFFIC will provide the AU and its member states with the latest evidence-based technical guidance to implement sustainable natural resource strategies that support national economies and local community development.

Signing the MoU, Josefa Sacko, AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, said the agreement supports safeguarding of Africa's wild biodiversity, emphasizing AU's keen interest in deepening the collaboration. "We are welcoming TRAFFIC's technical support and policy which stems from its evidence-based experience, on how to keep the use and trade of wild harvested flora and fauna at legal and sustainable and levels, and on how to best combat any illegal trade and overexploitation threatening our biodiversity," said the commissioner.

Xinhua

## County in East China gears up to build international land port

AS a train whistle blew, a China-Europe freight train left an international land port hub in Xiangtang township, Nanchang county, east China's Jiangxi province, bringing 96 containers of Jiangxi-produced commodities, including all-in-one desktops, tapes and printer cartridges, to Moscow, Russia.

Over the past several years, Nanchang county has continuously opened the international land port by building it into a major platform and passage for foreign trade and advancing the development of industries.

The international land port has developed 13 routes for international freight trains and rail-sea combined

transport. Last year, China-Europe freight trains made 127 trips to and from the international land port, transporting a total of 11,454 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of loaded containers, a year-on-year increase of 5.83 percent and 8.04 percent, respectively.

A total of 640 trips were made for rail-sea combined transport, exchanging 34,918 TEUs of loaded containers, up 19.85 percent and 61.94 percent year on year, respectively.

Last year, 1,328 vehicles produced by Jiangxi automaker Jiangling Motors Co., Ltd. were exported through a newly opened route dedicated to

shipping the vehicles of the company. More than 160,000 vehicles were transported by railway, growing 49.61 percent compared with those in the previous year.

Xiangtang, as an inland township located neither close to the sea nor rivers, faces high logistics cost and low logistics efficiency in developing export-oriented economy. However, it now made tremendous success in this regard.

Fu Xiangyu, deputy mayor of Nanchang county gave two reasons behind the success: the advantages the township enjoys as becoming a traffic hub, and the favorable price and effi-

ciency of shipping.

Xiangtang township is home to China's second largest westward freight transportation station, and serves as a key logistics stop and cargo distribution center for Jiangxi and even central China at large. More than 70 percent of the goods from southern Jiangxi are shipped via the township.

To cut logistics costs for enterprises, the Xiangtang international land port provides companies with whole-trip railway freight subsidies and is pushing forward with the construction of a more intelligent port. It offers same shipment rate with that offered in coastal areas, and the efficiency of cus-

tomers clearance is also similar to that in coastal areas.

Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com has opened in Xiangtang township a smart logistics park empowered by robots, which can greatly improve the efficiency of warehousing. It mirrors the trend of optimizing and upgrading modern logistics in the international land port.

The international land port has actively learnt from the experience and wisdom of other areas, and mapped out its development route in a science-based manner.

The port has deepened its relationship with industries and the city, cre-

ated a comprehensive industrial service ecosystem, and pooled various production factors such as logistics, industries, talents and capital with its transportation advantages.

As a result, the Xiangtang international land port has established an industrial system with modern logistics industry as the pillar, and supplemented by advanced manufacturing and high-end services.

Nanchang county has also introduced various policies to support the development of the international land port, including rent cut, tax incentives, and financial support for companies.

People's Daily

## Probe finds New York governor harassed 11 women, he refuses to quit

NEW YORK

NEW YORK Governor Andrew Cuomo groped, kissed or made suggestive comments to 11 women in violation of the law, the state's attorney general said on Tuesday, prompting local prosecutors to launch a criminal investigation and reigniting calls for him to resign or be impeached.



The findings of a five-month investigation into allegations of sexual harassment found the governor created a "toxic" workplace and that his office illegally retaliated against the first accuser to go public.

After state Attorney General Letitia James unveiled the probe's conclusions, President Joe Biden and other prominent Democrats called on the party's one-time star to resign.

But in a video statement issued after James' briefing, Cuomo, 63, made clear he had no plans to do so and denied he had acted inappropriately.

"The facts are much different than what has been portrayed," Cuomo said.

A third-term Democratic governor who has served in the post since 2011, Cuomo called the findings inaccurate and unfair. He said his accusers had misinterpreted his words, gestures and demeanor, insisting his behavior was always intended to convey warmth to the women.

The investigation marked a swift fall for a governor who became a popular national figure in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic by presenting himself as an authoritative presence in daily news conferences.

The findings, detailed in a scathing 168-page report, could deal a devastating blow to Cuomo - once seen as a possible presidential candidate and a former US housing secretary under President Bill Clinton - and hinder his administration.

"What this investigation revealed was a disturbing pattern of conduct by the governor of the great state of New York," said James, also a Democrat. "These 11 women were in a hostile and toxic work environment."

Biden told reporters at the White House: "I think he should resign."

"I'm sure there are some embraces that were totally innocent. But apparently the attorney general decided there were things that weren't," Biden said.

The speaker of the Democratic-controlled New York Assembly said an impeachment investigation would conclude "as quickly as possible" after receiving evidence from James' probe.

The civil investigation found the actions of Cuomo and his senior advisers "violated multiple state and federal laws," James' office said, but she did not pursue criminal charges.

After the report was published, the district attorney for Albany County, David Soares, announced his office had opened an investigation to see if any conduct rose to the level of a crime. Albany County is home to the city of Albany, the New York state capital.

Soares also requested evidence from the probe and welcomed "any victim" to come forward.

'Climate of fear'

Investigators spoke to 179 people, James said. The probe revealed a "climate of fear" in which Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women, many of them young, she said.

While many of the accusations were previously known, investigators at the briefing revealed some new details based on what Cuomo's accusers told them.

Anne Clark, one of the two lawyers who ran the inquiry, said one of the women Cuomo targeted was a state trooper. The governor stood behind her in an elevator and "ran his finger from her neck down her spine and said, 'Hey you.'" The trooper, according to Clark, said Cuomo inappropriately touched her from "her chest to her privates."

Cuomo, a divorced father of three adult daughters, said he was sorry if his behavior was misunderstood by his accusers. He also said he would "not be distracted" from his work battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I want you to know directly from me that I never touched anyone inappropriately or made inappropriate sexual advances," Cuomo said in the video statement. "I am 63 years old. I've lived my entire adult life in public view. That is just not who I am. And that's not who I have ever been."

## Biden administration issues new eviction moratorium amid pressure, COVID-19 surge

WASHINGTON

FACING mounting pressure from progressive Democratic lawmakers and the spike of the coronavirus pandemic, U.S. President Joe Biden's administration on Tuesday issued a new 60-day eviction moratorium to prevent millions of American renters from being forced to leave their homes.

The "temporary" moratorium, issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will expire on Oct. 3.

Targeting areas with high or substantial COVID-19 transmission, it covers 80 percent of U.S. counties and 90 percent of the U.S. population.

"The emergence of the delta variant has led to a rapid acceleration of community transmission in the United States, putting more Americans at increased risk, especially if they are unvaccinated," CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said on Tuesday.

"This moratorium is the right thing to do to keep people in their homes and out of congregate settings where COVID-19 spreads," he said.

The new order is limited and targeted, separate from the agency's prior eviction moratorium that expired on July 31, the CDC said.

Xinhua

# Anti-science drive in US seriously undermines recovery efforts

BEIJING

AMID new spikes in COVID-19 deaths and infections in the United States, anti-science rhetoric and conspiracy theories are also gaining steam in the country, triggering concerns that the global anti-pandemic course could worsen further.

The latest episodes of such absurdity include Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson's assertion that it was Anthony Fauci, a top U.S. infectious disease expert, who had "helped to create COVID in the first place," and Congressman Clay Higgins's wild claim that the virus had been weaponized for biological attacks.

These ridiculous statements can not withstand any rational analysis and are nothing but a new epitome of the rising anti-science sentiments in the United States. With such sentiments, bigoted Washington elites are fueling an ideology-motivated disinformation campaign, through which they deliberately ignore facts and seek to mislead the public.

What is more worrying is that these delusional minds are bringing about real consequences: In the United States, scientists and health officials, while working overtime to study the novel coronavirus and address the pandemic, have to spare a massive amount of time and resources to bust rumors and refute opinions spread by conspiracy theorists.

Due in part to the anti-science push, the United States overall has responded poorly to the pandemic and remains among the worst-hit countries in the world.

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, the U.S. government, instead of acknowledg-



A man receives COVID-19 test at a mobile testing site in Times Square, New York, the United States, on July 20, 2021. (Xinhua)

ing the threat it posed and informing the public in a timely manner, repeatedly downplayed the severity and exaggerated the country's capabilities to handle the disease.

After the situation got worse, some U.S. officials quickly turned to conspiracy theories and anti-science positions in order to deflect attention and blame. The political tricks have gone as far as going after some of the country's leading scientists, including Fauci, who had received death threats for siding with science and evidence.

Since the current U.S. leadership took office early this year, the U.S. government has been accelerating vaccinations for its residents. Over the past few months, states and cities have moved to lift COVID-19 preventive measures. The White House announced last month that the country is "closer than ever" to de-

## Pakistan, Russia, China strive for peace in Afghanistan – newspaper

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN, jointly with other countries, including Russia and China, will seek a peaceful settlement of the situation in Afghanistan to prevent a civil war, Special Assistant to the Pakistani Prime Minister for National Security Moeed Yusuf and Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed stated while visiting the US.

According to The Express Tribune newspaper, during a

meeting with US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and other US officials, Yusuf and Hameed emphasized that the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan would allow terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda (banned in Russia) to "re-group and eventually become a security threat not only to the region but also to Washington."

"Pakistan wants the US to remain engaged with the Afghan situation in order to ensure that there is some political

settlement after its withdrawal instead of civil war," the newspaper noted.

"The worry in Pakistan is that the US may abandon Afghanistan altogether leaving regional countries to face the blowback of a potential civil war in Afghanistan."

It is because of this reason that Pakistan has been working with regional countries including Russia and China to prevent the civil war in Afghanistan." However, Pakistan is "still seeking to engage with

the Biden administration," according to The Express Tribune.

Furthermore, Islamabad is pinning hopes for an early settlement of the Afghan situation on a meeting with senior officials of Pakistan, China, Russia and the US scheduled for August 11 in Doha.

The sides will address the situation in Afghanistan and ways to reach a political settlement.

The Afghan situation significantly aggravated in April

2021, after President Joe Biden announced that the US forces' operation in the republic had been completed and the US troops had been withdrawn from Afghanistan.

As a result, the Taliban movement (banned in Russia) intensified its attacks in a number of fronts.

The Taliban took several dozen areas under control in the country and seized some key frontier posts on the country's borders with Tajikistan, Iran and Pakistan. **Agencies**

## China's manufacturing accelerates industrial digitalisation

CHINA has seen accelerated digital transformation of industries and rapid process of software autonomy and control in the first half of this year.

The revenues in industrial software products hit 110.7 billion yuan (\$17.13 billion) in the first six months, growing 20 percent from a year ago. More than 70 million units of devices have been connected to industrial internet platforms. There was also a steady rise in the digitalization of key processes and the application of digitalized designing tools.

Expanding application scenarios, digging into the potential of industries and completing industrial ecology, Chinese industrial internet is embracing rapid development.

At the plant of Airbus (Tianjin) Final Assembly Company in north China's Tianjin municipality, every worker that enters designated production areas will be scanned by 5G-powered cameras that are able to identify whether the workers are wearing safety helmets or have left their tools at these areas.

This is a typical scenario enabled by the "collaboration" between 5G technology and industrial internet. "Aircraft manufacturing involves many precision parts and complex devices. Even the tiniest error is not allowed. Manual inspection in the past cost huge time and energy, and sometimes couldn't remove all errors," said Zheng Lina, an employee of the Airbus (Tianjin) Final Assembly Company.

She compared the industrial internet-5G combination to a safety inspection expert that stands by anytime, which not only substantially reduces cost, but also improves the safety of production.

At a smart welding workshop of XCMG Machinery, a leading heavy machinery manufacturer in China, nine smart production lines are employed. They have completed crane orders worth nearly four billion yuan.

"The collaboration between 5G and industrial internet enables massive devices made by different manufacturers and brands to be connected to platforms, which achieves maximum interconnectivity among the devices," said Li Zhongfu, head of XCMG Machinery's informatization management division.

The integration of 5G and industrial internet makes it possible to track



The 2020 China 5G + Industrial Internet Conference is held in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province on Nov. 19, 2020. File photo

real-time operation data of production devices, which improves production efficiency by 20 percent, said Li. It also sends back operating parameters to the manufacturers, so that they can offer remote diagnosis services for their clients.

The collaboration between 5G technology and industrial internet will become a major "battlefield" for China's industrial digitalization, said Wang Zhiqin, vice president of China Academy of Information and Communications Technology.

According to him, nearly 1,600 5G-industrial internet projects have been completed, covering over 20 important sectors of national economy. Besides, 5G-industrial internet collaboration is reaching more manufacturing industries from the pioneering aviation, steel, mining and port industries, Wang added.

At a workshop of Jiaying Xinyuan Textile Co., Ltd., east China's Zhejiang province, there is a small black box that connects 270 spinners, 108 two-for-one twisters and other supporting facilities to a "cloud brain."

The cloud platform has improved spinner efficiency by four percent and average per capita output by nine percent,

and lowered management cost by five percent, said Luo Yuan, general manager of the textile company. "It not only improves product quality, but also guarantees on-time delivery of products," Luo noted.

"Most of the medium- and small-sized textile companies still rely on manual labor for production and management," said Zhang Pei, senior product manager of Zhijing Technology, the provider of the cloud platform. The platform has served more than 5,000 textile enterprises and is connected to over 400,000 spinners, which account for 26 percent of the total capacity of China's textile industry. It has saved relevant enterprises more than one billion yuan.

An official with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology noted that China will foster a batch of industrial internet system solution providers in the next five years, make them leading players in the sector that promote synergetic innovation among large, medium and small enterprises, and help small and medium sized enterprises enhance their capability of digital transformation. **People's Daily**

## US envoy: Taliban seek 'lion's share of power' in peace talks

WASHINGTON

THE Taliban and the Kabul government are far apart in US-backed talks on bringing peace to Afghanistan, with the insurgents demanding "the lion's share of power" in any new government, the special US envoy said on Tuesday.

Afghan-born veteran US diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad's bleak assessment of the peace process coincides with Taliban advances on provincial capitals that have uprooted tens of thousands of civilians as the US troop pull-out nears completion after 20 years of war.

"At this point, they (the Taliban) are demanding that they take the lion's share of power in the next government given the military situation as they see it," Khalilzad told the Aspen Security Forum in an online conference.

The deadlocked negotiations in Doha were the subject of a telephone call on Tuesday between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, with them agreeing on the need to accelerate talks, the US State Department said.

Blinken and Ghani also "condemned the ongoing Taliban attacks and displacement of the civilian population," State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement.

The Taliban's rapid advances have fueled fears that the insurgents aim to re-establish by force their harsh brand of Islamist rule ended by the 2001 US-led invasion, including the repression of women and the independent media.

The insurgents say they want a peace deal.

Price told reporters that the insurgents would become "international pariahs" if they renege on their commitment to the negotiations "and the concern on the part of all of us, one of the many concerns, is that the result will be civil war," read more

A car bomb blast followed by sporadic gunfire hit Kabul on Tuesday near the heavily fortified "Green Zone," leaving three civilians and three attackers dead.

Khalilzad was the architect of the US-Taliban deal for a US troop pullout reached in February 2020.

In his rare public assessment of the Doha talks started under that deal, Khalilzad said peace can only be reached through a ceasefire and negotiations that would establish a transitional government.

Ghani's administration says the talks should focus on "bringing the Taliban into the current government," he said. The Taliban contend that Ghani's government "is the result of military occupation" and they want an agreement on a transitional government and constitution, Khalilzad continued.

"They are far apart," he said. "They are trying to affect each other's calculus and the terms by what they are doing on the battlefield." Khalilzad said that 40 years of continuous conflict "has no legitimacy any more."

"It's a struggle for a balance of power, dispensation of power between various factions, and no Afghans, especially civilian Afghans, should die because of that," he added in remarks that risked angering the US-backed Ghani government. **Agencies**

# SPORT



Costa Siboka

## Traditional music troupe now postpones shows

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PROMINENT traditional music artist, Costa Siboka, has opted to halt shows performed by his troupe, Mfalme, to shape up for the launch of the troupe's new album.

Siboka revealed his decision has moreover been brought by the COVID-19 pandemic which is ravaging countries across the world.

The artist disclosed he is still recording songs for the new album, revealing he has yet to come up with the album's title.

Siboka pointed out his troupe had recently done shows in several regions in the Lake Zone.

"Our troupe has completed some of the new tracks, which include 'Shikwamo', 'Mgulinde', 'Jitarhumba', 'Wawawa remix', 'Kanchepe', 'Omwanga Wange' and 'Mla Chake'," Siboka revealed.

According to the musician, the songs will be officially introduced at a festival,

known as 'Shangwe za Ukerewe', which will take place in Ukerewe in December.

Siboka pointed the troupe will moreover make newly hired dancers known to its supporters at the festival.

The artiste, whose troupe performs traditional songs sung in various tribes in Lake Zone, ointed out he calls on domestic musicians to get coronavirus vaccine.

"The vaccine matters the most, Tanzanians should not fear it, as our President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, has already taken it, we for that matter have to follow suit, we should go to the centers to get the vaccine," Siboka disclosed.

The musician stated he is one of the people currently preparing to get the vaccine.

Siboka pointed out once he gets it, he will motivate the rest to get it and the importance of going for the exercise.

"There have been plenty of claims from the time the vaccine was brought to the country, some people do not want to be vaccinated, but we have to all be vaccinated."

## Failuna tipped to win Olympic medal

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN female athlete, Failuna Matanga, along with 90 athletes from other countries, are on the lookout for this season's Olympic women's marathon medals.

Failuna will be a strong contender for the race's medals, should the athlete make the most of her international experience and record. The female athlete is expected to run on Saturday as the first Tanzanian to compete in the Games, before Alphonse Simbu and Gabriel Geay take part in the men's marathon on Sunday.

The race will start at the Sapporo Edori Park area starting at 1 p.m.

Tanzanian team has already arrived in the city on Tuesday from Tokyo, where it arrived last Friday and completed all the procedures for their participation in the marathon race that Failuna will open the tournament for the Tanzanian team.

In the squad of 90 athletes who will compete against Failuna, there are Kenyans, Ruth Chepngetich, and Brigid Kosgei, who have a strong record.

Failuna will be guaranteed a third spot, taking home a bronze medal, should she put spirited showing.

The runner admitted that the stars are the ones putting pressure on her in the list of athletes who she will take on in the race on Saturday. "Their records are better

than mine, but in any competition, it can happen and it depends on how you wake up that day, but God is here I will fight them toe-to-toe, step by step," she said.

Kosgei holds the world record of 2:14:04 set on October 13, 2019, in the Chicago Marathon and has been a champion in the London Marathon in 2019 and 2020.

Chepngetich has a time of 2:17:01, beating Failuna who ran in 2:27:00 for 10 minutes and the Kenyan is the defending champion of the 2019 Qatar World Championship. The English runner, Stephanie Twell, is one of the stars who have been given a chance to do well in the race due to her running time and experience where she was a world champion in 2008 and a bronze medalist at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in 1500m meter race, though she is now focused on the marathon.

Tanzania's Olympic team's coach, Thomas Tlanka, speaking directly from Japan, said that if Failuna will increase her efforts in her race, he is sure she will return with a medal.

"We have looked at the standards of the opposition, the only prospects are two Kenyans, most on the starting list do not have much marathon experience, let's pray for Failuna to be safe and I believe she will do something wonderful," he said.

## SPORTS

## DCC A cricketers stretch winning run in Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial League

By Guardian Reporter

DAR Cricket Club (DCC) A has had a perfect start to this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial League (MNML)'s Division B 30 Overs, posting a 52-run win over Alaf Aces B outfit early this week.

It was therefore the third successive win to be recorded by DCC A, making them one of the serious contenders for the top honour in the showdown.

The DCC A opened their account impressively, humbling Sandy's Super Strikers by 76 runs in a tie, which took place on July 11.

Patel Brotherhood A later came up against the DCC A on July 18, the match saw the latter notch seven-wicket drubbing of the former.

In the third duel, DCC A went in to bat first, recording 161 runs all out in 28.1 overs.

Much as they could not exhibit their virtuosity during the innings, seasoned players, including captain Adil Kassam and Assad Aziz, made their presence count.

With opening batsman, Sufian Usman, experiencing an early dismissal, skipper Kassam had to step up and posted 23 runs.

Usman could only notch four runs, nailing a four, and then got out.

The DCC A's efforts to stay within reach of a bigger garnered a huge boost once Aziz took the crease.

He stepped in once Usman was sent back to the pavilion and cleared the boundary on five occasions on his way to notching 39 runs.

He, at the end of it all, turned out to be the player with the most impressive innings.

The DCC A was later pegged back, considering three batsmen experienced early exits.

A promising batsman, Ally Hafidh, helped his club keep alive hopes of posting an imposing total, the youthful cricketer ended with 25 runs.

Vraj Shah and Sajad Ratansi saw to it that DCC A makes certain of their quest for ending with a three-digit score, given they notched 24 runs and 19 runs respectively.

Alaf Aces B team's Jatin Prajapati had



Dar Cricket Club (DCC) A's Hiren Sharma (R) pictured with the side's skipper, Adil Kassam, once the team locked horns with Alaf Aces B squad in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial League (MNML)'s Division B 30 Overs' encounter, played early this week. Sharma put stellar bowling showing for DCC A and was presented with the man of the match prize. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

The DCC A's Abdulwahid Mohamed and Hiren Sharma had no mercy for Alaf Aces B outfit's members of the batting unit, given they made the latter pay for their flaws.

Sharma ended as the most impressive bowler, posting a five-wicket haul in six overs, the performance won him the man of the match prize.

His exploits had included taking Alaf Aces B squad's prized wickets of Kumar and Raza Baloch.

He was ably assisted by Mohamed, whose five-over stint had the cricketer ending with three wickets.

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## Hegga says still riding high in dance music

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

EXPERIENCED Tanzanian dance musician, Rogart Hegga, nicknamed 'Katapila', has said he is still doing well in the music, much as some of the genre's enthusiasts claim he has lost ground.

'Katapila' revealed the music genre's failure to gain recognition in domestic broadcasting media has affected his efforts to hold sway in music.

The artiste pointed out domestic dance music currently does not enjoy much airtime on radio stations and that has affected many of the music genre's artists.

"I'm still doing well, I'm working for Sayari Band that is led by Badi Bakule, much as I'm not as popular as was the case in the past."

"This situation has been brought about by domestic broadcasting media's lack of interest in the genre."

The musician had performed for lots of dance music bands in his career, including Twanga Pepeta, Mchinga Sound, TOT -Plus, Extra Bongo, and Ruvu Stars.

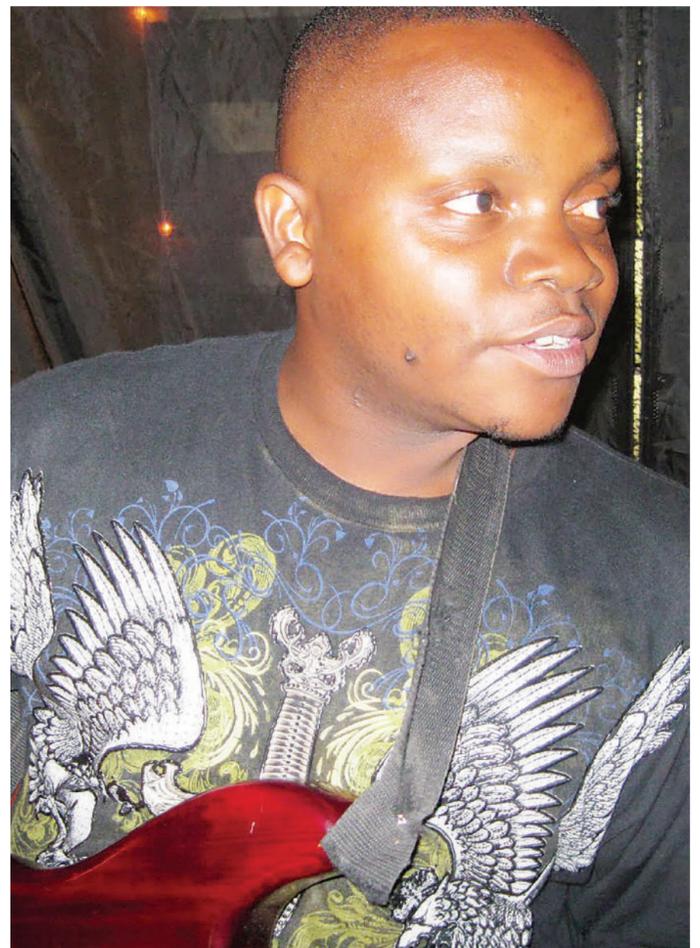
According to 'Katapila', he is adamant the music genre still has what it takes to impress music lovers.

"I believe that dance music followers know where I'm, but the problem is dance music is not enjoying much attention."

"Dance musicians would have managed to maintain their popularity if the broadcasting media would have continued to give the genre attention."

'Katapila' noted that Bakule and he are some of the renowned dance artists with lots of achievement in music, they are however not enjoying much attention lately.

The artist disclosed the musicians believe music followers regularly turning up at Sayari Band's shows know what the troupe is doing.



Rogart Hegga

'Katapila' further revealed he believes dance music will crawl back to popularity, as was the case in the past, although the genre is not getting the

attention. The vocalist for that matter pleaded with the music genre's lovers to be patient.

## What happens when Olympics and politics collide?

TOKYO

FOR all the International Olympic Committee talks of staying neutral, its games have long proven to be essentially and sometimes overtly political – for the Games overall, and often for the athletes who are intended to entertain the world in a two-week global show.

Case in point: diplomatic eruptions. Hundreds of athletes have come to an Olympic Games and never returned to the home nation they represented in the pool, on the mat or on the track. Their stories since 1948, when the Olympics resumed in London after a wartime pause, confirm that when the world meets for sports, politics is always there.

The sprinter from Belarus, Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, who left Tokyo early Wednesday to seek refuge, fits into that long tradition – yet with a unique reason.

Most athletes who defected competed under a kind of flag of convenience – traveling to the Summer Games from eastern Europe with a plan to head west. The Olympics offered escape from authoritarian regimes at home, and at no time more than the peak of the Cold War.

After the 1972 Munich Olympics, more than 100 athletes stayed in West Germany to first seek refuge before, in many cases, moving on to make lives in democratically run countries. Those whose plans succeeded have cited varied reasons – political ideology, the prospect of a more peaceful life or simply the chance to achieve their true value as an athlete.

Tsimanouskaya had no plans of escape upon arriving in Japan from Belarus, a country in turmoil for a year since the disputed re-election of authoritarian president Alexander Lukashenko. She disagreed with her coaches about team selection for relay races and shared her thoughts on social media. That made her a pariah in Belarus, where dissent can be life-threatening.

But she leaves having authored a page in a storied Olympic history. What other Olympians have been caught at the intersection of sport and diplomacy?

LONDON, 1948 (AND BEYOND)

Oscar Charles had a different role at three consecutive Summer Games water polo tournaments.

Born Oszkar Csuvik in Hungary, he helped the national team take silver in London. He defected to stay in Britain and avoid returning to communist rule in his home country. Two years later, he migrated to Australia and coached its team at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

The Olympics came to Australia in 1956, opening in Melbourne three weeks after Soviet Union forces invaded Hungary to crush a

people's uprising. Charles worked there as a radio commentator and was poolside for the storied "Blood in the Water" water polo game in which Hungary beat the Soviet team 4-0 in a famously violent clash.

Charles "was only just restrained from jumping into the pool," according to an Australian newspaper obituary in 2008.

MELBOURNE, 1956

Held in the Southern hemisphere summer, the Melbourne Olympics opened on Nov. 22, 1956. Hungary sent more than 100 athletes from a nation in turmoil after Soviet forces invaded – including gymnastics great Ágnes Keleti, who won gold medals and two silvers and proceeded to defect to Australia.

She joined dozens of eastern European athletes who refused to go home. The United States authorized taking in at least 40 Olympic athletes, including 35 from the Hungary team at Melbourne.

Keleti went to Israel, where she lived until six years ago. Now in Hungary, she turned 100 in January and is the oldest living Olympic champion.

ATLANTA, 1996

Defecting in the United States was an attractive prospect. Atlanta offered an opportunity.

Iraq's flag bearer at the opening ceremony, Raed Ahmed, fled the Olympic Village after competing in weightlifting. He wanted to escape the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Pitcher Rolando Arrojo helped Cuba win baseball gold at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and was preparing to help defend its title. He eluded team security in a Georgia hotel and was soon branded a "Judas" by Cuban president Fidel Castro. Just two years later, as a Tampa Bay Devil Ray, he was an MLB all-star.

LONDON, 2012

Ayoub-Ali Sihame was the only swimmer representing the African island of Comoros in London. Then 17, she left the Olympic Village after competing in the 100 meters freestyle.

She later said she feared going home and being sold by her family into a forced marriage with a much older man. She claimed her family wanted to cash in on her Olympic celebrity.

Those details emerged in an English court in 2013 where she was convicted for using a false passport to try to enter France. Her lawyers said she would seek asylum after serving her jail sentence, having not realized she could apply legally while at the Olympics.

Several African athletes also disappeared in Britain while they had six-month Olympic visas.

AP

## US, 3 unbeaten teams set for Olympic men's basketball semis

SAITAMA, Japan

THEY believe they are the best basketball team at the Olympics, too good to consider anything but gold.

"If we do what we do well, we bring the intensity on defense, we play our roles but we're ourselves in our roles, we're free, we're the best players in the world," U.S. guard Zach LaVine said. "I don't think anybody's going to be able to beat us."

Australia and France already have this summer. And Slovenia has beaten everyone its ever played with Luka Dončić in the lineup.

So the semifinals might be as wide open as any time during the Americans' run of three straight titles. The U.S. is the only team left that has won Olympic gold, but the other three teams think this is their time.

"We're well experienced," Australia guard Patty Mills said. "We've been to this stage many a time and haven't crossed the line. But we've bottled those experiences up, and I think we're well prepared for this moment and for this stage to make the next step."

The U.S. plays Australia in the first semifinal Thursday at Saitama Super Arena, with a victory assur-

ing the Australians their first medal in men's basketball. But they'd have to win again Saturday to get the one they believe is in reach.

"Our goal is the gold medal," guard Matthew Dellavedova said.

France faces Slovenia in the nightcap. The winners meet Saturday for gold.

The U.S. was beaten 91-83 by Australia in an exhibition game and fell to France 83-76 in the teams' Olympic opener. But the Americans, who didn't have their full roster for the game in Las Vegas, may have rounded into top form.

They pulled away from Spain in the quarterfinals for a 95-81 victory, getting 29 points from Kevin Durant and improving to 3-0 since Jrue Holiday and Devin Booker joined the starting lineup after arriving on the eve of the tournament after the NBA Finals.

"I think the potential of this team is endless," forward Draymond Green said. "Unfortunately, we got two games left and so we need to make sure that we're continuing to get better each and every time we step on the floor, and I think that's what we've done."

Australia and France had big head starts, with a generation of players who have been together for years.

# Barcelona issues include Messi and Griezmann sagas, defensive dilemma

BARCELONA

IT'S been another summer of drama at Barcelona. There's still uncertainty over the coach's future, their star player left (and still hasn't technically returned), LaLiga further reduced their spending limit for the upcoming season and they've been unable to move on a handful of unwanted big-earning players inherited from the previous regime.

President Joan Laporta started the summer by saying he needed time to "reflect" on whether Ronald Koeman was the right man to lead Barca forward. In the end, given the lack of options to replace him and the money it would have cost to remove him, he decided to give the Dutch coach a second season.

On June 30, Lionel Messi's contract with the club expired. Since then, he's been a free agent. Sources have told ESPN there is an agreement over a new five-year deal, but it has not been signed yet. That's likely to change this week, with Messi now back in Europe following time off after Copa America success with Argentina. (He didn't report to training on Monday, with sources saying he's decided to wait until his deal is confirmed; the club was happy for him to report, but he'd need insurance in order to use the facilities.)

However, to register Messi's new deal while complying with LaLiga's spending limits, players must leave and wages must be reduced. Youngsters, like United States winger Konrad de la Fuente, have found new clubs, but so far, there have been no clubs willing to take on the salaries paid to the likes of Samuel Umtiti and Miralem Pjanic.

Transferring Antoine Griezmann, Philippe Coutinho or Ousmane Dembele could provide a solution, but all three remain at the club and that could be the case when the transfer window closes at the end of August. All while negotiations over wage deferrals and cuts continue with veteran players like Sergio Busquets, Sergi Roberto, Jordi Alba and Gerard Pique.

The need for immediate action has been accelerated by mounting financial problems, with Barca's gross debt standing at €1.2 billion per accounts released in January. Their LaLiga spending limit, which was over €600 million pre-pandemic, was reduced to €347m last season and could be as low as €200m this season.

That's the context with which Laporta, elected as president in March, has had to try to rebuild a team that's only won the Copa del Rey in the last two years. Therefore, it's been a question of free transfers and youngsters. Sergio Aguero, Eric Garcia and Memphis Depay have all arrived for "nothing" in transfer fees, €9m was spent on bringing Emerson Royal back from Real Betis and a new generation of youngsters have been showcased by Koeman in pre-season.

Here's how Barca are shaping up going into the new season, which begins against Real Sociedad on Aug. 15.

**Goalkeeper: Stability with ter Stegen**  
In general, and in contrast to other positions, there is stability between the posts, but an injury to Marc-Andre ter Stegen means things are more complicated than they should be. The German had treatment on a knee injury in May that forced him to miss Euro 2020 and while he's now back in light training, he won't be ready for the start of the season, which means Barca have had to put the brakes on Neto's departure for now.

The Brazilian wants to leave in search of regular football but Koeman needs him for the beginning of LaLiga and would prefer to have an experienced No.2. Given their financial position, the club would be open to offloading Neto if a good offer arrives, though, which would see Inaki Pena promoted to Ter Stegen's backup. If Neto doesn't leave, Pena will, with youngster Arnau Tenas lined up to be the club's third choice this year.

**Defence: Who will pair with Pique?**



The biggest question around Barcelona is their attack, and whether or not Antoine Griezmann will still be part of it after the transfer window closes. (Agencies)

Barca have an abundance of centre-backs in the first-team squad, but the established hierarchy is disappearing and there's uncertainty about how all the pieces will fit together. Gerard Pique is 34 this season and while he's fine in most games, there have been signs he can no longer cut it at the very top level. He would love to prove his doubters wrong, though.

Beyond Pique, Barca are desperate to shift Samuel Umtiti's salary from the wage bill, but the Frenchman's not been convinced by any of the offers to arrive so far. Sources tell ESPN the club are confident he will leave before the transfer window closes. Clement Lenglet has replaced Umtiti as Pique's partner over the past two years, but he had an error-strewn 2020-21 season. Barca would listen to offers for the France international, but he wants to stay and rediscover the form he displayed in his first season at the club after he joined from Sevilla for €35 million in 2018.

Then come the youngsters. Ronald Araujo looked to be establishing himself as a first-choice option last season, but injuries halted the Uruguayan's progression after Christmas. He has value given that he's Barca's most physical defender, but Koeman says he needs to improve with the ball.

Eric Garcia, who has arrived on a free transfer from Manchester City, is the opposite. Having come through Barca's academy, he possesses an excellent reading of the game and can pass out from the back, but he is not the quickest nor the strongest player. Off the back of a breakout season last time out, Oscar Mingueza will provide backup options across the back four.

Despite the number of bodies they have at the back, Barca have also explored other centre-back signings in the belief they still need strengthening defensively. However, as they struggle to move anyone on, it may be a luxury they can't afford this summer.

Jordi Alba will continue at left-back by default given that Junior Firpo's €15m move to Leeds United has left him without competition. In case of emergency, Barca will look to Sergino Dest or youngster Alejandro Balde, who has had a good preseason. Dest, though, will continue at right-back, where Barca are well-stocked. The United States international will have competition for his place from Emerson, the Brazil international who returned from Betis, and Sergi Roberto.

**Midfield: De Jong, Pedri form strong core**  
Koeman wants to add more experience in midfield after missing out on free agent Georginio Wijnaldum (who joined Paris Saint-Germain instead), but Barca have the makings of a good core even if finances prevent them from signing another player.

In Frenkie de Jong and Pedri, they have two of the best young midfielders in the world. De Jong is going into his third season at Camp Nou and has improved every year so far. Pedri, meanwhile, was the star of last season. The 18-year-old belied his age to keep more senior players out of the team, making 52 appearances in his debut campaign at the club. He then shone at Euro 2020 for Spain, where he was named the Young Player of the Tournament, and is competing with La Roja at the Olympic Games. The overworked teenager, who looks like he was born and bred at La Masia, may need a holiday once Spain's time in Japan comes to an end on the back of an exhausting year for club and country.

The experience comes in the form of Sergio Busquets. The veteran, who turned 33 in July, has been criticised for declining form in recent seasons, but his performances at Euro 2020 proved he can still be one of the best at the international level. Like Pique, though, he has questions to answer at club level when the big games come around. He will start the season as the deepest of the

three midfielders.

Beyond Koeman's first-choice trio, Miralem Pjanic is set to leave this summer, with sources close to the player telling ESPN they don't expect him to remain at Barca for a second season following a lack of minutes last year. Koeman would like his place to be taken by a more "athletic" midfielder, but if that proves impossible financially, he will have to work with the club's youngsters, although Sergi Roberto can also play in the middle.

Ilaix Moriba emerged as the fourth choice midfielder by the end of last season, making 17 first-team appearances. However, the 18-year-old's people are locked in negotiations over a new contract, with his existing deal expiring in 2022. In the meantime, he's been sent to train with the B-team as the stand-off over how much he should be paid goes on.

With Ilaix missing from preseason, other players have seized their chances. Riqui Puig, who featured infrequently last season, has done well, scoring in last weekend's preseason win over Stuttgart. But the most excitement has been generated by Pablo Paez, better known as "Gavi," who turns 17 this week. The maturity and confidence of his performances has drawn parallels with the emergence of Pedri last summer.

Nico Gonzalez, a 19-year-old whose father played professionally for Deportivo La Coruna, has also impressed in preseason, with sources at the club picking him out as a potential long-term heir to Busquets.

**Attack: Messi, Griezmann sagas obscure decent depth**

The biggest task facing Koeman this season is managing the abundance of talent he has in attack. Sergio Aguero and Memphis Depay have both arrived on free transfers to help take the scoring weight off Lionel Messi in the front three; sources have told ESPN Messi could sign his new deal as early as this week.

Koeman's big complaint last season was that beyond Messi, Barca were not clinical enough, and he'll be hoping Memphis and Aguero will change that. Memphis has already impressed in preseason. He was serenaded by fans at the Estadi Johan Cruyff on his debut against Girona, when he scored a penalty, and followed that up with an impressive individual display, goal included, against Stuttgart last weekend.

There are some expensive players already at the club who will also provide competition for places, though each of them comes with some uncertainty. Antoine Griezmann, Ousmane Dembele and Philippe Coutinho cost the club over €400 million in transfer fees between them, but their short-term futures are all complicated for various reasons. Sources have told ESPN that transferring Griezmann would solve a large part of the club's salary problems, but the France forward has nowhere to go yet. He would prefer a return to Atletico Madrid, but negotiations over a swap deal involving Saul Niguez have stalled. Therefore, a third season in Catalonia is likely.

Dembele is out injured until November and out of contract next summer. If he refused to renew, Barca's plan was to sell him this year. With him now out of action, there are no bidders. The Catalan club may yet end up renewing his deal to avoid losing him for free in 2022.

As for Coutinho, who could also play in midfield, the club's record signing returned to full training this week and could yet stay for another season. ESPN have previously reported that Barca will only let him leave on loan if a club is willing to cover 100 percent of his wage, as it's unlikely any club would be prepared to pay a fee for him. Koeman isn't against him hanging around, sources have said.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



I TOLD YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN: NEVER FIGHT A FIRE WITH FIRE!

# SPORT

**Barcelona issues include Messi and Griezmann sagas, defensive dilemma**



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Mbarouk Nasser Mbarouk (in suit), in a group photograph with the cyclists taking part in the Great African Cycling safari that is covering five EAC member states. On his left is the SGA Security Managing Director, Eric Sambu, whose company is part of this year's sponsors. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Security firm sponsors Great African Cycling safari

By Guardian Reporter

SECURITY firm, SGA Security, has pledged to continue unifying East Africans through sports as it sponsors this year's Great African Cycling event that will cover five East African member states.

This is a cycling event that traverses five EAC member states and began in Dar es Salaam early this week and was flagged off by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Mbarouk Nasser Mbarouk. He was joined by Kenya's Ambassador to Tanzania, Dan Kazungu, and other dignitaries.

The SGA Security Managing Director, Eric Sambu, said it was such an honour for his company to sponsor such a big event that is set to cover 6,000 kilometers within 55 days.

He said the team of renowned cyclists is set to cross to Kenya via Tanga, heading to Mombasa, Nairobi, Kampala, Kigali, Bujumbura, Dodoma, and ending at EAC Headquarters in Arusha.

He said SGA is also providing escort and security along the entire journey as it seeks to align its views of having one EAC with the theme of the cycling event, which seeks to bridge the trade barriers and bring East Africans together to live harmoniously as one people with one destiny.

Sambu added: "It is great to see cyclists from all the EAC member states together, with exciting events organized along the route. SGA Security believes that citizens of EAC are the custodians of peace and harmony, and the EAC Member States can facilitate ease of interaction and doing business within to take advantage of that."

The official noted that the event will bring people together and promote healthy lifestyles, leading to less sickness and productivity of the population.

He said the SGA team in each country will be receiving the cycling party at each border, with elaborate events organized and will be with them all the way, to signify the true spirit of East Africa.

He said the event will also promote the environment and organizers have organized tree planting initiatives in every region they make a stop.

Sambu explained that bringing East Africans together is a wonderful idea and added that SGA Security knows East Africa like no other company, saying with a combined fleet of over 800 vehicles across the region.

"We cover on average 12,000 kilometers daily to support trade in East Africa. In every shilling being physically handled in East Africa, about 80 cents came via SGA Cash in Transit", he added.

SGA Security is the largest security services provider in East Africa, employing over 19,000 employees distributed across EAC member states.

It covers a wide range of security services including Cash-in-Transit, guarding, alarm response, courier, and electronic security solutions.

It is the only ISO 18788 (Security Operations Management System) locally certified security company and won the award of 'The Most Equipped and Reliable Security Services Provider' in the 2020 Consumer Choice Awards.

## TURA Magic brings in coach with COSAFA Cup credentials

WINDHOEK

NAMIBIA women's football side, TURA Magic, has confirmed the club will be led by former Namibia Football Association Technical Director, Timo Tjongarero, at the 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League, COSAFA Qualifier, from August 26 to September 4.

The experienced Tjongarero is no stranger to regional competitions having steered the country's men's side to victory at the 2016 COSAFA U-17 Championship that was staged in Mauritius.

He will hope to do likewise with Magic and will be assisted by the former coach of the team, Shama Gure.

The change in tacticians is required as the Confederation of African Football has set minimum requirements for the licenses of the head coaches at the tournament.

"It's a great opportunity for me and it will require a lot of work that should be done in a short time," Tjongarero said.

"We've been at the COSAFA before and the experience is there, so for me, it is just to work closely with the guys who have been with the team in the past few months to guide me and familiarising myself with current players."

Tjongarero says the players are fired up to succeed in not only winning their regional championship but also booking a place in the continental Champions League finals that are set for Cairo later this year.

"I believe all the players want this; they want to win. That's the take-off point, despite having limited time to prepare. But we will make use of the remaining time to ensure we prepare well and put up a great performance at the tournament."

Magic TURA is in the three-team Group B along with Zambian side Green Buffaloes and Black Rhinos Queens of Zimbabwe in what will be a tough pool.

The Namibian outfit's vice-captain, Lydiana Nanamus, says she is confident they will do well.

"It is not going to be easy... we are going to have to work hard. We do respect our opponents, but we also bring a lot to the table. We will give them a run for their money," Nanamus said.

"We have great quality and a great passion for the game, so I think we are good to go. We have not seen our opponents play, but we must just bring our strengths into the."

"We now have something more to play for, not only to win the league in our country but also to qualify for the Champions League. It is a great thing for the whole African continent."

The top two sides in each pool advance to the semifinals, with only the winner of the competition booking their place in Cairo.

AGENCIES

## Bank sponsors 2021 Rock City Marathon



Rock City Marathon's Coordinator, Kasara Naftal (R), receives a 20m/- dummy cheque from KCB Bank Tanzania's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Christina Manyenye, as the bank's sponsorship for the race which is expected to take place on the outskirts of Rock City Mall, Mwanza on October 24 this year. The handover ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Reporter

THE KCB Bank Tanzania has handed over a cheque worth 20m/- to the organizers of the Rock City Marathon as part of the bank's sponsorship for the race which is expected to take place around Rock City Mall in Mwanza on October 24 this year.

Christina Manyenye, KCB Bank's Head, Marketing and Corporate Affairs, handed over the cheque to the organizers during a brief handover ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Christina said the sponsorship aims to support the efforts of the organizers and the government in promoting sports and tourism in the country.

She stated: "KCB is happy to once again participate fully in this race. We have been touched by sports issues because we believe that the prosperity of the banking sector is very much dependent on the resilience of citizens in building their economy, and to be successful we need to have healthy people."

Christina revealed: "Sports is one of the best ways to build the health of our customers and also to have them entertained."

"Due to this fact, KCB Tanzania will not only participate by being part of the sponsors but will also actively participate in these races especially the 10km category which will be known as the 'KCB Bank Rock City Corporate Challenge' and we will run alongside our stakeholders including our cus-

tomers. We genuinely welcome you all, let's meet in Mwanza on October 24," she stressed.

In the company of the bank, the race has already been successfully supported by several stakeholders.

The stakeholders include companies and institutions, namely T-PEP, Pepsi, Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB), Magare Company, Unilever, NSSF, Bugando Hospital, CF Hospital, Garda World, Uhai Water, Azam TV, Rock City Mall, Hotel Farm, EF Outdoor, The Cask and St. Augustine University (SAUT) of Mwanza.

Christina added that to promote tourism, the bank will continue to work with the organizers of the race to ensure they are more successful in attracting participants both from within and outside the country whose arrival in the city will not only boost the tourism industry but will also open doors for trade relations with residents of the city.

"I would also like to call on more and more participants from within and outside the country to come out in large numbers to Mwanza so that together we can take part in this race, enjoy the beautiful scenery of the city, visit Lake Zone tourist attractions and explore new commercial opportunities in the region," she said. Speaking after receiving the cheque, Rock City Marathon Coordinator, Kasara Naftal, thanked the bank for supporting the race.

The coordinator noted the participation of the institution, a well-

respected local and international bank, would help them continue to promote the race internationally.

"The involvement of KCB Bank, which has built a reputation for itself through its services within and outside the country's borders, will help us attract stakeholders and participants from abroad, a step that is crucial in achieving our agenda to promote tourism through sports, especially in the Lake Zone region," he said. He further noted preparations for the race are progressing very well, adding that the quality of running equipment for the participants of this year's race including medals and T-shirts is expected to be a major attraction for participants.

"We are also grateful to see that various government officials, as well as private organizations and other stakeholders, will be fully involved in this race," he said.

"We expect to have more than 3000 participants including international athletes, corporate group runners, social runners, students along with albinos who will participate in the 5 km race," he said.

He added that registration for the race is ongoing online through the race website, [www.rockcitymarathon.co.tz](http://www.rockcitymarathon.co.tz), as well as by mobile.

Winding up, TigoPesa Corporate Business Relations Officer, Amani Chuo, assured the participants that the company is fully committed to ensuring that the participants of the race register easily and reliably.

**EATV THURSDAY**

**MORNING @ 11:00**

**DADAZ.**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Bongo Hits  
13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:30 Kafi Za Wana  
14:00 Ujenzi (r)  
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)  
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:30 EATV SAA!  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

**DADAZ.**

**DADAZ** A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

**eastafrica RADIO**

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

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

