



**National Pg 3**  
Minister provides motorcycle, gas cylinders



**National Pg 4**  
Teenager arrested on suspicion of murder



**National Pg 5**  
Tunu Pinda calls on widows not to despair



Page 13



President Samia Suluhu Hassan (C) witnesses the signing of an agreement on constructing the Standard Gauge Railway Lot III from Makutupora to Singida and onward to Tabora stretching 368 kilometers, between Tanzania Railway Corporation director general Masanja Kadogosa (L) and the Yapi Merkez group Vice chairman Erdem Arioglu at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

## Samia extolls borrowing in SGR Phase III signing event

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday defended the government's borrowing trend saying it was the only way to fast track development insisting that she will seek more concessional loans for infrastructure projects. At a signing ceremony for contracts to build the 294-kilometer section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Makutupora to Tabora, the president said she will use

every means including borrowing to ensure strategic projects started by her predecessor are completed. "I have noticed there are efforts to discourage us from loans. Even developed countries borrowed and managed to do what they have done. We cannot use levies to carry out huge projects like SGR; it will take time so we will borrow," she affirmed.

The government was pursuing all in its

TURN TO PAGE 2

## UNESCO marks semi-centennial anniversary of biosphere preservation

By A Special Correspondent

The UN cultural agency commemorated on Monday the 50th anniversary of its Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), which created in 1971, has been promoting a long-lasting connection between people and nature. "This is really a programme for the people, because people are part of nature...so they are incorporated in nature protection, but also in the sustainable use of natural resources," was the landmark declaration by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) in a statement at its Geneva headquarters yesterday. Miguel Clusener Godt, Secretary for the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme at the UN Agency, an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and the living environment as a whole, made this assertion in marking 50 years of global activity anchored in this programme. "Today 727 biosphere reserves integrate nature conservation and sustainable development in 131 countries, including 22 transboundary sites," he stated, noting that in Africa there are 86 sites in 31 countries. Arab States harbour 35 sites in 14 countries; Asia and the Pacific having 168 sites in 40 countries. Europe and North America have 306 sites in 24 countries; and 132 sites are located in 24

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Poultry sector moving into global firms' orbit

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is now opting to invite global poultry-breeding companies to

open branches in the country to reduce the shortage of day-old chicks, subsequent to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Prof Hezron Nonga, the Director of

Veterinary Services, said in an interview yesterday that the country's demand is 100m chicks annually while local

TURN TO PAGE 2



Members of the Itigi business community in Manyoni district in Singida region get a Pfizer dose in vaccination against COVID 19, administered by a nurse at the Itigi health centre. This follows a sensitisation campaign by a participatory and fast track plan phase II conducted by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children through its public education unit. Photo: Correspondent Mary Geoffrey



## Armed robbery declines sharply in last five years

By Guardian Reporter

INSPECTOR General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro (pictured) has declared that crime has sharply dropped countrywide in the last five years, especially in regard to armed robberies.

Sitting in the '45 Minutes' interview programme aired on ITV at the weekend, IGP Sirro said this year criminal and road traffic offences dropped by 3.5 and 14 per cent respectively compared to last year, crediting achievements made possible by collaboration between the police and other defence and security organs, along with numerous law abiding citizens.

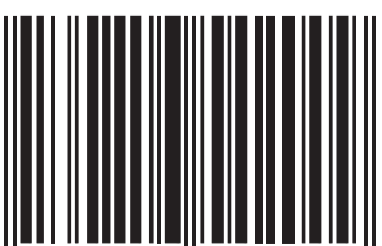
In the Kibiti Special Police Region faced incidents in recent years that have not recurred, he pointed out; underlining that Tanzania isn't quite an island of peace. "We still have work to do as peace has to be propped up jointly, as once you release the pressure, people grab the opportunity to commit crime," the police chief intoned.

"In the past, if you go a bank and withdraw say 40,000/- you become restless as you walk in the streets, but now we are going on well. I congratulate all good citizens, as there are others who hate us because of their bad deeds, but my job is to stand by the law," he affirmed.

If police officers are seen violating the laws by engaging in criminal activities, citizens should report on them to any government offices for stern measures to be taken against them, he urged.

He remarked that in community policing, local councils have issued bylaws to organise those activities, asserting that every Tanzanian has the responsibility,

TURN TO PAGE 2



9 770856 542009 >





Mbeya Urban MP who is also Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson speaks to Iziwa ward residents during her visit to inspect development projects on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## Poultry sector moving into global firms' orbit

FROM PAGE 1

producers can only bring up 88.5m chicks annually.

The decision comes a few months after easing importation permits for importers of day old chicks, as part of long-term plans of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to uplift the poultry subsector.

Grandparent stock that can be used to produce either hatching eggs or chicks are targeted in the liberalization exercise, as despite government efforts to ease importation, those imported and the local producers failed to meet current levels of demand, he stated.

He said Tanzania just like other countries in the region faces similar challenges posed by the pandemic, causing a mismatch between demand and supply of day

old chicks, while ministerial data indicates that there are 26 investors in the poultry sub-sector, keeping at least 1.3m parental stocks.

Once global poultry breeder companies open branches in the country, it will be easy to produce hatching eggs for producing chicks, the director noted, underlining that grandparent stock companies need to open branches in the country.

That will make it easier to access male and female parents' line, as the eggs produce yield chicks for domestic needs and even for export, he said, elaborating that the targeted companies have opened branches in Egypt, South Africa, Ethiopia and Nigeria, among others.

The pandemic has affected the production of chicks in Tanzania and in neighboring countries, requiring investments from major with new

technology that can be adopted by local companies, he stated.

Statistics indicate that the poultry subsector registered around five percent growth per annum in recent years, while Tanzania is currently estimated to have 87.7m chicken, where 40.36m are indigenous fowls and 47.34m are exotic types.

The livestock sector makes up 7.1 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with poultry accounting for 1.9 percent of GDP, on the basis of a study titled: "The Poultry Subsector in Tanzania: A Quick Scan" commissioned by the Netherlands embassy.

It was prepared by Matchmaker Associates and Transcend Enterprises, showing that the potential of the poultry sector remains under-exploited, which opens up opportunities for

investments to revamp the sector and related industries.

Despite availability of ample land for growing grains and soya to provide enough raw materials for chicken feeds, the commercialization of the poultry sector is lagging, the study noted, blaming unorganized markets for poultry and poultry products.

It also pointed at unreliable supply of chicks, lack of reliable supply of quality poultry feeds, high veterinary and poultry feed costs and lack of poultry processing industries.

A chaotic and unorganized distribution system and lack of third-party logistic cold chain for poultry and poultry products' movements from farm to consumers affects the growth of the industry, the study added.

## Samia extolls borrowing in SGR Phase III signing event

FROM PAGE 1

means to finalise strategic projects timely as failing to do means the money already used on the projects will have been wasted, she declared, reiterating the necessity to borrow as financial markets are everywhere essential for development.

"We are taking concessional loans because they take time to be repaid and we are doing so to fast track development and repay little by little," the president explained, noting that the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and other strategic projects will be finalised by loans and not levies as suggested by some people.

"Loans are important. It depends on how you spend them; they can be bad if you misuse them," she said, highlighting that the government has already invested 14trn/- in the project, expressing intent to see all sections of the projected completed in a timely manner.

Three other members of the East African Community (EAC) are set to engage the African Development Bank (AfDB) in talks to secure loans for extending SGR to their borders for a more expeditious import and export link, she stated.

Completing the railway sets up a

good foundation for infrastructural development as a whole and the movement of goods and services, she elaborated, pointing at the need to ensure that all strategic projects initiated under the fifth phase government are duly implemented.

For his part, the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) managing director Masanja Kadogosa said the signing of contracts for the Makutupora -Tabora was the third component of the Dar es Salaam-Mwanza SGR route.

The first phase is the Dar es Salaam- Morogoro which is now 95-percent complete, the Morogoro-Makutupora portion which is now 75-percent complete and the newly signed Makutupora -Tabora part, after which the Tabora -Mwanza portion will follow.

The project is worth 14trn/- in total and next month the government will sign contracts for starting work on the Tabora - Mwanza section which is now in the tendering stage, Kadogosa added.

*"Loans are important. It depends on how you spend them; they can be bad if you misuse them"*

## Armed robbery declines sharply in last five years

FROM PAGE 1

directly or by contribution to the task, to ensure that security is maintained.

The police continue with the war against bribery in its ranks, he said, affirming that there are police officers who have been fired due to bribery.

Some police officers are induced to receive bribes, and sometimes they themselves solicit for bribes, hence it is essential for people who are induced to give bribes to

report the matter to the relevant authorities, he emphasised.

As to intelligence reports used when the police refuse the holding of political rallies, he said there was no time to expatiate on intelligence. "It will take me five years to explain it to you to enable you to understand," he quipped

Pressed on the matter, he said intelligence reports entail many things "and I have no reason to explain them here. You do know that there are things I can tell an interviewer and others I cannot."

## UNESCO marks the semi-centennial anniversary of biosphere preservation

FROM PAGE 1

Latin American and the Caribbean countries.

If biospheres worldwide were to be put together, they would be equivalent to about five per cent of the world's surface, spanning 6,812,000 km<sup>2</sup> or "around the size of Australia."

Examples of this activity include the diverse vegetation and unique fauna in Tanzania's Gombe Masito Ugalla Biosphere Reserve, the principal chimpanzee sanctuary in the country, tied with Gombe National Park, forest land reserves and a part of Lake Tanganyika, the statement noted.

Faunal species in the area include elephants, ornate frogs and eight primate species, while flora there includes a species discovered in the location and thus named Gombe. The biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika encompasses over 300 fish species, 250 bird species, and reptiles such as the water cobra and the Tanganyika water snake.

The Maolan in China was listed as a biosphere reserve in 1996, lying in the Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture in Guizhou Province and covering an area of 20,000 hectares, with the forest coverage of 88.61 per cent.

Renowned for its "hugging trees" which cling tenaciously to the rocks of the mountain landscape, the rich biodiversity also includes pheasants, orchids and magnolias.

The local Yao, Buyi and Shui indigenous peoples value their region's environment and cohabit harmoniously with nature. As the trees provide them with vital resources, for over 1,000 years local communities have performed ceremonial practices and rituals to care for the trees.

Located on the western slopes of the Mount Lebanon range and overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, the 6,500-hectare biosphere reserve of Jabal Moussa encompasses the

'Mount of Moses' - an important site to Christian pilgrims - and its seven villages.

Jabal Moussa's landscape, preserved through the centuries, conceals the markings of a region at the meeting point of civilizations, which archaeologists are still unearthing.

Only 40 km to the north-east of Beirut, the biosphere reserve is three times as large as the city, and together with the Shouf and Jabal Rihane biosphere reserves forms an ecological corridor running along Lebanon's mountainous backbone.

Located in south-east Uruguay, Bañados del Este harbours a remarkable complex of ecosystems, including white sand beaches, dunes and lagoons along the Atlantic coast and is home to diverse wildlife that remains almost intact both on land and at sea.

The biosphere reserve covers 12,500 km<sup>2</sup> of Uruguay's eastern coast and is also home to the state's highest summit, Cerro Cathedral in Argentina.

Hidden among the dunes, this tourist destination is among the most popular in the biosphere reserve and the perfect spot to connect with nature. Due to its remoteness, there is no connection to the local grid or landlines, but the local population is able to access mobile networks and the internet.

In Spain, transitioning to clean energy at the El Hierro Biosphere Reserve exemplifies ongoing efforts to live in harmony with nature.

The biosphere reserve covers the entire island and some of its waters, with 60 per cent of the island integrated into the core zone and buffer areas.

El Hierro is aiming to produce 100 per cent of its electricity from renewables, meanwhile as at least 2,604 species of flora and fauna have been recorded on the island, and the reserve is a safe-haven for species of friendly sea-faring mammals, the statement added.



Dar es Salaam City workers dig graves at Kitunda Mwanagati for reburial at Vingunguti following Msimbazi river floods yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 250m/- from telephone transaction fees had been contributed for the construction of Chitego health centre located in Chitego Ward, Kongwa district council in Dodoma Region.

Kongwa district executive director Dr Omary Nkullo made the remarks yesterday when he accompanied officials from the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) to inspect the progress of the construction of the centre.

He said that apart from Chitego

## Govt pumps in 250m/- for building a health centre

Ward being a strategic area due to economic activities and the presence of many people, but health services to its citizens were following them away.

Dr Nkullo however, said Chitego Ward had absolutely no health facilities and people had to seek health care at the district hospital about 100 kilometers away.

"And for a nearby health center it is more than 40 km from Mkoka Ward. I thank the government for providing us with these telephone transaction fees which are a savior for the people of Chitego Ward for access to a health facility as this ward is located along the border of Manyara region," said Dr. Omary

For his part, Chitego ward

councilor, Peter Kalunzu said they had faced many challenges, including pregnant women giving birth on the way due to non-hospital services.

He said the construction of a health center in the ward would help the people access services more closely and reduce the problem of infant and maternal mortality.





Iringa District Commissioner Mohammed Moyo speaks at the launch of national accelerated action and investment agenda for adolescent health and well-being (NAIA-AHW-2021/22- 2024/2025) in Iringa region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

# Tourist ship fails to dock at Mkoani port

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A tourist ship, Le Bellot with 69 tourists has failed to dock at Mkoani port in Pemba due to the port's confined space.

The 69 tourists from various European countries were on a visit in Pemba Island where they had the opportunity to visit its scenery including farms with cloves and other spices.

Official from the Ministry of Tourism and Heritage from Pemba Zuhura Mgeni said the coming of the tourists was an important opportunity in opening up Pemba to the map of the tourism sector.

She said this is part of the Zanzibar government strategies - to see it receives a big number of tourists, up to 500,000 in the next five years.

She said the aim of the Commission of Tourism for Pemba Island is to increase the number of tourists to reach 150,000 per year, from the current 35,000.

"Pemba Island is now opening up in so far as the tourism sector is concerned following great efforts in advertising the sector globally and our expectation is to receive a bigger number of tourists - up to 150,000," she added.

The Director of East Africa Holidays that coordinates the ship's voyages, Duwe Lazaro confirmed the coming of the ship saying Pemba Island has a big opportunity to advertise its tourism potential globally due to its attractive environment including good, white beaches

The ship started its voyages from the Seychelles via Mauritius and then to South Africa and our expectation here in Pemba is to open its tourism potential," Zuhura added.

Another senior official from the Commission for Tourism in Pemba, Hamadi Ameir said the work to refurbish ancient ruins including

those at Mkamandume was in its last stages of completion, including the ancient Mkumbuu town, both of which are big tourist attractions in Pemba.

He further said efforts were continuing in developing Pemba's Ngezi Forest in Pemba to become a national as it will strengthen the Island's tourism sector.

For his part, the Director of Zanzibar Investment Promotion authority (ZIPA) Sharif Ali Sharif said the Phase VIII Government's expectation is to open more doors in regard to investments in the tourism sector as part of the Blue Economy.



**Pemba Island is now opening up in so far as the tourism sector is concerned following great efforts in advertising the sector globally and our expectation is to receive a bigger number of tourists - up to 150,000**

# Minister provides motorcycle, gas cylinders, computer and cash to Ukerewe UWT group

By Guardian Correspondent

NATURAL Resources and Tourism deputy Minister, Mary Masanja (pictured) has handed over various items including 66 gas cylinders, a motorcycle and a computer to CCM Women Organisation (UWT) in Ukerewe District to enable them emancipate themselves economically.

She handed over the items on Monday during her visit to the UWT offices in Ukerewe District, Mwanza Region.

"I have come with 100,000/- capital for every woman, the money should be used to enhance your incomes through small businesses," Masanja, who is also Special Seats Member of Parliament from Mwanza



Region, said.

Regarding gas cylinders, she said the aim is to assist them to use gas as domestic fuel instead of wood

fuel that causes environmental destruction.

She said the motorcycle she presented should be used to earn

income for the women and the computer is for the office use.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Minister pledged to work together with the women to complete the construction of the UWT building at Ukerewe.

Earlier, speaking about cultural tourism, Masanja said the government supports efforts by Tanzanians who involve themselves in traditional ngomas and said she would make sure to enhance their talents.

For her part, UWT chairperson for Ukerewe District, Neema Mgobela thanked the deputy Minister for the assistance and promised that the women will use the items in productive activities for their economic enhancement.




**Advertisement**

**BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

**Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-12-03	Tyres Technical Services mine wide (Maintenance).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Automotive Engineering</b> Contractor with minimum Class 6 CRB registration</li> <li>Evidence of holding similar contract in last 2 years</li> <li>Past experience working in the mining environment – minimum 2 years</li> <li>Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health &amp; Safety acts.</li> <li>Capability to perform particle and crack tests</li> <li>Tracking system of rims</li> </ul>

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead referencing the work package reference number should your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA – Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work

Kindly send your response by email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com) by latest close of business on the **07<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number "BUL-21-12-03 \_ Tyres Maintenance Services" in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

*For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED*



**Programme Alimentaire Mondial**

**Programa Mundial de Alimentos**

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

**Expression of Interest:**

**Identification of vendors that supply white sorghum**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest Humanitarian Agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people and it is present in 81 countries. WFP's Country Office in Tanzania procures various goods and services including construction services.

The WFP intends to **identify qualified suppliers of the above commodity who are able to assist WFP to fulfil its needs.**

The supplier must be registered with the relevant authorities and have legal authorization to provide commodities in the country. The supplier must provide the stocks they have on hand, location, and indicative price.

WFP hereby invites qualified suppliers to express their interest by emailing [tanzania.procurement@wfp.org](mailto:tanzania.procurement@wfp.org). Subject: Expression of Interest – Identification of vendors that supply white sorghum until 30th December 2021, 17:00 hours (EAT time). The interested applicants will receive a form for preliminary vendor registration to be submitted until 5th January 2022. The Expression of Interest may be followed by an inspection of your facilities and verification of stocks by WFP.

All requests for clarifications and questions strictly relating to this invitation should be sent via e-mail to: [tanzania.procurement@wfp.org](mailto:tanzania.procurement@wfp.org)

Please note that this is not an Invitation To Tender. This invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

**WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY FEES FOR REGISTRATION FORMS**  
Dar es Salaam, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021





Zanzibar Deputy Chief Kadhi Sheikh Hassan Othman Ngwali (3rd L) cuts a ribbon to launch Madrasatt Al Hayatil Islamia Majengo Babati in Manyara region on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

## Police arrest teenager on suspicion of murder

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region has arrested a teenager and three others on the hunt for suspicion of murder in three separate incidents in the region.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ulrich Matei identified the suspect as Masele Lige (30) a resident of Jerome village in Chunya district.

He said the young man who is a gold miner in the village is accused of killing his fellow miner, Mhojamadale Mihambo (30) and that the source of the killings was a food fight.

RPC Matei said the murder took place on December 24 this year at around 12:30 am when the suspect in collaboration with a colleague

who has the same name as Clement killed Mihambo by stabbing him.

"It is alleged that the suspects were accusing the deceased of not providing food, but he was only eating the food of others. Clement escaped after carrying out the killing," said Commander Matei.

In addition, then regional police chief said the force is still on the hunt for Clement while

continuing to question Lige and that if the investigation is completed he will appear in court.

In the second incident, RPC Matei said the force was looking for one Lole a resident of Kiwanja in Chunya district on suspicion of killing Samwel Chisunga (19) a resident of Mbozi District in Songwe Region.

He said Lole committed the offence on December 25, this year

during the Christmas celebration at 11:00 am in Mlimanjwa village where he attacked the deceased with sharp objects.

Commander Matei said after the incident the suspect disappeared and the force is continuing the search as citizens have been urged to cooperate by providing information of his whereabouts.

In the third incident, Matei said the detective was looking for Sombwile Mwakisambwe a resident of Ikolo village in Kyela District on suspicion for allegedly attacking Paulina Lukani Mwaikupa (41) a resident of the village using a sharp object.

He said the incident took place on December 25, this year at around 5pm and that the source of the incident was that the suspect wanted to rape Paulina.



**It is alleged that the suspects were accusing the deceased of not providing food, but he was only eating the food of others. Clement escaped after carrying out the killing**



Muheza district social worker Potina Guga (L) reads a report about the council's 10 per cent contribution to empower youth, women and people with disabilities over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## More wagons increased to transport passengers - TRC

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA Railways Corporation (TRC) has increased the number of passenger's wagons from 10 to 20 to meet customer demand traveling to and from the northern regions during Christmas and New Year festivals.

TRC acting operation manager Fokasi Sahani told reporters in Dar es Salaam that the increase in number of passengers had been recorded for the first time compared to previous years.

Sahani said TRC has also increased the number of scheduled routes from four to six per week to reduce congestion and meet the customers demand.

He said initially there were four scheduled routes from Dar es Salaam to Moshi and back Dar es Salaam but due to that the routes have increased to six per week.

"About 2500 passengers left for the Kilimanjaro region from Dar es salaam to celebrate Christmas and New Year festivals. We hope the same number will board a train on their way back. I would like to assure our esteemed customers that TRC will work hard to ensure they travel safely from one destination to the other," he said.

Sahani said that from January 2nd to 10th next year, more efforts will be made to transport more passengers from Arusha, Moshi back to Dar es Salaam.

He said unlike in buses, the cost by train from Dar es Salaam to Moshi was 16,500/- to enable all people to afford.

"Traveling using the train is best since it is not only a matter of traveling but a part of tourism via Sadani national park," he added.

For his part, Ringo Mbona, Passengers' train manager said that the aim of increasing the number of wagons was to solve transport challenges during high season.

He said TRC will increase the number of wagons and routes when needed to do especially during high seasons.

"Our role is to ensure that our

customers enjoy services offered by our train," he added.

On October 04, last year, Arusha residents were treated to a rare spectacle after the arrival of the passenger train as part of its maiden trip to Arusha.

The historical trip brought more than 600 passengers to the region, who left from Dar es Salaam station.

The Tanzania Railway Company (TRC) Director General Masanja Kadogosa said that the train will be plying between Arusha and Dar es Salaam, four times a week.

"If need be, we will increase the number of routes between the two regions taking into account that we are approaching high season," he said

He, however, urged Arusha residents to make the most of the train, saying the state-owned company had slashed down its fares to enable Tanzanians to capitalize on the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



**About 2500 passengers left for the Kilimanjaro region from Dar es salaam to celebrate Christmas and New Year festivals. We hope the same number will board a train on their way back. I would like to assure our esteemed customers that TRC will work hard to ensure they travel safely from one destination to the other**

## Police arrest 51 Ethiopian, Sudanese for illegal entry

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

POLICE in Dodoma have arrested 51 Ethiopian illegal immigrants at Bereko area in Kondoa district following information from well-wishers on 27th December, 2021.

Speaking to journalists yesterday, Dodoma Regional Police Commander, Onesmo Lyanga said the migrants were under escort of two Tanzanians who were also arrested.

He explained that police on patrol at the Dodoma-Arusha highway while travelling in Canter, Fuso model with registration number T.593 AUE driven by one Ignas S/O Mgosi (23), resident of Mafinga-Iringa, assisted by Fafari S/O Idd (39), resident of Arusha.

"We got information about the group of people from well-wishers, laid a trap and finally arrested them at Bereko area in Dodoma region" said the RPC.

He said their hosts put them inside a lorry, covering them with boxes in effort to deceive officers that the lorry had boxes for carrying tomatoes, adding that they were travelling from Moshi- Kilimanjaro to Iringa.

The regional police boss added that such activities are driven by lack of patriotism and greed for money, making Tanzanians engage in human trafficking, a global crime.

He said the police is in the region is keenly investigating and closely following up on the whole network of those involved in the crime, adding that their information is available already.

The RPC noted that police in the region is vigilant at this festive season as the nation moves towards New Year celebrations.

Acting Dodoma Regional Immigration Officer, Adam Mkuya while speaking at the same press

conference noted that according to Immigration Act 2005, penalty for illegal immigration is 500,000/- or six months' imprisonment.

He explained that anybody found guilty of transporting illegal immigrants faces a 20m/- fine, twenty years in jail or both penalties.

"I urge all residents of the region to be watchful for illegal immigrants that are increasingly becoming a major problem in the region" said, urging them to report any of such cases when realized.

He said it is the responsibility of every member of the public to be watchful on illegal businesses like human trafficking, among others, adding that immigration department in the region in collaboration with other security forces is on the watch out.

The acting regional immigration officer noted that Tanzania does not reject visitors, however warned that any one visiting the country should follow legal processes.



**I urge all residents of the region to be watchful for illegal immigrants that are increasingly becoming a major problem in the region**



# Dodoma region continues with strategies against Covid disease

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Region continues to take measures against Covid-19 including making sure the ready availability of medicines, medical devices and oxygen cylinders at health centres.

The remarks were made here on Monday by Dodoma Regional Medical Officer, Dr Best Magoma to the Regional Consultative Committee sitting.

Dr Magoma said other strategies include directives to the region's local councils and zonal hospitals to take precautions against Covid-19 infections at health provision centres include the washing of hands with soap and running water, use of sanitizers and wearing of masks.

"Local councils are directed to enhance supervision in the implementation of measures against

infectious diseases including the washing of hands with soap and running water, use of sanitizers and wearing of masks at all public places and institutions including schools, markets and avoid unnecessary congestion of people," said Dr Magoma.

Regarding Covid-19 vaccination, he said the Region received a total of 50,000 doses on August 3 this year and the region launched vaccination campaign and by October 5, all the doses were used up.

"In the circumstances, the Region requested for more doses of the vaccine from regions where the vaccination drive was low, whereby Geita Region supplied us with 5,000 doses and Iringa 1,515 doses," he added.

He further said by October 2021 52,599 people received Jansen Jansen shots.

He added that the Region received

50,390 Sinopharm doses to continue with the vaccination exercise.

"The vaccination exercise is so far as follows: In Dodoma City 17,831 people have been vaccinated against Covid-19, Chamwino District 6,767, Kongwa 5,554, Kondo 5,472, Mpwapwa 4,869, Chemba 4,389, Bahi 4,379 and Kondo Town 3,338," said Dr Magoma.

Regarding nutrition, Dr Magoma said Dodoma Region is among the regions with high malnutrition rate especially on women at pregnancy age and children under five years of age.

"Statistics show that Dodoma has 37.2 per cent of children with stunting problems despite efforts by the government in collaboration with various stakeholders on nutrition, the problem is still grave hence more efforts are needed," stressed Dr Magoma.



Wife of the former Prime Minister Tunu Pinda helps a child to wear his backpack at Upendo Revival Christian Centre in Dodoma recently. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

# Tunu Pinda calls on widows not to despair

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

WIFE of former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, Tunu Pinda has called on widows not to lose hope in life, or consider themselves dejected after the deaths of their spouses.

Tunu Pinda made the remarks here at the weekend when speaking at a Christmas luncheon held at Upendo Revival Christian Center (TAG).

"Today I have learned about a big issue here in church, the church has displayed great love for bringing together over 500 people for lunch," she said before handing out presents to those in need, including widows, orphans and street children.

"I would love to do the same thing myself as it displays special love, I say this event is a big one to emulate by all," she said.

Tunu Pinda, who was the guest of honour at the event added: "In addition to the Church's preaching the Word of God, it has also decided to physically taking care of the people by providing them with food and other items they need, instead of regarding them as deprived during this important holiday."

THE Church has a long time procedure every year to prepare luncheons for the people in need and this year its Dorcas Committee brought together over 150 widows from Veyula, 250 orphans from Safina

and Shukrani orphanages and 100 children living in difficult environment from Dodoma's various areas.

For his part, the Church's Chairman of the Dorcas Committee, Annie Maugo said problems spurring the existence of street children are caused by violence and conflicts in families.

She said the Church has the procedure each year to provide food and other items to children in schools and other vulnerable groups valued at 25m/-.

"We have provided various school items for children going to schools in January next year including food, sugar, soap, edible oil, toothpaste and clothing," she said.

She said other items presented include school bags, exercise books, reams of writing paper, rulers, pencils and pens.

Mdala Yulia, a widow who participated in the event thanked the Church for the love it has displayed to them and to the children living in difficult environment.




**High Commission of India  
Dar es Salaam**

---

**Subject: Invitation for competitive tender for Maintenance of Building and Equipments installed in the High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam.**

---

On behalf of the President of Republic of India, High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam invites sealed quotations from reputed, experienced and financially sound maintenance Companies registered under relevant Tanzanian Companies Law which can provide maintenance services for High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam Building. The Tender document can be downloaded from the Mission's website <https://hcindiatz.gov.in> in the What's New Section under the heading "Invitation for competitive tender for Maintenance of Building and Equipments installed in the High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam"



**BARRICK**  
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

PASTE PLANT EQUIPMENT'S DESIGN AND SUPPLY

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

Pressure Filters, Binder Handling System, Live Bottom Feeders and Thickener

**Pre-qualification Criteria**

Reference No.	Description	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM29/2021/B/1 <b>Design &amp; Supply of Pressure Filters, Ancillary Equipment's &amp; Air Compressor unit for Dewatering Tailings</b>	i. Experience in designed, engineered, manufactured, performance tested, supplied and commissioned Pressure filters including ancillary equipment's with minimum filter cake discharge capacity of 113 dry t/hour, maximum specific gravity 2.124 t/m3 (underflow 87% solids concentration) ii. Should have supplied at least two no's pressure filter meeting above requirement within last 5 years from closing date of EOI and out of which at least one should have been in successful operation for a period not less than one year as on the date of closing of EOI iii. Preferred Make – FLSmidth, Fox Fluidpower, Diemme Filtration, Enprotech, Outotec or equivalent iv. Able to supply commissioning spares & maintenance spares v. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified vi. Installation and commissioning support and assistance vii. Lead time of delivery iii. Cost of equipment, commissioning spares and two years maintenance spares
2	NM29/2021/B/2 <b>Design &amp; Supply of Binder Handling System (Silo, Dust collector, Rotary feeder, Belt weigh feeder, Screw conveyor)</b>	i. Experience in designed, engineered, manufactured, performance tested, supplied and commissioned Binder system with design feed rate of 3 to 20 dry t/hr binder with Live silo capacity of 600 Tons ii. Should have supplied at least one Binder system meeting above requirement within last 5 years from closing date of EOI and out of which at least one should have been in successful operation for a period not less than one year as on the date of closing of EOI iii. Preferred Make – Techmatic, Simem, BMH Systems or equivalent iv. Able to supply commissioning spares & maintenance spares v. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified vi. Installation and commissioning support and assistance vii. Lead time of delivery iii. Cost of equipment, commissioning spares and two years maintenance spares
3	NM29/2021/B/3 <b>Design &amp; Supply of Live Bottom Feeder with discharge chute</b>	ix. Experience in designed, engineered, manufactured, performance tested, supplied and commissioned of Live bottom feeder to handle moist and sticky filter cake, wet flow rate 72 to 87 m3/hr (solid density 2.65 t/m3, mass concentration 87%, moisture content – 13%) i. Should have supplied at least one live bottom feeder meeting above requirement within last 5 years from closing date of EOI and out of which at least one should have been in successful operation for a period not less than one year as on the date of closing of EOI ii. Preferred Make – Techmatic, JC Steele or equivalent iii. Able to supply commissioning spares & maintenance spares iv. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified v. Installation and commissioning support and assistance vi. Lead time of delivery vii. Cost of equipment, commissioning spares and two years maintenance spares
4	NM29/2021/B/4 <b>Design &amp; Supply of Thickener with feed box for feed control to a filtration plant</b>	i. Experience in designed, engineered, manufactured, performance tested, supplied and commissioned of thickener with feed box, underflow capacity total mixture – 95 to 126 m3/h, mixture mass flow – 162 to 216 wet t/h, mixture density – 1.713 t/m3, solids concentration 67% ii. Should have supplied at least two thickener meeting above requirement within last 5 years from closing date of EOI and out of which at least one should have been in successful operation for a period not less than one year as on the date of closing of EOI iii. Preferred Make – FLSmidth, Andritz Delkor, MIP process, Outotec, Roytec or equivalent iv. Able to supply commissioning spares & maintenance spares v. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified vi. Installation and commissioning support and assistance vii. Lead time of delivery viii. Cost of equipment, commissioning spares and two years maintenance spares

**Expression of interest**

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

Applicants must quote the tender reference "Paste Plant Equipment's Design and Supply 2" along with the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

**NB:** The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM

**Key Dates**

- Last date to submit EOI January 3, 2022

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



## Arusha DC inaugurates 105 school classrooms

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA District Commissioner, Said Mtanda, has inaugurated 105 classrooms, built with funds from the Tanzania COVID-19 socioeconomic response plan (TCRP) programme worth 2.1bn/-.

Inaugurating the classrooms, at Themti secondary school in Arusha, Mtanda, said 89 classrooms have been completed, 16 upper classrooms (for storey apartment) are nearing completion and before the first month of the year they will be completed.

He said in order to be successful in the education sector the people must stick to their government.

Mtanda also called on all leaders to be united in their work to bring development to the people.

"Let's go and work, if some money comes in we will work together again to address the shortage of desks if 1000 desks, we have made it in all secondary schools in Arusha City and 800 in primary schools, let's not let gossip, lies, intrigue mean nothing," he said.

Mtanda said he could not be the District Commissioner to listen to the words or the words, but to work together to build the country and the district with the aim of bringing development.

"When citizens come to government offices they know their rights, including the reception of humility, the hearing of their grievances and the resolution of grievances and not otherwise, let us go and serve the people properly," he said.

Arusha City Council Director Dr John Pima, said the construction of 105 classrooms was in line with the construction of 5,250 desks which are all 100% complete, with the exception of the 16 upper classrooms which are in the process of being completed.

He thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan, as all students selected to join the first form in 2022 for Arusha City all have

seats and each class is expected to accommodate 45 to 48 students, with the government's expectation of 50 students per class.

"There will not be any nuisance of classrooms in our city because 105 classrooms that did not exist at all are many in addition to those left by Form Four graduates," said Dr. Pima.

However he said education in the city, is growing as teachers provide better education for students and in a friendly learning environment, so they believe they will continue to do better in the education sector through it.

Dr. Pima said the presence of these desks, will help eliminate the problem of preventing first form students from entering the classroom as those who are required to enter the classroom will enter after the school opens.

City council's Secondary Education Officer, Valentine Makuke, said the launch of the classes would eliminate the backlog of 11,223 students, who have successfully completed Form One and all need 223 rooms already.

"We will have five additional rooms as we have 228 rooms in addition to those left by Form Four graduates this year, which will facilitate the performance of teachers, students and ultimately improve performance," said Makuke.

Arusha city mayor, Maxmillian Iranqhe, said the city of Arusha is still facing a shortage of teachers, so he asked the district commissioner to resolve the issue, so that students can get a better education and bring development to the community.

He said the City of Arusha; they have planned to be the first in everything, to bring development, if in education they have been rising every year.

"As a result of the construction of these classrooms the children will study better and understand, the performance will increase further," said Iranqhe.



Arusha District Commissioner Said Mtanda cuts a ribbon to launch 105 classrooms funded by COVID 19 stimulus package worth 2.1bn/- . Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

MORE than 3,000 girls between the ages of 10 and 19 in Iringa Region have been identified with pregnancy for the period from January to October 2021.

The national coordinator for reproductive health and gender from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Gerald Kiwhele unveiled this when speaking yesterday at the launch of the National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Well Being.

He said that the challenge has been increasing the burden of upbringing for these girls in return for their efforts to secure education.

Kiwhele noted that the challenge of early pregnancy in Iringa region was huge, a situation that the government had to deal with in collaboration with various stakeholders to come up with a lasting solution to that challenge.

He said that in the statistics conducted by the government for

## 3,000 girls in Iringa got pregnancy between January, October this year

the period January to October 2021 they found that there are more than 3000 girls pregnant in Iringa region which is an indication that the challenge of early pregnancy is huge in the region.

Kiwhele added that due to the growing challenge of early pregnancy the government has come up with a permanent strategy for the national investment agenda for youth development and health.

The Ministry for Health in collaboration with Iringa Region has rolled out and disseminated the agenda at the regional and district level the National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Well Being (2021 / 22- 2024/2025) with the facilitation of SOS Children's Villages Tanzania.

Victor Mwaipungu, project manager for children with children (CwC) Iringa region, which is being implemented by SOS Children's Villages Tanzania, said that the

problem of teenage pregnancies in Iringa region is serious and that is why they have come up with the girls' project being implemented in 19 out of 106 wards of all of Iringa region.

He said that before starting the project in the region they had identified more than 600 girls with children from 19 wards of the project.

Mwaipungu said the National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Well Being (NAIA-AHW 2021 / 22- 2024/2025) launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa Kassim on 17/04/2021, is in line with the objectives of their CwC project. National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Well Being (2021 / 22- 2024/2025) covers six pillars including preventing HIV, preventing teenage pregnancies, preventing physical, sexual and emotional violence, improving nutrition,

keeping boys and girls in school and developing skills from meaningful economic opportunities.

He said that in about 19 wards in the Iringa region they have identified more than 600 girls who became pregnant at an early age, adding that the national agenda for investing in the development and health of adolescents is in line with the goals of the project to prevent early pregnancy as well as ensure youth girls and boys remain in school.

For her part, the official guest of honor at the inauguration, Iringa Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga, urged the project executives and coordinators to ensure that they provide friendly services to adolescents.

The Iringa region is the second region to launch and disseminate a national agenda for investing in adolescent health and development (2021 / 22- 2024/2025) after the Rukwa region.

## Set up practical hub to end scarcity of science professionals, official urge government

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANGA City secondary education officer, Daudi Nchia, has advised the establishment of practical conferences and training centers as it will help the nation find solutions to the various problems facing the industry.

Launching the country's sixth science conference held at the city's science center, Nchia said the move would help end the shortage of science professionals in the country.

Nchia, he said due to the shortage of such professionals, it is advisable to initiate training for students in institutions as the education provided in schools is not more practical, so the presence of such centers will increase academics and bring success to the Nation.

"Our country is currently short of science professionals, so the presence of practical conferences and science training centers will help increase the generation of scientists and also the nation will find solutions to various problems in society with the increase in scholars," he said.

He also urged the trainers to look at how to reach more children, especially those living in difficult circumstances and provide them with education as they are not able to access the center, if it is in the process of providing them with skills that will hinder them in their future lives.

Tanga City Chief Physician, Charles Mkombe, said the action of these scientists, making innovations in medical technology will make the government more professional,

facilitate access to health care and reduce the shortage of specialists.

"The invention of the science-based drug transfer software, known as 'bird bees', will help alleviate the shortage of health workers who were forced to transfer the test from one hospital to another," said Mkombe.

The manager of Stem Park Science Center in Tanga, Gibson Kawago, said the one-week training would keep young people creative as they went to help set up their own companies, including helping other young people by providing employment.

"Imagine the 70 young people who are being trained, going to manage their dreams, when they go to set up their own factories they will be able to hire more young people and reduce the problem of youth employment," said Kawago.

Some students expressed their happiness, saying they were relieved to get the opportunity, which will go to raise them in education levels.

"I am very happy to have the opportunity to participate again in this sixth conference, I participated in two conferences that gave me great insight, I study mathematics, I used to not like mathematics but when I started going to the center I saw its convenience."

"At school we study theory but in science learning centers we study in practice which will help me to fulfill my creative dreams, so I advise my fellow youth not to be lazy or discouraged, where they go to these centers, it helps a lot to fulfill dreams," said Nabaha Kassim Ally from Zanzibar.



Cross section of Wagogo (Wanyausi) community members participate during their general meeting held in Dodoma over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## NGO builds primary schools special room for girls privacy

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

GIRL students at Marurani primary school located in Nduruma Ward, Arumeru District now have a new modern room for privacy during their menstruation periods.

Funds for building the room were provided by Ndoto in Action, a Non-Governmental Organisation.

Speaking here at the weekend during the event to hand over infrastructure to the school, the NGO's managing director Hussein

Salim said the institution built the room for girl students needing privacy during menstruation periods, as in the past they used to miss many classes.

"Statistics show that girl students fail to attend three to four class periods per month, 48 periods in total per year during menstruation, and the situation that has adversely affected their performance during examinations

Apart from the special room for girls' students, Salim said

his organisation has provided assistance for the construction of four classrooms, 120 desks, 10 pit latrines and gutters system for trapping rain water to eight tanks able to store 40,000 litres of water.

For his part, Arusha District Executive Director, Seleman Msumi, thanked the NGO for supporting government efforts in the education sector, and called on teachers and students to take care of the infrastructures to enhance

students in their learning while at school.

"We believe there are now friendly environment for learning and teaching, it is up to you teachers and students to work hard.

"And you girls, you are now provided with the modern room for privacy, use the room well, as you will no longer have to miss classes during your menstruation periods, work hard in your lessons to attain better pass marks at examinations," he added.



## AfDB group grants \$1.5m to strengthen trade, e-commerce environment in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE board of directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group recently approved a \$1.5-million grant to assess policy gaps in the digital trade and e-commerce ecosystems and policy environment in 10 African countries.

The funds, sourced from the African Development Fund (ADF), the bank's concessional window, will go to the Smart Africa Alliance.

The Smart Africa Alliance is an alliance of 32 African countries, international organisations and global corporations with a vision to create a single digital market in Africa by 2030.

The project will cover Ivory Coast, Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Uganda, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, The Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Smart Africa will consult public and private sector actors to develop an online training program that will directly benefit 600 stakeholders (comprising of government officials, small and medium enterprises, and private sector mobile network operators) and indirectly benefit another 2,500, an AfDB press release said.

Lacina Koné, CEO of Smart Africa, said: "One of the critical challenges preventing the continent from preparing for Africa's bold new future is the inability to conduct cross-border payments for goods and services due to a lack of solutions and crippling policies. Our partnership with the African Development Bank is crucial in creating an enabling environment to advance e-payments, and the digital economy is essential for Africa's renaissance."



**One of the critical challenges preventing the continent from preparing for Africa's bold new future is the inability to conduct cross-border payments for goods and services due to a lack of solutions and crippling policies**



Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth and Employment Patrobas Katambi who is also Shinyanga Urban MP inspects Uzogole secondary school classrooms yesterday. Left is Mayor of Shinyanga municipality Elias Masumbuko, Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

## Use end-of-year festivities to get vaccinated, physician tells people

PEOPLE in Kilimanjaro Region have been asked to use the Christmas and New Year holidays to get vaccinated to reduce the risk of COVID-19 pandemic.

Regional chief physician, Credianus Msimba, told this newspaper that as of December 23, this year, a total of 69,224 people have completed the vaccine, equivalent to 3.2 per cent and that those who have been vaccinated in one dose are 23,393.

He said the rate was very low compared to a large number of people in the region and urged all people to show up in large numbers to vaccinate especially during this period of population growth in the

area. "Currently, specialists will be present outside the houses of worship, at gatherings including in the markets for providing vaccination services."

This service is facing many problems including people from pastoralist communities who still do not have enough understanding and some women are failing to make vaccination decisions

by waiting for their partners living in the regions to involve them in making joint decisions, so in this last holiday," he said, adding: "We hope that more people will come forward for vaccinations."

Some residents of Moshi Municipality, Fauzia Hamed and Samweli Mkenda, said it was important for the Ministry of Health to see how it could continue to provide education to the community,

especially by using political leaders to avoid possible harm due to the lack of coverage.

"Health professionals are few, the relevant Ministry should look at how to empower village, sub-district, ward and even divisional leaders without forgetting the religious leaders in order to make the vaccination exercise a success," said Mkenda.



Salim Asas managing director of ASAS group of companies cuts a ribbon to launch auxiliary medical devices laboratory built by the company at Iringa Referral hospital yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

## DR Congo targets 2 million in cholera vaccination drive

By Special Correspondent

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo yesterday launched a massive cholera vaccination campaign targeting 2 million people aged one year and above in three provinces in the east of the country to halt an ongoing outbreak.

The campaign is being carried out in Haut-Lomami, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces—the most affected by cholera since August—and will cover 13 health zones with about 4 million doses delivered by the Global Task Force on Cholera Control. World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund and other partners are supporting the health authorities to roll out the campaign. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, provided operational funding.

Around 3600 health workers including vaccinators and community mobilizers have been deployed to carry out the campaign which will run for six days. Since the start of the year, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported at total of 8279 suspected cholera cases and 153 deaths in 16 of the country's 26 provinces.

"Cholera is a dangerous infection that can kill within hours if untreated, but it is predictable and preventable. In addition to the vaccines, which are one of the effective measures against the disease, it's also very important to provide clean water and to reinforce hygiene and sanitation in order to prevent the outbreak from spreading further," said Dr Amédée Prosper Djiguidé, WHO Officer in Charge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The ongoing vaccination is the second massive campaign in the country this year. In March and July, more than 1.4 million people were vaccinated against cholera in Haut-Katanga province in the south-east of the country.

Cholera is a highly contagious disease transmitted through contaminated water or food. It causes severe diarrhea and dehydration that must be treated immediately to prevent death, which can occur in just a few hours, and to prevent the disease from spreading on a large scale in a high-risk environment.

Disease surveillance, improved water, sanitation, and hygiene services as well as early detection, treatment and vaccines are crucial in preventing cholera and containing infection spread. Coverage with a full two-round dose of oral cholera vaccine provides up to a five-year protection.

## Rural Bangladesh saw 22pct increase in food insecurity during pandemic - IFPRI

By Special Correspondent

AROUND 22.3 percent more rural Bangladeshi households reported food insecurity -- 18 months after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic than pre-pandemic times, according to a survey by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

In the pre-pandemic period, 54.3 percent of rural households -- surveyed

in the study sample -- were fully food-secure, whereas during September-October of 2021, that percentage stood at 32, states the report.

For all latest news, follow The Daily Star's Google News channel.

The report is the result of IFPRI and Cornell University's three rounds of socioeconomic phone surveys in rural areas of Bangladesh in June 2020, January 2021, and September-October

2021. The surveys were conducted in order to document the experiences of Bangladeshi households during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The proportion of the households reporting any food insecurity (mild, moderate or severe) increased from the pre-pandemic average of 45.7 percent to 87.8 percent in June 2020. It declined to 70.9 percent in January 2021 and 68 percent in September-October 2021.

The surveyors benchmarked the collected data against data from the Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS), a national-level rural survey collected through in-person interviews in 2018-2019.

For this analysis, a sample of 1,951 rural households was interviewed across all rounds.

Dimensions of food insecurity including consuming less diverse diets, unable to eat healthy or nutritious food, and above all, worried about not having enough food increased dramatically at the start of the pandemic and have remained elevated, the report added.



## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

## Newsdesk

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

## Advertising

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

## All eggs in one basket in the free electoral Commission and new constitution debate

AS President Samia Suluhu Hassan moved to take note of some of the proposals or demands of human rights activists and political parties with a new appointment to the country's electoral commission, a good part of the stakeholders' fraternity was scarcely paying attention. They were engaged in what at a preliminary level is a fruitless debate as to whether the country needs a free electoral commission first and then a new constitution, or vice versa. The pundits seem to be agreed about a new constitution, and also a free polls commission; the issue is which begets the other - and in that regard, it is expected that the government (or in this case really, the state) will do the bidding of the debate's outcome.

Those who remember the way in which the 2014 Constituent Assembly was organised might remember that the exercise started from nearly that same format, where the issue of a free electoral commission wasn't primary but a new constitution. Activists saw issues in terms of organising a large conference of stakeholders where the ruling party would be just another interested party, same for the legislature, etc. Only when they formally convened at the Nkrumah Hall of the University of Dar es Salaam did reality start dawning on the majority of them, that a constitution is painfully negotiated, not proclaimed by an assembly of non-governmental organisations with ruling party representation, etc.

There are some variations between that period and the present period, and just like at that time ministers said the country did not need a new constitution but high level voices differed, so it is this time

around.

The difference is that the government at that time did not have clear focus on major policy and ethical issues, so it's a give and take with opposition parties was visible in various areas. Now the case for solidity of the state, cohesion of institutions and proper conduct of political activities is more acknowledged, not seeing the issue as mode, or fashion.

For one thing, the whole push for a new constitution lacks a socioeconomic agenda, and if it exists it is implicit rather than being embedded in a visible manner with what is identified as a new constitution. Similarly, the argument for a new constitution as different from constitutional amendments is wanting in the very least, and here a psychological reason is visible, that one takes a constitutional format written by a specialized assembly (like the Warrioba Commission) and adopts it as it is, without having to debate point by point what needs to be altered in the 1977 Constitution. As it was the case in 2014, all these issues will come back to face legions of activists, where their simplistic outlook starts withering.

If we stick with what is current, let us hope that the revamping that the new chairman of the polls organising body will be conducting shall meet expectations of transparent polls. President Samia expressed regrets at the way nomination papers of opposition candidates were cast aside for what was said to be minor spelling mistakes in their names etc., and recently polls misconduct was rectified in Zanzibar where the MP-elect who was yet to be sworn in stood down. We may not have to admit the length and breadth of what happened in recent polls but we need to prepare to rectify this.

## Night ravel feasible with vast road improvements

STAKEHOLDERS are working with the government to find ways of formalising night travel especially for long haul buses, as this was proscribed nearly three decades ago after a spate of highway accidents, especially at night. There are two stumbling blocks, that there are still so many accidents even without formalised night travel, and the problem of assessing if night travel will be much safer than it was the case in the past, because road conditions have improved. It is an issue which needs to be examined at some depth, and few stakeholders have ready-made answers at the moment.

In a sense, formalisation of night travel is in the same frame of policy thrust as making businesses be free to operate for 24 hours, without a special mandatory license to that effect. The late President John Magufuli was at a certain point steering policy in that direction, by an appeal to city authorities, one reason being the need to make Dar es Salaam more convenient for tourists, as they have varying preoccupations and ways of using time during an extended holiday. The idea that everyone works from nine in the morning to five in the evening is a schoolmaster formula that is often irrelevant, as people have different ways of earning their daily bread, different work and resting times, sleep levels, etc.

A singular impediment to night travel is that it is convenient for speeding, and without physical discouragement or impediments on the way, some drivers may do it excessively, aware that their passengers have every reason to wish to arrive early. While in theory an accident can occur anywhere, in practice some highway spots are known for being prone to accidents and more can be done in those areas, if the regulatory and law enforcement institutions had the right frame of mind. Traffic police too often refuse to insist on road bumps or stretched out tarmac corrugated road sections; they prefer road signs, sweet flowing speedy roads, and hidden police officers directing a speed torch at a car, as well as slapping fines.

Were it that it is regional administrations and local governments who demand night travel formalisation so speed up economic activities, they would also list road spots where prevention of accidents is important, while traffic regulators merely place road signs and collect penalties for breaching. This attitude facilitates accidents and it compels continued prohibition of night travel and troublesome breaching of the rule by some bus operators, despite those accidents are somewhat scarce. It is routine accidents in urban commotion that are more visible, with vastly improved upcountry roads.



By Muhammadu Kudu Ibrahim

“THE value of a college education is not the learning of many facts, but the training of the mind to work” - Albert Einstein

In the past several weeks there have been stringent calls for the labeling of the marauding bandits in the Northwest and North central parts of the country as terrorists. In the past the call was restricted to some politicians in the Southeast who felt the labelling of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) as terrorists was hasty and unjustified. In recent times, however, it has spread to their counterparts in the north including other notable Nigerians.

The list includes all the 36 Speakers from the State Houses of Assembly, governors of Gombe and Katsina, along with their Kaduna State counterpart Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, who not only backed the call but also urged the National Assembly (NASS) to compel the federal government to declare a state of emergency on the security situation in the country. Both houses of the NASS have since issued their separate resolutions calling for the classification of the bandits as terrorists.

The media, too, were not left out of the fray. In their separate editorials The Guardian, Vanguard and The Punch newspapers in particular were bullish in making the same call. In its editorial published on 21st October The Punch asserted that the federal government may be constrained in its reluctance to 'officially designate' the bandits as terrorists because of America's insistence that the Super Tucano warplanes recently delivered to Nigeria should only be used against the Boko Haram terrorist group, and not what the paper called the "the so-called bandits entrenched in the forests and ungoverned areas of the North-West and North-Central regions".

The renowned Femi Falana SAN who, as expected, also joined the debate and quoted generously from the extant provisions of the Nigeria Terrorism Prevention Act in making the same call. With due respect to Falana, however, almost all the sections of the Act he cited, like the perspectives of the governors and the NASS, merely focused on the impact of the various violent acts loosely classified as "terrorism" but not the causal or motivational factors behind them which could have enhanced the quality of the debate one way or the other.

Falana and the other parties may also not be aware that although the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) published the National Security Strategy (NSS) of the administration in 2019, Nigeria still has no National Security Policy (NSP) on which any robust strategy to tackle our security challenges should be predicated. Indeed, we have never had one since our

## Between banditry and terrorism

independence.

That serious flaw in our national security architecture was apparently lost on all the parties - including the NASS - who have expressed their outrage on the alarming security situation in the country. They have instead opted to snipe at the symptoms of the obvious dissonance in the nation's security system which is manifested in the frequent embarrassing security breaches have experienced nationwide.

The adoption of NSP is fundamental and should have preceded the NSS for the following reasons. When properly conceived, the policy is expected to encapsulate the basic visioning and scope of the security threats confronting the nation along with various forms of the kinetic or non-kinetic actions required to counter them. It will also allow for the common ownership of the nation's security threats along with their probable solutions. It confirms the often-cited cliché that a nation's security is the collective responsibility of all its citizens. But I digress, somewhat.

I also read the opinions of some scholars and religious organizations which were often laced with unhelpful bigotry and partisanship. Some drew parallels between the secessionist agitations in the Southeast and the Southwest to allege bias on the part of the federal government in its handling of the secessionist agitation of IPOB. Some even went further to include the agitations in the South-south which are driven mainly by economic deprivation into the narrative to prove the same allegation.

It never mattered that while the militancy in the South-south resulted in a peace deal - as imperfect as it may be to some stakeholders from the region; in the case of IPOB, it remains either Biafra or burst!

Also, unlike the militants in the South-south, the violence unleashed by IPOB, including the establishment of its military wing, has grown in intensity in a manner that openly challenges the legitimacy of the federal government and its capacity to guarantee the security of all Nigerians in their sphere of operations.

Regardless, the intensity of the calls was such that the federal government has found itself on the defensive. In his response to the relentless barrage, the Defence Minister has claimed the bandits were yet to be classified as terrorists because of the need to comply with due process without elaborating on what the process actually entails. That has tended to add to the confusion a trite. But either way, they all have my sympathy.

The controversial question of who can be classified as a "terrorist" and what constitutes acts of "terrorism"

has been subjects of intensive debate among criminologists, scholars and politicians globally in the past several decades.

As of 2006, there were no fewer than 109 different definitions of terrorism, while every attempt to adopt a universally accepted definition of both terms have always ended in a bewildering cul-de-sac for a variety of reasons.

For instance, in the wake of the massacre of athletes during a siege on the Munich Olympics Games Village in 1972, the United Nations (UN) unsuccessfully attempted to conjure a universal agreement for both terms but was unsuccessful because many nations from Africa, Asia and the Middle East, disagreed with the pejorative aspects of the label.

In their considered opinion, the West too had committed similar activities to the one perpetrated by the Palestinian group responsible for the Munich Massacre. One man's terrorist, as it is often said, could be another man's freedom fighter, depending on the context and geo-political dynamics of the contending issues in the conflict.

Like I earlier hinted, at the core of the controversy is the contentious issue of legitimacy in the use of violence for multiple ends. The same is true for both the state and non-state actors of terrorism which all the commentators in their hasty prognosis failed to take into account. But that is a story for another day.

In the absence of a consensus among its members on what constitutes terrorism, the UN adopted 12 piecemeal conventions and protocols with the principal goal of 'criminalizing' certain acts of violence only to the extent that they are effective in the various counter-terrorism initiatives of its members states. The UN General Assembly resolution 49/60 on the subject was adopted on the 9th of December, 1994.

In 2007, the UN drifted towards a more academically agreeable concept and interpretation of both terms which emphasized the combination of violence, politics, sociology and psychology among the traits which are largely consistent with the provisions of the Nigerian Anti-Terrorism Act referred to by Femi Falana.

The first trait recognizes terrorism as a violent act that leads directly to or produces widespread disproportionate emotional reactions such as fear and anxiety which impacts or influences attitudes or the patterns of behavior of the victims. This is abundantly obvious from the changes in the travel plans of Nigerians including the impact on farming and rural communities where the bandits are mainly domiciled.

In the second trait, the violence perpetrated is both systemic and unpredictable in the targeting of symbolic targets for maximum effect. Here again, the alleged downing of the NAF aircraft along with the recent sabotage of the Abuja to Kaduna rail lines fits the definition snugly.

In the final trait, the violence is designed to convey unmistakable messages and threats calculated to communicate or achieve social control in any given context associated with the term. Again, recent reports suggest that the bandits have started appointing chiefs and even determined when mosques and markets should reopen in the Northwest parts of the country.

We have no such complications when it comes to the definition of banditry. A bandit, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is someone who operates outside the confines of the law and lives by plunder. He could act alone, or belong to a band of marauders.

The Oxford dictionary of English and Spanish also traced the use of the word "bandit" to the 16th-century Italian term 'bandito', meaning "outlaw" or "banned". Where things get complicated is when the same Oxford dictionary went further to define a terrorist as a person who uses unlawful violence and intimidation, especially against civilians in the pursuit of political aims. Clearly, this definition fits IPOB and Boko Haram like a glove.

Regardless, soon after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the UN reshaped its protocols on dealing with terrorism. Like the previous protocols, the sole aim was to assist member states in their counter-terrorism measures by 'criminalizing' it.

Today, as the debate on the issue continues, the example of the UN should provide a lesson and a guide as to where the pendulum should swing one way or the other in the search for labels and adjectives for our marauding bandits. Instructively, the UN released the new protocols even while much of the contentious issues on the definition of terrorism remained unresolved.

I have listened to the argument in some quarters that the bandits need to be classified as terrorists because the Super-Tucano ground attack military aircraft the Americans reluctantly sold to Nigeria cannot be used against them unless they are regarded as such because of the extant pre-sale agreement between both nations.

But then, curiously, the same people who made the argument do not want the aircraft used against IPOB. Their hypocrisy confirms the needless partisanship which seems to have characterized some of the views aired on the subject so far.



# Effective seed policy reforms needed to ensure food security

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

**A**GRICULTURE is still one of the key sectors integral to economic transformation of Tanzania. The sector employs over 70 per cent of the Tanzania population and comprises mostly of smallholders who cultivate at least 90 per cent of the arable land.

In order to feed the world population by 2050, the World Bank and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) say that food production must increase by half. A figurative war is fought regarding the approach to increase production, but the biggest victims will be smallholder farmers.

Seed is the foundation of agriculture and without seed there can be no agriculture and hence no food for human survival.

Tanzania has adopted a couple of national agricultural strategies since attaining independence that include Agricultural Sector Development Strategy I in 2001, Kilimo Kwanza in 2012, and the second Agricultural Sector Development Strategy II (ASDS II) adopted in 2014, all geared towards transforming agriculture sector from subsistence to commercial.

The Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025 also envisages raising the standard of living of Tanzanians to medium income country by ensuring food security, improving incomes and increasing export earnings.

According to the Changing Seed and Plant Variety Protection Laws in Tanzania Report published by the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in 2016, the seed supply for agriculture in Tanzania is derived from both the formal and informal (the latter also known as local or farmer-saved seed system). Over 90 per cent of the seed originate from the farmer managed seed system while 10 per cent comes from the formal seed sector. The farmer-saved seed system however remains unrecognized and unsupported despite providing at least 90 per cent of the seed used by farmers.

Studies conducted by the ACB in 2014 in Morogoro and Mvomero districts found that over 80 per cent of local maize, legume and rice seed in use was non-certified and the majority of farmers kept recycling seed from the previous



**In Tanzania, farmer-saved seed systems remain predominant with the majority of farmers still growing old varieties while practising recycling. File Photo.**

harvest.

Farmer-saved seed systems are guided by local technical knowledge and standards and by local social structures and norms.

In Tanzania, farmer-saved seed systems remain predominant with the majority of farmers still growing old varieties while practicing recycling.

According to the USAID Report 2013, farmer-saved seed system is another important source of seed in Tanzania accounting for about 75 per cent of the seeds available in Tanzania while the formal sector contributes only 25 per cent.

In Tanzania, it is estimated that only 4 per cent of the sorghum seed originates from the formal seed system, with the balance of 96 per cent being seeds sourced by farmers from informal systems.

About 95 per cent of the area planted with common beans consists of recycled or seeds informally sourced by farmers while the remaining 5 per cent is supported by the formal seed system.

It is also estimated that only 2 per cent of cassava is planted with im-

proved planting materials while 98 per cent is planted with recycled or shared stem cuttings.

Tanzania's seed legislation however does not recognize farmer-saved seed systems and local varieties and doesn't allow participation of smallholder farmers in seed production.

Policy-makers stress that there are no restrictions regarding the manner in which farmers use, save and exchange their own seeds, as long as the seeds don't enter the commercial market.

The Tanzanian seed system has grown over the years as observed from the increase in seed enterprises, improved seed support services and overall increased volumes of certified seeds.

The Seed Law reform however neglected farmer-managed seed systems and their contributions to the seed sector in Tanzania. In particular, the Seed Law does not provide exemptions for smallholder farmers with regard to on farm-saved seed.

According to the Section 5 of the Seeds (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2014, any person who sells seed

which is not certified in this act commits an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to a fine of not less than 100mn/- and not more than 500mn/- or to imprisonment for a term not less than five years and not more than 12 years or both.

Section 6 notes that upon conviction for an offence under this section, the court may in addition to a penalty imposed, order any seed or equipment used in commission of offence to be forfeited and destroyed without compensation.

According to Section 26 (1) of the Seeds Regulation 2007, no seed shall be certified unless it has been produced, inspected, sampled, tested, and complied with the standards set.

It's against this backdrop that agriculture stakeholders call for the need for reviewing the Seed Act 2003 and its regulations of 2007 to recognize farmer-managed seed systems, arguing that this will help in improving food safety and Security.

The stakeholders urge that there is need for specific exemptions for smallholder farmers as provided under the Ethiopian Seed Law (Seed Proclama-

tion No. 782/2013), which recognises and provides exemptions for farm-saved seeds.

According to the Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO) Coordinator Abdallah Mkindi, reviewing the Seed Act will help to preserve traditional seed species from extinction.

"The Seed Law should be reviewed to provide exemptions for farm-saved seeds and restrict only those persons who sell traditional seed species that are not certified as certified," Mkindi said.

He noted that there has been an increase in diseases due to consumption of foods that have been produced using farm inputs like pests and fertilizers.

"Long time ago, diseases like heart attack and diabetes were uncommon because people consumed healthy and safe foods. We need to go back to the drawing board and use our traditional farming practices that includes using farmer-saved seeds," he added.

Bakari Mongo, Chief Executive Officer of the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) said that there is need for a nationwide sensitization campaign to educate farmers on the health risks of rampantly using farm inputs like pesticides and fertilizers.

"There should be a long-term strategy to ensure that farmers use farm inputs as cautiously as possible so as to protect their own health and that of consumers," he said.

Mongo said that there is need for various players in the agriculture sector value chain to play their part so as to ensure sustainable food production.

"There is no shortcut to food safety and security. Everyone needs to play their part to ensure that agriculture production meets all the safety requirements," he said.

## Establishment of traditional seed bank

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe while officiating at the Second National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference organized by TOAM in Mtwara Region in October this year hinted that plans were underway for Tanzania to create a bank for traditional seeds in a move aimed at promoting indigenous farming.

Bashe noted that the creation of the traditional seeds bank would go along with the establishment of a department that will specifically deal with organic farming.

The Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) will be tasked to research and produce traditional seeds with a view to conserving seed varieties for organic farming.

It is equally important for the government to continue monitoring and evaluating various seed systems in the country to manage their contribution to sustainable food production.

# New initiative seeks to increase productivity for entrepreneurs

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

**A**S salaried employment opportunities in the formal sector become scarcer as the world battles Covid-19 pandemic, self-employment in the informal sector is the only option for the majority.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), informal work accounts for two-thirds of non-agricultural employment in sub-Saharan Africa. In the case of Tanzania the figure is even higher, with 76 per cent of the non-agricultural workforce subsisting outside the formal economic framework.

However, for many, productivity remains low due to a myriad of challenges including limited skills, crude tools of production and lack of capital.

Against this backdrop, the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) has partnered with Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP-Mtandao) in a new project that seeks to increase productivity for group members of Knowledge and Information Centers (KCs), including women and youth who are self-employed.

KCs are community-organized groups facilitated by TGNP and through them, the organization offers education and awareness to women on different matters touching their day-to-day lives in a bid to alleviate poverty.



**Florah Ndaba, Facilitator from TGNP presents a topic at a seminar on value addition held recently in Dar es Salaam. Photo/ Christina Mwakangale**

Opening a training session in Dar es Salaam recently, Head of Programmes at TGNP-Mtandao Shakila Mayumana said that everyone in the world has something special and unique, including creativity that if used properly in society, can change lives.

"Everyone is special in our families, communities and even at the national level; you can produce something that is going to change the behaviour of people in the society," she said.

"We want people to continue grabbing opportunities around their areas so that at the end of the day, they create solutions to problems facing them. Instead of waiting for the government

to allocate budgets and do everything for them, community members can bring changes and development in their own areas."

Florah Ndaba, a facilitator from TGNP made a presentation on capacity building for community-based initiative works and innovations that are particularly productive in social activities and add value to products.

She said that if community members jointly work together with their local leaders, they can come up with solutions to their challenges, and as a result the country will reduce donor dependency and national debts.

She said that TGNP in collaboration

with COADY International Institute of St. Francis Xavier University of Canada has already empowered over 400 Tanzanian women to turn challenges into opportunities.

"Members of KCs from Mabwepande, Saranga, Kivule and Majohe are beneficiaries of this programme ending next year need to change their ideas and be creative by turning community challenges into opportunities," she said.

Anna Sunyai, member of Kivule KC said they are working on the idea of producing alternative charcoal by using charcoal residues but the challenge but the main challenge is that they don't have a simple machine that

can make production in a large scale.

She said in their area, the big challenge is how to recycle garbage which for a long time has been a problem to the environment and through that project, they can make a difference.

"Later we found a machine at Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) which sold at between 150,000/- to 200,000/- and that was ten years back. As a group we didn't have that money," she said.

"But we have to strive to get it though it might cost more now; we can recoup our investment because one bucket of alternative charcoal sells 14,000/-."

Mwajuma Kikumbi, member of Mabwepande KC said their group has an idea of processing and adding value to pepper for their community and later national and export markets.

"We process peppers by first we boil and putting packing the product in plastic bottles but without branding and as a result our customers don't know where to find our products," she said.

Zakaya Enock, KC member from Majohe said that through the project, they learnt a lot including tailoring and how to make carpets by using pieces of textile fabric which they sale in the various formal markets and streets.

Sakina Msonde, DIT trainer told members of KCs that the doors are open for them anytime, if they need to get more practical training in order to add value to their products.

"Prepare yourselves and bring up potentially profitable business ideas that are likely to make changes to you, your families, communities and country," she said.



# Blue ocean solutions for climate resilience and accelerated development

Nairobi, Kenya

Seychelles' 115 islands are an exotic ocean ecosystem of beaches, coral reefs, and unique plant and animal species. Concerned with the impacts of climate change, the country has committed to decarbonize by 2050.

As climate change threatens food security, livelihoods, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, countries with coastal blue carbon ecosystems are increasingly looking into the ocean for climate change and business solutions.

Angelique Pouponneau, CEO, Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust, says for these countries, "the blue economy, sectors dependent on healthy marine and coastal resources, is at the heart of their updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submissions."

Under the Paris Agreement, countries revise their NDCs every five years to cut greenhouse gas emissions to limit the earth's temperature rise and commit to implementing solutions to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Seychelles made a most ambitious commitment in its NDC to decarbonize its economy entirely by 2050, making it one of the few developing countries to do so.

"Seychelles developed a national blue economy road map anchored on identifying sectors of the blue economy industry that can generate wealth and sustainable management of marine resources. Priority areas include aquaculture to help build resilience among local communities and accelerate sustainable development," says Pouponneau in an interview with IPS, adding that sustainable fishing and building ocean-based enterprises are crucial to the success of this Indian Ocean archipelago.

"Building ocean-based enterprises, providing a regulatory framework for sustainable businesses, and financing research and development activities are the three pillars of the blue economy roadmap."

Seychelles launched the world's first sovereign blue bond in 2018. The blue bond, Pouponneau says, is an innovative financial tool to support sustainable marine and fisheries start-ups and SMEs and the key to unlocking ocean-based sustainable business.

According to the Seychelles government, the bond is a pioneering financial instrument that raised US\$15 million from international investors. The success of the bond demonstrates the potential for



Countries, like the Seychelles and Belize, with coastal blue carbon ecosystems are increasingly looking to the ocean for climate change and business solutions. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

countries to harness capital markets for financing the sustainable use of marine resources.

Similarly, as part of the Nature Conservancy's Blue Bonds for Ocean Conservation program, Belize signed a Conservation Funding Agreement, also known as the Blue Bond.

"Our Blue Bond is similar to Seychelles'. However, Belize's is larger and has a more comprehensive set of targets," Beverly Wade, the Policy and Planning Advisor in the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, tells IPS.

"The bond establishes a Conservation Fund of USD 180 million, to be accessed over 20 years, to support the implementation of coastal and marine conservation projects by government and non-governmental partners."

Wade, a representative on the Belize National Climate Change Committee, says the ministry is finalizing the framework for Blue Economy for the South American country.

"This is a five-year multisectoral policy, strategy, and plan. Belize is one of the countries in the Mesoamerican Reef region involved in the Smart Coasts Project that promotes ecosystem-based adaptation and climate smarting of Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Development Plans," she tells IPS.

Belize, a leader in marine spatial planning and habitat mapping, has updated

Marine Habitat Map by processing satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to classify critical marine habitats such as seagrass and corals.

The Blue Bond, she says, will facilitate the completion of a comprehensive Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) for Belize's entire Blue Space, an urban design term for visible water.

Overall, 163 nations have submitted their NDCs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under the NDC Partnership.

The NDC Partnership is a global initiative to help countries achieve their national climate commitments through financial and technical assistance through the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP).

The Partnership supports countries with a coastal blue carbon ecosystem to "enhance the quality, increase the ambition, and implement NDCs, every five years since the first round of NDC were submitted in 2016. With a footprint across 62 member countries and nine institutional partners since October 2017, the NDC Partnership holds significant experience, resources, and expertise to ensure that countries achieve NDC objectives.

This support is timely and critical. World Bank data shows the global ocean economy is valued at an estimated \$1.5 trillion per year. Approximately 80 per-

cent of international trade by volume is carried by sea, and an estimated 350 million jobs across the globe are linked to fisheries.

The report, NDCs-A Force for Nature? notes that 105 out of 114 updated NDCs submitted by October 12, 2021, included nature-based solutions in their roadmap to limit global warming.

Through CAEP, launched in 2019 with the technical and financial support of 46 partners, the NDC Partnership is currently supporting 67 countries to submit enhanced NDCs and fast-track their implementation.

The CAEP aims to catalyze change towards resilient, sustainable, and low-emission development, supporting the objectives of the Paris Agreement for member countries of the NDC Partnership. It also assists developing member countries in enhancing NDCs and fast-tracking their implementation, including providing in-country technical expertise and capacity building.

The NDC policy commitment, Pouponneau says, is a "robust, realistic, measurable and achievable yardstick against which Seychelles is evaluating its progress towards climate change resilience and sustainable development."

"NDCs are a planning, finance and resource mobilization and accountability tool. And there is a commitment right from grassroots to the international level

to achieve set targets."

Wade agrees. She explains that through the NDC updating process, the National Climate Change Office, with support from the World Wildlife Fund and PEW Charitable Trusts, a National Blue Carbon Working Group was established.

"The group provided oversight for the research activities conducted in support of establishing realistic mangrove mitigation and adaptation targets for the updated NDC," she says.

"The NDC also identifies concrete targeted actions to meet these obligations. And provides a space for bringing together planned and ongoing activities from existing national strategies as well as plans for target achievement."

Both local communities and most of the Seychelles' urban areas and infrastructure are concentrated next to the shore; therefore, the country's economic activity relies on the sustainable management of marine resources.

"blue economy's primary challenge is the lack of understanding between the use of ocean-based resources, climate change resilience, and sustainable development. There is a need to educate local communities on why it is no longer business as usual," Pouponneau says. "This education will go hand in hand with financial incentives to help local communities use ocean resources sustainably."

## 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 MATUKIYA 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



By Guardian Correspondent

# Rich countries receive more vaccines in run-up to Christmas than African countries have all year

**M**ORE doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been delivered to the EU, the UK and the United States in the six-week run up to Christmas than African countries have received all year, new analysis from the People's Vaccine Alliance reveals yesterday.

As COVID-19 clouds a second Christmas season in uncertainty and fear in many countries, campaigners warn that governments risk trapping the world in an endless cycle of variants, boosters, restrictions and even lockdowns, if low vaccination rates are allowed to persist in the global south.

Low and middle-income countries must be allowed to manufacture vaccines themselves to end vaccine inequality and prevent variants from derailing future Christmases, campaigners warn.

Between 11 November and 21 December 2021, the EU, UK and US have received 513 million doses of vaccines while countries in Africa received just 500 million throughout the whole of 2021.

The UK government, facing a rapid surge in Omicron variant, has a target of administering one million booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines a day in response, equivalent to vaccinating 1.46 percent of the population every day.

If every country was able to vaccinate at the same rate as the UK target, it would take just 68 days to deliver a first dose to everyone who needs one, leaving no one unvaccinated by the end of February 2022.

Just 8.6 percent of people in Africa have been fully vaccinated to date and at the current rate of delivery by vaccine manufacturers, it won't be until April 2023 that everyone will receive their first dose. Recent research found that 78 percent of people in Africa are willing to get vaccinated, higher than in many rich countries.



67 countries will have 1.4 billion surplus doses by March 2022, even after giving all adults a booster but are failing to deliver on donation pledges. The US has delivered just a quarter of the vaccines it promised to donate while the UK and Germany have delivered 15 percent and 14 percent respectively.

Anna Marriott, Health Policy Manager, Oxfam and the People's Vaccine Alliance, said: "Make no mistake rich country governments are to blame for

the uncertainty and fear that is once again clouding Christmas. By blocking the real solutions to vaccine access in poorer countries they are prolonging the pandemic and all it's suffering for every one of us.

"Rich countries are banking on boosters to keep them safe from Omicron and future variants of Covid-19. But boosters can never be more than a temporary and inadequate firewall. Extinguishing the threat of variants and ending

this pandemic requires vaccinating the world. And that means sharing vaccine recipes and letting developing countries manufacture jabs for themselves."

Experts have raised concerns that low vaccine coverage in the global south created conditions where a variant like Omicron was likely to emerge. Nine months ago, a survey of leading epidemiologists warned that persistent low vaccine coverage in parts of the world increased

the risk of vaccine resistant variants emerging within a year or less.

Nick Dearden, Director of Global Justice Now, said: "If we ever want to have a normal Christmas again, we need to vaccinate the world. But right now, the UK and EU are holding back international efforts to use and expand manufacturing and distribution capacity in low and middle-income countries. It's reckless and risks trapping us in an endless cycle of variants,

boosters, restrictions and even lockdowns."

In October 2020, India and South Africa proposed a waiver of intellectual property rules on Covid-19 vaccines, tests and treatments to allow low and middle-income countries to manufacture these life-saving tools. Despite most countries, including the United States, supporting a waiver, the UK, EU, and Switzerland have prevented progress.

Maaza Seyoum from the African Alliance said: "Leaders in the global north have so far chosen the obscene profits of pharmaceutical companies over the lives of people in Africa.

But the Omicron variant shows that vaccine inequality is a threat to everyone, everywhere. Boris Johnson, Olaf Scholz, and European leaders need to finally support an intellectual property waiver and let Africa and the global south unlock its capacity to manufacture and distribute vaccines. Otherwise, humanity will never beat the race against the next variant."

Human Rights Watch and Médecins Sans Frontières identified over 100 manufacturers that could produce mRNA vaccines if intellectual property barriers were removed and pharmaceutical companies transferred the technology and knowhow needed.

Despite already making billions in profit, Pfizer and Moderna continue to refuse to share the new generation of vaccine technology with the WHO's mRNA hub in South Africa. WHO scientists are now attempting to reverse engineer Moderna's US-taxpayer-funded vaccine, a process that could take two years longer than if the company shared its vaccine recipe.

Every major vaccine provider has boycotted the WHO's Covid-19 technology access pool (C-TAP), a technology transfer programme established in May 2020 to share the recipe and knowhow needed to manufacture coronavirus vaccines, tests and treatments.

## Blanket COVID boosters risk prolonging pandemic - WHO director general warns

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organisation chief has warned that the rush in wealthy countries to roll out additional COVID-19 vaccine doses was deepening the inequity in access to jabs that is prolonging the pandemic.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus insisted on Wednesday that the priority must remain to get vaccines to vulnerable people everywhere rather than giving additional doses to the already vaccinated.

Omicron complicates holiday travel plans across the US

"No country can boost its way out of the pandemic," he told reporters.

The UN health agency has long decried the glaring inequity in access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Allowing COVID-19 to spread unabated in some places dramatically increases the chance of new, more dangerous variants emerging, it argues.

"Blanket booster programmes are likely to prolong the pandemic, rather than ending it, by diverting supply to countries that already have high levels of vaccination coverage, giving the virus more opportunity to spread and mutate," Tedros told reporters.

He said the priority must be to reduce deaths

and help all countries meet minimum vaccination targets that many still have not reached. And he noted that "the vast majority of hospitalizations and deaths are in unvaccinated people, not unboosted people."

Months ago, Tedros called in vain for a moratorium on booster doses to vaccinated, healthy people until at least 40 percent of people in all countries had received a first jab.

He pointed out Wednesday that while enough vaccines had been given to people globally this year to reach that target, distortions in global supply meant that only half the world's countries had done so.

According to UN figures, about 67 percent of people in high-income countries have had at least one vaccine dose - but not even 10 percent in low-income countries.

"It's frankly difficult to understand how a year since the first vaccines were administered, three in four health workers in Africa remain unvaccinated," said Tedros.

Tedros renewed a call for manufacturers and other countries to prioritise the COVAX programme to get doses to needier nations and "work together to support those who are furthest behind".



WHO director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had called in vain for a moratorium on booster doses to vaccinated, healthy people until at least 40 percent of people in all countries had received a first jab.

"Unless we vaccinate the whole world ... I don't think we can end this pandemic," Tedros said.

But he added that authorities now know the virus better and have effective tools to fight it; "we need to add to that comprehensive implementation and equity, and hope 2022 will end this pandemic."

Omicron in 106 countries His comments came as the

Omicron variant's lightning dash around the globe since it was first detected in South Africa last month dampened hopes the worst of the pandemic was over.

The new variant is spreading at unprecedented speed and has already been detected in 106 countries, the WHO said.

Early data, before peer-review, has indicated that it could be better at dodging some vaccine pro-

tections, spurring the rush to provide boosters.

But Tedros insisted Wednesday that "the vaccines we have remain effective against both the Delta and Omicron variants."

"It's important to remember that the vast majority of hospitalizations and deaths are in unvaccinated people, not unboosted people," he said.

The WHO's Strategic Advisory

Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunisation also recommended on Wednesday against blanket booster programmes, insisting additional doses should be "targeted to the population groups at highest risk of serious disease and those necessary to protect the health system".

So far, 120 countries have begun implementing programmes to administer booster vaccines or additional doses, it said - but none of them was a low-income country.

German military helps in treating COVID-19 patients as cases surge 'Very difficult decisions'

As case numbers surge, the UN health agency also called on countries and individuals to take all necessary precautions to halt the spread of the virus heading into the Christmas holidays.

"Boosters cannot be seen as a ticket to go ahead with planned celebrations," Tedros said.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO lead on the COVID pandemic, stressed that people now know what they need to do, from wearing masks to physical distancing.

But she acknowledged the frustration of changing holiday plans.

"There are very difficult decisions that need to be had in terms of making sure that we keep ourselves safe," she said.







## BUSINESS



Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

## CENSURE

## Ethiopia protests US decision to revoke duty-free access

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia has said it is “saddened” by a US decision to revoke duty-free access for the East African country’s exports.

The announcement by Ethiopia’s trade ministry on Monday came after the Biden administration on December 23 terminated the country’s eligibility for benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act. The US cited its disapproval of the war in the Tigray region for the action.

“The Ethiopian government is saddened over the decision by the US to remove it,” from the preferential trade benefits, the ministry said. It asked the US to reconsider its decision. “Ethiopia is carrying out various initiatives aimed at bringing peace and stability, political consensus and economic development in addition to conducting reforms in line with the long-standing relationship between the two countries,” it said.

The US withdrew the country’s eligibility for the trade benefits despite pleas by a few US legislators and Ethiopian lobby groups who asked the Biden administration to give the country more time to comply with US demands.

The decision against the African nation was made over its failure to end a nearly year-long war in the Tigray region that has led to gross breaches of human rights, said the White House. Guinea and Mali will also be barred from receiving the trade benefits as of January 1.

The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act provides sub-Saharan African nations duty-free access to the US on the condition they meet certain requirements, including eliminating barriers to US trade and investment and making progress towards political pluralism.

The US and the UN say Ethiopian authorities have prevented lorries from delivering desperately needed food and other aid into Tigray. Scores of

people have starved to death, the Associated Press has reported. In September, President Biden warned that his administration would levy sanctions if Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed



**“The Ethiopian government is saddened over the decision by the US to remove it,” from the preferential trade benefits, the ministry said. It asked the US to reconsider its decision. “Ethiopia is carrying out various initiatives aimed at bringing peace and stability, political consensus and economic development in addition to conducting reforms in line with the long-standing relationship between the two countries”**

did not take steps to wind down the war in Tigray and other regions.

On November 3, Ethiopia’s foreign ministry labelled the move as “misguided” and “unjustified intimidation” and said the decision could affect the livelihoods of more than 200,000 low-income Ethiopians who work for companies that benefit from the preferential trade access.

Some Ethiopian companies are already showing signs of a downturn in their export business. “Several companies have already started leaving and we don’t know what is next,” a textile worker at the Hawassa Industrial Park, some 270km south of the capital, Addis Ababa, told the AP by phone on condition of anonymity fearing for his workplace safety. Ethiopia in recent years had one of Africa’s fastest-growing economies, but the war in Tigray has dampened that momentum.

## CAUTIOUS

## Canadian audit firm warns against optimism at Buckreef Gold project

By Guardian Reporter

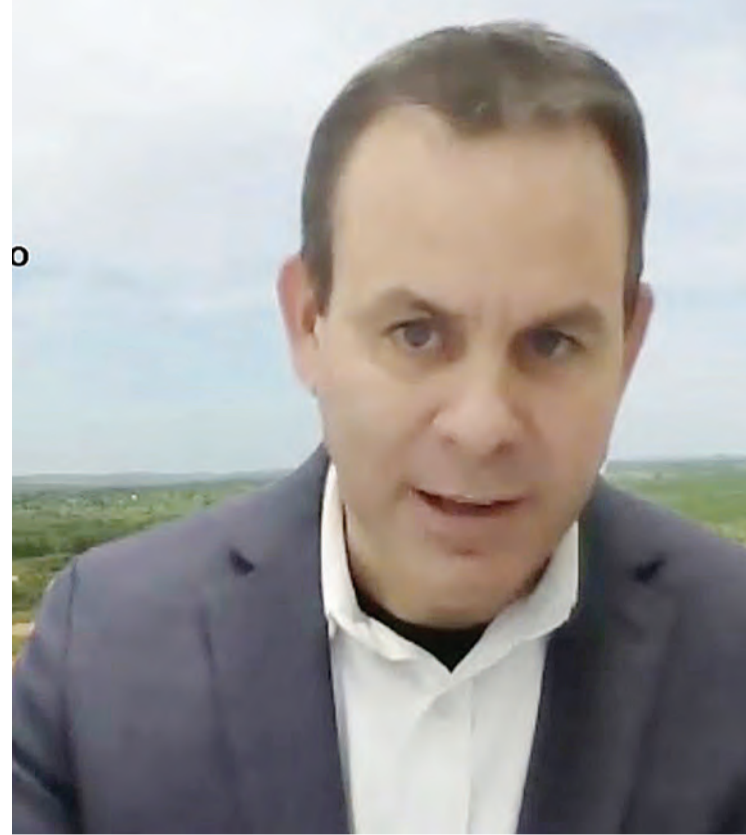
**T**ANZANIAN Gold Corporation which jointly owns Buckreef Gold Mine project in Geita jointly with State Mining Corporation is not a going concern after all and has been incurring losses since inception.

An independent audit report conducted by Vancouver based Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton Labonte LLP for the year ended August 2021 said TanGold’s accompanying financial statements were prepared with the assumption that the company will continue as a going concern.

“The company has not generated revenues since inception, has incurred losses in developing its business, and further losses are anticipated. The company requires additional funds to meet its obligations and the costs of its operations,” said Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton Labonte LLP in its report.

“These factors raise substantial doubt about the company’s ability to continue as a going concern,” the audit firm warned while adding that TanGold’s financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the company as of August 31, 2021 and 2020 and September 1, 2019 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the years ended August 31, 2021, 2020, and 2019, in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards.

“We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and are required to be independent with



TanGold’s CEO, Stephen Mullowney.

respect to the company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB,” the Vancouver based audit firm added.

The audit firm further noted that the audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks.

“Such procedures included ex-

amining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements,” the auditor noted.

“In its review and evaluation, management determined that there were no indicators that the carrying amount of mineral properties and deferred exploration, which has a carrying value of

\$38,618,000 as of August 31, 2021, may not be recoverable,” the audit report warned.

The audit firm also identified the assessment of unproved mineral properties for potential impairment indicators as a critical audit matter due to the materiality of the balance, the high degree of auditor judgment and an increased level of effort when performing audit procedures to evaluate the reasonableness of management’s assumptions in determining whether indicators of impairment are present.

In its fourth quarter results published in November this year, TanGold said there was significant exploration potential following the discovery of two new gold bearing shear zones in the Buckreef West and Anfield Zones.

The company said assuming successful exploration results from ongoing diamond drilling, both new zones and the Buckreef Main Zone have the potential to significantly add to the 2.0 million ounces of gold in the measured and indicated mineral resources category and 0.6 million ounces of gold contained in inferred mineral resource category.

Commenting on the development, TanGold’s CEO, Stephen Mullowney said, “We closed 2021 on a strong note. Buckreef Gold has been repositioned to have significant exploration potential with an increasing production profile. We are enthusiastic about continually developing our high return-low cost projects and are very excited about the drilling prospects at Anfield and Buckreef West.”

## LOBBYING

## Kenya seeks IMF nod to use Sh14bn World Bank Covid loan

NAIROBI

Kenya is asking for spending cap waivers from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to use the Sh14.6 billion World Bank vaccine loan without breaching the deficit agreed with the multilateral lender.

Kenya’s fiscal deficit averaged 7.6 percent between June 2013 and June 2020 against a target of 4.0

percent but now the IMF has put stiff targets including the amount Kenya can borrow to finance the gap under the 38-month programme.

The programme, however, offers flexibility to address social and emergency spending with the approval of the multilateral lender. Kenya signed the vaccine deal with the World Bank in June but the lender is yet to dis-

burse the loan saying the billions of shillings will be released to the Treasury once Kenya meets certain undisclosed conditions.

IMF Article IV documents, review of government accounts that led to the release of the additional Sh29 billion this month shows that the multilateral lender’s approval was necessary for the government to spend the cash.

“The flexibility built into

the programme conditionality caters to this need by allowing Kenya to execute its Covid-19 vaccination programme without facing undue constraints,” Treasury told the IMF.

“We thus request modification of the end-June 2022 ceiling on the primary balance to accommodate the use of the Covid-19 related resources made available from the World Bank (\$130 million),” Treasury said.

The World Bank and the IMF are playing a role in shaping policy that would require the government to implement tough conditions across many sectors. The conditions come on the back of their multi-billion shilling loan facilities to Kenya where money flows straight into the budget to top up the public purse.

Under the administration of former President Mwai Kibaki, Kenya kept away from this type of credit, with most of the support from institutions like the IMF and the World Bank coming in the form of project support. Kenya has recently faced a deteriorating cash-flow situation, marked by stagnant revenues, worsening debt service obligations, and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Kenya is banking on the World Bank loan to speed up its vaccine programme to inoculate the entire adult population by end of next year. The loan would allow Kenya to buy vaccines to complement the COVAX programme and bilateral donations to support the vaccination

programme would help move Kenya even closer to its objective of vaccinating 10 million people by end-2021 and all adults by end-2022.

The government has received 23.2 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines and has inoculated 8.9 million adults out of 47 million Kenyans. About 5.3 million Kenyans have had a first jab and only 3.5 million are fully vaccinated, according to the Ministry of Health.

The World Bank financing will help Kenya buy vaccines through an African Union facility set up for that purpose, as well as through COVAX, the global scheme for sharing vaccines equitably. The cash will also be used to boost Kenya’s cold chain facilities for storage of vaccines, training of health personnel and other associated activities.

Kenya requires Sh34 billion to ship in 36 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines by June next year when it expects to have 16 million people inoculated. Donors will provide Sh20 billion, leaving Kenya to seek Sh14 billion from taxes and donors like the World Bank.

COVAX, which is led by the GAVI vaccines alliance along with the WHO and other partners, aims to deliver over 1.3 billion doses to 92 lower- and middle-income countries, covering up to 20 percent of their populations. Kenya will offer the Covid-19 vaccine shots free of charge to its citizens, but will pay \$7.70 (Sh853.70) per shot of the vaccines as negotiated under the COVAX facility.



Kenya Treasury Cabinet Secretary, Ukur Yatani.



## CALL

# IEEE chief urges engineers to devise innovative solutions for development challenges

By Francis Kajubi

**L**OCAL scientists have been urged to work on innovative solutions that will contribute to easing the cost of living for low income earners in the country.

The call was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Tanzania Chapter Chairman, Dr Dennis Mwigusa when closing a two-day workshop that brought together experts from higher learning institutions and researchers who discussed simple and affordable science driven-solutions to solve challenges facing the community.

In a statement released Dr Mwigusa urged local scientists and researchers to come up with innovative solutions addressing challenges facing low income bracket people. Dr Mwigusa said it is high time for the country's professional engineers to join hands in finding long lasting solutions to challenges slowing down human development.

"We need to collaborate and find solutions to various challenges by using technology. IEEE Tanzania Chapter has set plans that will empower students and other professionals for self-employment solutions," he said.

According to him, the African economy is growing at a fast pace and thus there is high demand for innovative products and services hence the need for serious investment in human capital which has a long lasting solution.

"We at IEEE want to adopt a culture that will allow our members to think more independently and be self-employed rather than looking for employment after graduating. We plan to give free takeaways and research manuals to members, especially students at the universities" the IEEE Chairman added.

In his welcoming address, co-founder of IEEE Tanzania Chapter, Dr Zaipuna Yonah said intellectual capacity should answer challenges



IEEE Tanzania Chapter's chairman, Dr Dennis Mwigusa.

facing human development.

"We need to meet and talk about solving challenges. Advancing technology will be the only solution for humanity to do so. We need to apply our knowledge to turn challenges into opportunities," Dr Yonah said.

He asserted that IEEE and its members inspire a global community to innovate for a better tomorrow through highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities. IEEE is the trusted voice for engineering, computing and technol-

ogy information around the globe.

The institute and its organizational units engage in coordinated public policy activities at the national, regional and international levels in order to advance the mission and vision of securing the benefits of technology in development work.

## ENDORSEMENT

## IMF praises Mozambique for prudent policies

MAPUTO

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has praised Mozambique's prudent economic management at a time when the country faces severe challenges.

Following an IMF Staff Visit to Mozambique, which concluded on 16 December, a statement released by the head of mission, Alvaro Piris, pointed out that "the Mozambican economy is recovering from a sharp contraction, following several years of economic shocks".

Piris added that "a modest but broad-based recovery is taking hold in 2021. After real GDP contracted in 2020 - the first contraction in 30 years - growth resumed in early 2021 and is expected to reach 2.2 per cent for the year. Robust growth in agriculture and mining was complemented by a modest recovery in services as COVID-related restrictions were eased. Seasonal factors, supply-chain constraints, and international food and fuel price increases led inflation to rise to 6.8 per cent year on year in November, remaining within the Bank of Mozambique's target of less than ten per cent."

Mozambique has been hit by the twin crises of the Covid-19 global pandemic and Islamist terrorism in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, and Piris pointed out that "the Covid pandemic, and the conflict and humanitarian emergency in the north of the country are intensifying fragility."

"Two large waves of Covid infections in the first and third quarters of 2021 prompted strict confinement measures, lowered incomes, and resulted in the loss of schooling for an already vulnerable population", Piris added. "Terrorist attacks have caused thousands of deaths and displaced more than 800,000 people in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, with many in the northern region suffering food insecurity."

## CUSHION

## IFC signs deal to insure Bank of Africa SME loans

NAIROBI

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has signed a deal to provide Bank of Africa Kenya with cover against losses on loans to SMEs as the lender looks to scale up its funding for small businesses.

The IFC, which is the private sector lending arm of the World Bank, said that the facility will cover 50 percent of losses on all eligible loans that Bank of Africa Kenya (BOA Kenya) extends to SMEs, up to the shilling equivalent of \$5 million (Sh650 million).

The agreement will also see the IFC provide the tier-three bank with advisory services on how to mitigate risk as it shifts into the SME ending segment, which is deemed one of the riskiest in the banking sector.

"IFC's risk-mitigation product, combined with general and targeted advisory services support, will help BOA Kenya decrease risk and scale up its lending to SMEs in its most challenging markets. Also, it will help us transform into an SME-focused bank with branches across Kenya," said BOA Kenya managing di-

rector Ronald Marambii.

The loans under guarantee will largely target women-led businesses and those focused on addressing climate change. BOA Kenya, which by the end of 2020 held a market share of 0.72 percent in the Kenyan banking industry, held a loan book of Sh15 billion as at September 2021, having shrunk from Sh17.23 billion a year earlier.

It reported a profit after tax of Sh4.58 million in the nine months to September 2021, reversing a loss of Sh217.9 million reported in the corresponding period in

2020. The IFC programme is supported by the Global SME Finance Facility (GS-MEF), which is a partnership between IFC and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Also lending support is the Women Entrepreneurs Opportunity Facility (WEOF), a global finance facility dedicated to expanding access to capital for women entrepreneurs, was launched in 2014 by IFC through its Banking on Women program, and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women.



Bank of Africa Kenya Managing Director Ronald Marambii.

## INVESTMENT

## African e-learning entrant Edukoya attracts US\$3.5m investment

LAGOS

Africa-focused online learning platform Edukoya has raised US\$3.5-million in a pre-seed round led by Target Global with strategic participation from angel investors including European and African founders.

According to a statement released by Edukoya, the investors included Shola Akinlade - CEO and co-founder of Paystack (acquired by Stripe), Babs Ogundeyi and Musty Mustapha - founders of Kuda, Brandon Krieg and Ed Robinson - founders of Fintech Stash and Raffael Johnen - CEO of Aux Money among others.

Launched in December 2021, Edukoya is currently operating in beta, with a focus on Nigeria. The platform says the new funds

- which it claims is the largest pre-seed round for an African EdTech platform to date - will enable the transition from beta to live launch in 2022, as well as expansion of the team, the growth of its user base and the building out the technology for Edukoya's learning platform, including support for its Pan African and European developer hubs.

The platform incorporates features that are targeted at Nigerian secondary school learners including 24/7 Exam Preparation & Homework tutor help, a data driven question bank with step-by-step solutions and personalised performance tracking systems. Edukoya asserts that quality education is expensive and out of reach for millions of

African learners. According to data from the World Bank, African households spend 20-25% of their annual GDP per capita on education.

Speaking about the new funding, Honey Ogundeyi, Founder and CEO of Edukoya said: "Our vision at Edukoya is to redefine online education for the next generation of Africans. Africa has the fastest-growing school-age population globally, with over 260M students and counting. Our goal is to democratise access and make high quality instruction and content accessible and affordable to every student, regardless of where he or she lives on the continent"

Lina Chong, Investment Director at Target Global, said, "We are delighted to lead this invest-

ment and partner with Honey and her impressive team of education technology pioneers. Edukoya's mission to provide better quality to millions of African Students, combined with the team's ability to execute on this ambition, left an immediate impression on myself and the whole team at Target Global. Their business has the potential to unlock learner potential and improve lives across generations".

Edukoya plans to use its pre-seed funds to go from beta to live launch in Nigeria by 2022. It will also accelerate its product and technology as well as expand its online curriculum content coverage and on demand tutoring feature for secondary school learners.



Honey Ogundeyi, founder and CEO of Edukoya.



OUTSTANDING

# The best-selling smartphones of 2021

LONDON

More than 1.04 billion smartphones were sold in the first three quarters of this year, almost 88.6 million more than in the first nine months of 2020, according to technology research and consulting company Gartner.

After a double-digit surge on a yearly basis in the first two quarters of 2021, global smartphone sales declined by 6.8 per cent annually in the third quarter of this year. The Covid-19 pandemic-induced shortage of key components such as radio frequency and power management integrated circuits, delayed smartphone production globally that led to a decline in sales in the July-September period, according to Gartner. "This disrupted the supply-demand equilibrium and end-users were burdened with limited choices at point of sale," it said.

Despite the prevailing market constraints, challenging business ecosystem and dismal business outlook, some smartphone models have continued to perform

strongly. Here are the top seven best-selling smartphones in the first three quarters of the year, according to industry observers Counterpoint Research and International Data Corporation, whose research did not reveal the exact number of units sold for each model. iPhone 12

Apple's iPhone 12 became the world's best-selling 5G smartphone in the first nine months of the year, according to industry data. Despite a delayed launch owing to the coronavirus-led supply chain disruptions, the 5G-enabled iPhone 12 managed to attract more customers. It was released on October 13 last year, along with three more models - the iPhone 12 mini, iPhone 12 Pro and iPhone 12 Pro Max.

**Galaxy A12**  
Launched late last year, Galaxy A12 is one of the Samsung's most-selling budget smartphones.

With a 16.5cm display and quad-camera system on the rear, the A12 model has a powerful battery of 5,000 milliampere-hour that is enough to last more than two days between charges. The



Along with high-end smartphones, Samsung regularly launches budget devices such as Galaxy A12 to attract more customers.

company said it comes with a defence-grade Knox security platform and is supported by a side fingerprint sensor.

**iPhone 11**  
The iPhone 11, which was introduced in September 2019 at Dh2,949 in the UAE, still attracts buyers, more than two years after its launch. Of-

fering a low-cost, entry level iPhone allowed Apple to increase its presence in a wider array of price bands - a strategy that competitors Samsung and Xiaomi have been employing for years. This image provided by Apple shows the new iPhone 12 Pro Max and its price, which Apple unveiled Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020. The iPhone 12 and

12 Pro will be available starting Oct. 23; the Mini and the Pro Max will follow on Nov. 13. (Apple via AP)

**iPhone 12 Pro Max**  
Priced at Dh4,699 in the UAE at the time of launch, the iPhone 12 Pro Max has a 17cm display, the largest yet in the history of Apple smartphones. It also has the brand's highest resolution of about 3.5 million pixels. Its 5G compatibility made it a big hit among professional users and buyers looking for a bigger screen.

A 5G network promises an internet speed of up to 1.2 gigabits per second, which will gradually reach 10Gbps - 100 times faster than 4G. Both new Pro models in Apple's 12 series have an industry leading IP68 rating and can withstand being submerged in water up to six metres for about 30 minutes.

**Xiaomi Redmi 9A**  
Launched last year, Chinese manufacturer Xiaomi's budget phone Redmi 9A managed to grab huge market share in India - the world's second-most populous country. It was the sixth-most selling smartphone globally in the January-September period.

Donning a 16.6cm display, Redmi

9A comes with a 5000mAh battery that delivers two days of uninterrupted connectivity, the company said. Its artificial intelligence-driven face-unlock feature ensures instant unlocking with a glance.

"The feature gives quick, secure and convenient access to your smartphone using intelligent face recognition system," Xiaomi said. In July 2018, Xiaomi went public on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange with a valuation of \$54 billion. It is known for its affordable devices that draw comparisons with Apple and Samsung phones.

Xiaomi Redmi Note 9 was the seventh most-selling phone during the first nine months of this year. It is equipped with a high-performance octa-core processor with a maximum frequency of 2.0GHz and a GPU (graphics processing unit) frequency of 1,000MHz for improved efficiency.

It comes with a HyperEngine technology to offer a seamless gaming experience to users. There is an AI-backed four-camera setup on the rear and a 13MP in-display front camera to click selfies even during the low-light.

PROTECTIONISM

## China imposes new curbs on offshore IPOs from restricted sectors

BEIJING

Chinese firms in industries banned from foreign investment will need to seek a waiver from a negative list before proceeding for share sales.

China will impose new restrictions on offshore listings by firms in sectors that are off-limits to foreign investment, a move that could plug a loophole long used by the country's technology industry to raise capital overseas.

Chinese firms in industries banned from foreign investment will need to seek a waiver from a negative list before proceeding for share sales, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on Monday. Overseas investors in such companies would be forbidden from participating in management and their total ownership would be capped at 30%, with a single investor holding no more than 10%, according to the updated list effective January 1.

The overhaul represents one of the biggest steps taken by Beijing to tighten scrutiny on overseas listings after ride-hailing giant Didi Global proceeded with its New York initial public offering despite regulatory concerns over the security of its data. While regulators stopped short of a ban on IPOs by companies using the so-called Variable Interest Entities (VIE) structure, the new rules would make the process more difficult and costly.

"For companies that seek to list under the VIE structure, the move may affect their decision as to choosing the listing destinations," said Xia Hailong, a lawyer with Shanghai-based Shenlun law firm. "They used to have no obstacle to overseas listing, but now they'll surely face much tougher scrutiny and the path to overseas IPOs will

be much more difficult."

VIEs have been a perennial worry for global investors given their shaky legal status. Pioneered by Sina Corporation and its investment bankers during a 2000 IPO, the VIE framework has never been formally endorsed by Beijing. It has nevertheless enabled Chinese companies to bypass rules on foreign investment in sensitive sectors, including the internet industry. The structure allows a Chinese firm to transfer profits to an offshore entity - registered in places like the Cayman Islands or British Virgin Islands - with shares that foreign investors can then own.

The requirements apply to new share listings and won't affect the foreign ownership of companies already listed overseas, according to the nation's economic planning agency. The move comes days after the China Securities Regulatory Commission proposed on Friday that all Chinese companies seeking IPOs and additional share sales abroad would have to register with the securities regulator. Any company whose listing could pose a national security threat would be banned from proceeding.

Companies using the so-called variable interest entities structure would be allowed to pursue overseas IPOs after meeting compliance requirements, the securities regulator said, without providing further details.

It's all part of a yearlong campaign to curb the breakneck growth of China's internet sector and what Beijing has termed a "reckless" expansion of private capital. Curbing VIEs from foreign listings would close a gap that's been used for two decades by technology giants from Alibaba Group Holding to Tencent Holdings to sidestep restrictions on foreign investment and list offshore.



The overhaul represents one of the biggest steps taken by Beijing to tighten scrutiny on overseas listings after ride-hailing giant Didi Global proceeded with its New York initial public offering despite regulatory concerns over the security of its data.



SATURDAY 18 Dec		SUNDAY 19 Dec		MONDAY 20 Dec		TUESDAY 21 Dec		WEDNESDAY 22 Dec		THURSDAY 23 Dec		FRIDAY 24 Dec		SATURDAY 25 Dec		SUNDAY 26 Dec	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto Wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Shika Bamba 5	10:00	Mwangaaza	10:00	Shika Bamba	10:00	Shika Bamba	10:00	Shika Bamba	10:00	Shika Bamba	10:00	Shika Bamba	10:00	Shika Bamba	10:00	Shika Bamba
10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:30	ITV Top 10	10:30	Mjue Zaidi	10:30	Mjue Zaidi	10:30	Mjue Zaidi	10:30	Mjue Zaidi	10:30	Mjue Zaidi	10:30	Mjue Zaidi	10:30	Mjue Zaidi
11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:35	Bongo Movie rpt	11:10	Chetu ni chetu	11:10	Chetu ni chetu	11:10	Chetu ni chetu	11:10	Chetu ni chetu	11:10	Chetu ni chetu	11:10	Chetu ni chetu	11:10	Chetu ni chetu
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:00	ITV TOP 10	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Korean: Jumong	12:05	Al Jazeera	12:50	Korean: Jumong	12:50	Korean: Jumong	12:50	Korean: Jumong	12:50	Korean: Jumong	12:50	Korean: Jumong	12:50	Korean: Jumong	12:50	Korean: Jumong
13:30	Soap: Love to Death rpt	13:30	Kipindi cha kikristo	13:30	Soap: Love to Death	13:30	Soap: Love to Death	13:30	Soap: Love to Death	13:30	Soap: Love to Death	13:30	Soap: Love to Death	13:30	Soap: Love to Death	13:30	Soap: Love to Death
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe	14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	15:45	Igizo: Rebeca	15:45	Igizo: Rebeca	15:45	Igizo: Rebeca	15:45	Igizo: Rebeca	15:45	Igizo: Rebeca	15:45	Igizo: Rebeca	15:45	Igizo: Rebeca
16:15	Igizo: Rebeca	14:30	Mwangaaza	16:15	Igizo: Rebeca	16:15	Igizo: Rebeca	16:15	Igizo: Rebeca	16:15	Igizo: Rebeca	16:15	Igizo: Rebeca	16:15	Igizo: Rebeca	16:15	Igizo: Rebeca
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	16:30	ITV Top 10	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu	17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	17:30	Jiji Letu	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00	Jungu Kuu	18:15	Mapishi	19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba	18:30	Matukio ya wiki	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari	19:30	Igizo: Rebeca	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari
21:00	Igizo: Rebeca	20:00	Habari	21:00	Igizo: Rebeca	21:00	Igizo: Rebeca	21:00	Igizo: Rebeca	21:00	Igizo: Rebeca	21:00	Igizo: Rebeca	21:00	Igizo: Rebeca	21:00	Igizo: Rebeca
21:30	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:30	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:30	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:30	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:30	Art and lifestyle
22:00	ITV TOP 10	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	22:00	ITV TOP 10	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	22:00	ITV TOP 10	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	22:00	ITV TOP 10	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	22:00	ITV TOP 10
22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:10	Mizengwe	22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:10	Mizengwe	22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:10	Mizengwe	22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:10	Mizengwe	22:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt	21:30	Mjue Zaidi	23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt	21:30	Mjue Zaidi	23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt	21:30	Mjue Zaidi	23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt	21:30	Mjue Zaidi	23:45	Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15	DWTW	22:15	Bongo Movie:	01:15	DWTW	22:15	Bongo Movie:	01:15	DWTW	22:15	Bongo Movie:	01:15	DWTW	22:15	Bongo Movie:	01:15	DWTW
		00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt			00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt			00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt			00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt		
		02:05	Al Jazeera			02:05	Al Jazeera			02:05	Al Jazeera			02:05	Al Jazeera		

CAPITAL

Sat 18 Dec		Sun 19 Dec	
08:00	Al Jazeera	08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt	09:00	In good shape
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt	10:00	Capchat rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt	11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt	11:30	Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
11:00	Out n'about rpt	12:00	Jagina rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt		
12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt		
12:30	Our Earth rpt		
13:00	Business edition rpt		
13:30	Korean Drama rpt: Emperor Of The Sea		
	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death		
	Tanzania Yetu rpt		
	Bundesliga kick off		
	Capchat rpt		
	Mizengwe		
	The Decor		
	Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea		
	Out n' About		
	Movie: The Sound of Murder (tape no:5865)		
	Series rpt: Beats of Love		
	Al Jazeera		



## WORLD

## UN chief calls for global solidarity to stop infectious diseases

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for global solidarity to stop infectious diseases.

In his video message for the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, which falls on Dec 27, the UN chief said that building global solidarity would "give every country a fighting chance to stop infectious diseases in their tracks."

COVID-19 continues to demonstrate how quickly "an infectious disease can sweep across the world," pushing health systems to the brink and upending daily life for all of humanity, the UN chief said.

"It also revealed our failure to learn the lessons of recent health emergen-

cies like SARS, avian influenza, Zika, Ebola and others," said the secretary-general.

"And it reminded us that the world remains woefully unprepared to stop localized outbreaks from spilling across borders, and spiraling into a global pandemic," he said.

Noting that infectious diseases remain "a clear and present danger to every country," Guterres maintained that COVID-19 would not be the last pandemic for humanity.

Even as the world responds to this health crisis, he spelled out the need to prepare for the next one.

"This means scaling-up investments in better monitoring, early detection and rapid response plans in every coun-



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

try - especially the most vulnerable," he said.

"It means strengthening primary health care at the local level to prevent collapse...ensuring equitable access to lifesaving interventions, like vaccines for all people and ... achieving universal health coverage."

The first International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, marked on Dec. 27, 2020, was called for by the UN General Assembly to advocate the importance of the prevention of, preparedness for and partnership against epidemics.

Xinhua

## Historical roots strengthen China's plan for future

BEIJING

THERE is no greater guide for the path we find ourselves on today than the road which we have already traveled.

While China has increasingly become synonymous with innovation and a future-oriented outlook, the momentous milestones reached in 2021 had a single underlying theme of an entirely different nature - history.

In 2021, China celebrated the centenary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), launched a campaign for encouraging the study of the Party's history, and convened a pivotal meeting at which a landmark resolution on the Party's century-long history was passed.

"Looking back on the Party's 100-year history, we can see why we were successful in the past and how we can continue to succeed in the future," said Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

PARTY CENTENARY

The CPC celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding on July 1, as its top leader declared that China had realized the first

centenary goal of "building a moderately prosperous society in all respects," and that the Chinese nation is "advancing with unstoppable momentum toward rejuvenation."

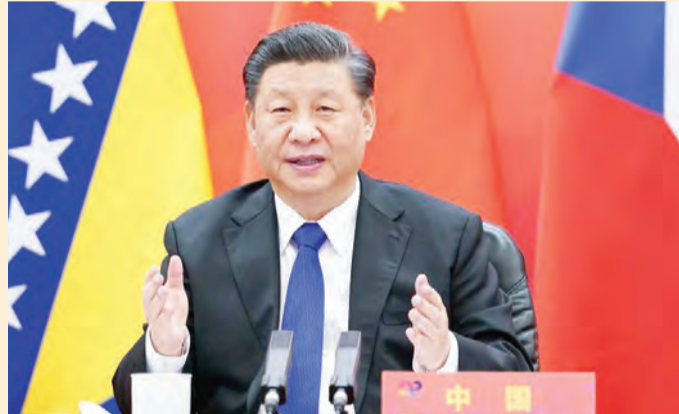
This declaration marked the country's successful elimination of absolute poverty, a scourge that had plagued the Chinese people for millennia.

Back in 2012 when Xi was elected to the Party's top post, there were nearly 100 million Chinese living under the poverty line. Since then, a monumental anti-poverty campaign was launched on a scale unseen anywhere in the world. Over the eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents had all been lifted out of poverty.

Combined with its poverty-reduction results since the late 1970s, China is responsible for over 70 percent of the global reduction in poverty over the period, World Bank statistics showed.

In 1921 when the CPC was founded, it had just over 50 members. Today, with more than 95 million members in a country of more than 1.4 billion people, it is the largest governing party in the world with tremendous international influence.

Yet the remarkable achieve-



Chinese President Xi Jinping

ments of the Party did not come from nothing; they were earned through persistent struggle and made possible by the great strength drawn from its founding spirit.

At the Party's centenary gathering, Xi spoke at length on this founding spirit. It is comprised of the principles of upholding truth and ideals, staying true to the Party's original aspiration and founding mission, fighting bravely without fear of sacrifice, and remaining loyal to the Party and faithful to the people.

As the country embarks on a new journey toward realizing the second centenary goal of developing China into a great modern socialist country by the mid-21st century, the founding spirit will serve

as a constant source of strength.

HISTORICAL LEGACY

On June 18, inside the hall of the Museum of the CPC, Xi, raising his right fist, led other senior leaders in reciting the Party admission oath in front of the Party flag: "It is my will to join the CPC...I will fight for communism for the rest of my life."

Xi thus called on all Party members to revisit the Party's historical legacy and draw strength from its century-long history for the journey ahead.

"The Party's history is the most vivid and convincing textbook," Xi said while visiting an exhibition on Party history debuted at the newly inaugurated museum ahead of the centenary of the

CPC.

The officials immersed themselves in the exhibits, files, photos and videos on display, including the manuscript of Karl Marx's notes from Brussels and recreated scenes of the first CPC National Congress.

Earlier this year, the Party launched a campaign for encouraging the study of the Party's history, as the country stands at a critical juncture where the timeframes of its two centenary goals converge.

Xi himself has set an example in this campaign. From a historical battlefield along the Xiangjiang River to cave dwellings of revolutionary significance in Shaanxi, and the "Red Building" of Peking University, which served as the base of the New Culture Movement and a cradle of the May 4th Movement, this year Xi visited countless places that had been instrumental to the Party's rise, as he has done throughout his political career.

By reliving both the glory and hardship of the Party, its over 95 million members have pooled their wisdom, strengthened their unity and boosted their confidence and morale during the campaign.

Xinhua

## Russian-Slovenian relations develop despite COVID-19 pandemic - envoy

LYUBLJANA

THE ties between Russia and Slovenia have developed despite the COVID-19 restrictions which were in effect in 2021, Russian Ambassador to Slovenia Timur Eyvazov told TASS yesterday.

"Despite the conditions that we had, primarily due to the COVID-19 restrictions, despite all these challenges we have managed to achieve a lot and, in general, the Russian-Slovenian relations are developing well," the Russian envoy noted.

Speaking about the significant events, which took place in 2021, Eyvazov mentioned the annual ceremony at the Russian Chapel under the Vrsic Pass, which was attended by numerous representatives of Slovenia's political, cultural and social circles, including President Borut Pahor.

The Russian delegation was headed by Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly Konstantin Kosachev.

This, in my opinion, is a very important and major event, which reflects the positive ties

that we have preserved and are supporting between the peoples of Russia and Slovenia," the envoy said.

Eyvazov also recalled the Moscow talks between the Russian and Slovenian top diplomats, Sergey Lavrov and Anzhe Logar, which took place in May this year.

According to the Russian ambassador, in 2021, several rounds of inter-ministerial consultations were held, including at the level of deputy ministers.

"Of course, I would also like to emphasize that we resumed

the work of our intergovernmental commission after an almost two-year break.

A meeting of the co-chairs took place in October. The Slovenian side was represented by Minister of Economic Development and Technology Zdravko Pochivalsek and the Russian side - by Minister of Agriculture Dmitry Patrushev. [Following the talks], a plan to boost cooperation in the field of agriculture was signed.

Currently, we are planning to hold a full-format session of the intergovernmental commission early next year," the

Russian envoy revealed.

**Despite the conditions that we had, primarily due to the COVID-19 restrictions, despite all these challenges we have managed to achieve a lot**

Xinhua

## DR Congo launches cholera vaccination campaign targeting 2 million people

KINSHASA

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) on Monday launched a massive cholera vaccination campaign targeting 2 million people aged one year and above in three eastern provinces to halt an outbreak of the disease, according to health officials.

The campaign is being carried out in Haut-Lomami, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces, the most affected areas by cholera since August, and will cover 13 health zones with about 4 million doses delivered by the Global Task Force on Cholera Control.

Around 3,600 health workers, including vaccinators and community mobilizers, have been deployed to carry out the campaign which will run for six days. Since the start of the year, the DRC has reported a total of 8,279 suspected cholera cases and 153 deaths in 16 of the country's 26 provinces.

"Cholera is a dangerous infection that can kill within hours if untreated, but it is predictable and preventable. In addition to the vaccines, which are one of the effective measures against the disease, we are also providing clean water and reinforcing hygiene and sanitation to prevent the outbreak from spreading further," said WHO Officer in charge in the DRC Amedee Prosper Djigumde.

The ongoing vaccination is DRC's second massive campaign this year. In March and July, more than 1.4 million people were vaccinated against cholera in the southeastern Haut-Katanga province.

Cholera is a highly contagious disease transmitted through contaminated water or food. It causes severe diarrhea and dehydration that must be treated immediately to prevent death, which can occur in just a few hours, and to prevent the large-scale spreading of the disease in a high-risk environment.

Disease surveillance, improved water, sanitation, and hygiene services as well as early detection, treatment and vaccines are crucial in preventing cholera and containing the spread of the infection. Coverage with a two-dose oral cholera vaccine provides up to five-year protection.

Xinhua

## Indonesia says detects first locally transmitted Omicron case

JAKARTA / SYDNEY

INDONESIAN health authorities were conducting contact tracing yesterday after detecting the Southeast Asian country's first case of the fast-spreading Omicron coronavirus variant in the community, health ministry official Siti Nadia Tarmizi said.

The first confirmed case was a 37-year-old male who was from the city of Medan and had visited a restaurant in Jakarta's central business district earlier this month, Tarmizi told a news conference.

The man had no recent history of overseas travel or contacts with international travelers, Tarmizi said, adding he was asymptomatic and was in isolation at a Jakarta hospital, after he had initially isolated at home.

Earlier this month, President Joko Widodo urged people to stick to health protocols after authorities said that an employee at an isolation hospital in Jakarta had tested positive for the variant.

Health authorities say that there have been 47 confirmed cases of Omicron in Indonesia, mostly imported cases of the variant, which experts say in initial studies appears to be more contagious but less virulent than previous variants. Australia

Australia recorded another surge in COVID-19 infections on Tuesday as an outbreak of the highly infectious Omicron variant disrupted a staged reopening of the economy, while state leaders argued over domestic border controls.

The three most populous states, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, reported just under 10,000 new cases between them the previous day, putting the country on course to eclipse the previous day's record total of 10,186 cases.

The country's five other states and territories, which have also been experiencing flareups of the virus, were yet to report figures.

The new outbreak has also fueled a resumption of fractious domestic politics which defined much of the pandemic as some states resist calls to remove internal border controls.

NSW, home to Sydney and a third of Australia's 25 million population, called on neighboring Queensland to shift from mandatory clinical testing to on-the-spot rapid antigen testing for people travelling to the tourist-popular state following complaints of hours-long wait times.

NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard said a quarter of his state's PCR tests were "tourism tests", causing enormous pressure of the health system, extraordinary long testing queues and wait times for results, sometimes for days.

Queensland has promised to review its border testing rules from Jan 1, but Hazzard urged Queensland to drop the rule immediately.

Agencies

## Tutorial system to improve competence of young rural officials

TO accelerate rural vitalization, Puyang city in central China's Henan province has piloted a tutorial system targeting grassroots officials including chiefs of the Communist Party of China (CPC) branches of villages with a relatively weak collective economy and newly elected village Party chiefs.

The new system is aimed at giving play to the exemplary role of outstanding officials and helping relevant villages with Party affairs, administrative affairs of village, industrial development, as well as village governance.

A total of 410 villages in 32

townships of six counties (districts) have been selected for the pilot system, under which 482 officials were designated as "tutors" and 483 officials as "students".

"Don't rush into construction after land transfer. You must make a good overall plan first," Li Liancheng, an experienced Party chief of Xinxinhuang village, Puyang county, Puyang city, told Liu Enzhao, chief of the Party branch of Shuocun village, Puyang county, while teaching the latter how to make solid plans and increase the collective income of his village.

"The planning process may sound like a lot of work, but with reasonable planning, you will see your project go smoothly with nothing needing to be redone. In this way, you are actually moving faster," Li explained.

Liu planned to transfer land-use rights in the village so as to concentrate the land for developing industrial projects. However, the 31-year-old newly elected Party chief lacked experience in formulating high-quality plans for projects.

Under Li's guidance, Liu has led officials of his village to make steady progress in promoting

the development of relevant projects. They first established specialized farmers' planting cooperatives and integrated about 26.67 hectares of scattered cultivated land, and then planted seedlings of over 20 tree species for afforestation, laying a solid foundation for increasing the village's collective income as well as the income of villagers.

"Thanks to the guidance from Lu Wushen, our village has avoided some detours in the construction of the edible mushroom base and found viable paths to development and increasing people's income," said Liu Jiufeng, Party

chief of Lishawo village, Qingfeng county of Puyang city.

Lu, secretary of the CPC branch of Xizhaolou village, Qingfeng county, played a leading role in the building of edible mushroom base in the village, and has been providing guidance for Liu to speed up the development of the collective economy of Lishawo village since the pilot tutorial system was launched.

Besides assigning outstanding officials to help with the development of villages with sluggish collective economy, Puyang city has also arranged for professionals and technicians to provide

guidance for village officials and help solve problems in financing, technical support, and the sale of products, effectively facilitating the development of characteristic industries, stimulating the economy of villages, and increasing the income of villagers.

In order to provide grassroots officials with a platform for more extensive exchanges, Puyang city instructed townships participating in the pilot system to hold a meeting once a month to enable "students" to share their experience and exchange ideas on the effects of the tutorial system.

People's Daily



## South Africa study suggests Omicron could displace Delta

BUENOS AIRES / ADDIS ABABA / BRASILIA -

RESEARCH by South African scientists suggests that Omicron could displace the Delta variant of the coronavirus because infection with the new variant boosts immunity to the older one.

The study only covered a small group of people and has not been peer-reviewed, but it found that people who were infected with Omicron, especially those who were vaccinated, developed enhanced immunity to the Delta variant.

The analysis enrolled 33 vaccinated and unvaccinated people who were infected with the Omicron variant in South Africa.

While the authors found that neutralization of Omicron increased 14-fold over 14 days after the enrolment, they also found that there was a 4.4-fold increase in neutralization of the Delta variant.

"The increase in Delta variant neutralization in individuals infected with Omicron may result in decreased ability of Delta to re-infect those individuals," the scientists who conducted the study said.

The results of the study are "consistent with Omicron displacing the Delta variant, since it can elicit immunity which neutralizes Delta making re-infection with Delta less likely," they said.

According to the scientists, implications of this displacement would depend on whether or not Omicron is less pathogenic compared to Delta. "If so, then the incidence of COVID-19 severe disease would be reduced and the infection may shift to become less disruptive to individuals and society."

Alex Sigal, a professor at the Africa Health Research Institute in South Africa, said on Twitter on Monday that if Omicron was less pathogenic as it looked to be from the South African experience, "this will help push Delta out". Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Argentina almost doubled on Monday from Friday to 20,263 new infections, according to the country's health ministry.

istry, the highest daily tally in almost 6 months as the Omicron variant spreads around the world.

On Friday, the government had registered 11,181 new cases of the virus. While it publishes daily case counts on weekends, those numbers tend to be lower than on weekdays.

Argentina's government has not said how many of the new cases could be tied to the highly transmissible Omicron variant, which also has been detected in most neighboring countries. Paraguay reported its first case on Monday.

The recent spike is still well below Argentina's record day for new infections. On July 1 it reported 41,080 new cases, according to Reuters data.

Still, deaths have not spiked in Argentina, according to the health ministry. The country has vaccinated 70 percent of its population with two doses and is currently offering booster shots to frontline workers and citizens over 60 years old. Brazil

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro will not vaccinate his 11-year-old daughter against COVID-19, he said on Monday, maintaining the firm anti-vaccine stance that has drawn criticism from public health experts and hit his poll numbers.

The right-wing leader added that the nation's health minister, Marcelo Queiroga, will divulge on Jan 5 the manner in which Brazil will carry out its coronavirus vaccination campaign for 5 to 11-year-olds, which was approved earlier this month.

"Children have not been dying in a way that justifies a vaccine for children," he told reporters in the southern state of Santa Catarina.

Vaccination of children has been a hot topic in Brazil, where Bolsonaro's core supporters have fervently opposed the measure, even as the vast majority of the population supports vaccines.

In October, national health regulator Anvisa said its workers had received death threats regarding the issue. When Anvisa approved shots for 5 to 11-year-olds, Bolsonaro provoked controversy by saying he wanted to make public the names of the officials who had signed off on the approval.

## Report: Fires erupt in Syria's Latakia port after Israeli attack

CAIRO

FIRES erupted in Syria's Latakia Port's container storage area following an Israeli missile attack, Syrian state media reported yesterday.

The attack, the second in December, damaged facades of a hospital, some residential buildings and shops.

"The Israeli 'aggression' caused big materialistic damages and assessing its results is still a work in progress", the Syrian defense ministry said in a statement.

Israel has mounted frequent attacks against what it has described as Iranian targets in Syria, where Teheran-backed forces including Lebanon's Hezbollah have deployed over the last decade to support President Bashar al-Assad in Syria's civil war.

Live footage aired by the Syrian State TV showed flames and smoke in the containers area.

"Fire fighters are trying to put the fires off while ambulances arrived at the scene," the state TV reporter said.

Latakia, a Mediterranean port, is Syria's main commercial port.

Russia, which has been Assad's most powerful ally during the war, operates an air base at Hmeimim some 20 km (12 miles) away from Latakia.

On Monday, Syria condemned Israeli plans to double within five years the number of Jewish settlers in the Golan Heights captured from Syria in 1967 as a "danger-



A handout picture released by the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) shows firefighters battling the blaze at Syria's Latakia port after an Israeli air strike early on Dec 28, 2021. (SANA / AFP)

ous and unprecedented escalation".

Israel's cabinet approved a blueprint on Sunday to build some 7,300 additional housing units on the strategic plateau in a move that could tighten its hold on the territory.

"Syria strongly condemns the dangerous and unprecedented escalation by the Israeli occupation authorities" in the Golan, the state-run SANA news agency said, adding Damascus would seek to use all legally available means to retake the territory.

Speaking to Syrian TV station al-

Ekhbariya, foreign minister Faisal Mekdad called Israel's actions against Syria "criminal" and said they violated the 1981 UN Resolution 497 declaring Israel's effective annexation of the Golan as "null and void."

Mekdad also said that the United States is stealing natural resources from Syria and imposing illegitimate sanctions.

The US forces, with the help of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) militia, continue to steal the Syrian oil, wheat, and cotton, he said.

He said the SDF, with the assistance of the US forces, is holding 60,000 people in the al-Hol refugee camp in northeastern Syria, noting that the SDF is stealing the aid that is sent to the refugees.

He also claimed that US sanctions against Syria are "illegitimate" and aimed at destabilizing the country.

Agencies

## Libyan parliament calls for new roadmap for elections

TRIPOLI

A COMMITTEE of the Libyan House of Representatives on Monday called for a new roadmap to hold successful elections and form a new executive authority, after the elections scheduled on Dec 24 were postponed.

"A new roadmap must be drawn up, set with durations and stages and not with dates, within a constitutional framework, in order to hold a successful electoral process and to ensure acceptance of its results," the committee said in a report.

The committee stressed the need to "initiate the amendment of the draft constitution through a technical committee appointed by the House of Representatives with fair participation of the High Council of State."

It also highlighted the demand to "restructure the executive authority to achieve stability, which the current authority (Libyan Government of National Unity) has been unable to achieve."

The High National Elections Com-



Libyans celebrate the 70th anniversary of their country's independence, despite widespread disappointment over the postponement of the presidential elections, which were scheduled to take place on the same day, in Martyrs' Square, Tripoli, Libya, Dec 24, 2021. AP

mission has announced a proposal to postpone the presidential elections to January 2022, instead of Dec 24, 2021.

Thus, the House of Representatives formed a committee to pro-

pose a roadmap after Dec 24, aimed at considering several proposals to address the failure to hold the elections on time, in addition to determining the fate of the current interim government.

The elections are part of a roadmap adopted by the UN-sponsored Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, in order to restore stability in Libya following years of political division and insecurity. Xinhua



A woman is vaccinated against COVID-19 at the Hillbrow Clinic in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Dec 6, 2021. AP

By Wang Guan

## China to lower import tariffs on 954 products beginning 2022

CHINA will implement provisional import tariffs lower than the most-favored-nation (MFN) rates on 954 products starting from Jan. 1, 2022, announced the Customs Tariff Commission of China's State Council on Dec. 15.

To ease the financial burden on patients and improve people's well-being, the country will eliminate tariffs on a radium chloride injection, a new anticancer drug, and reduce tariffs on some imported medical products, including intracranial stents and prosthetic joints.

To satisfy people's needs for a better life, conform to the trend of consumption upgrading, as well as encourage more people to engage in ice and snow sports so as to create a sound atmosphere for the upcoming Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, China will cut import tariffs on high-quality aquatic products like salmon and cod, baby clothes, dishwasher, skiing gear, and some other consumer goods.

Besides, it will implement zero tariffs on oil paintings that are more than 100 years old and other types of artwork to meet people's demands for cultural consumption.

To improve environmental quality and promote green and low-carbon development, the country will lower customs duties on imported gasoline particulate filters and electronic throttles, which can



Consumers buy imported goods at a fair featuring products introduced into China via the China International Import Expo (CIIE) on Nanjing Road Pedestrian Street in Shanghai, Nov. 5, 2021. File photo

improve the fuel efficiency of vehicles and reduce their exhaust emissions, as well as peat that can be used for soil remediation.

To drive the optimization and upgrading of the manufacturing industry, China will

cut import tariffs on high-purity graphite accessories, high-voltage cables for high-speed trains, membrane electrode assemblies and bipolar plates of fuel cells, and other key components.

The country will also cut the

import tariffs on raw materials required by the food processing, daily chemical, and leather manufacturing industries, including cocoa beans, essential oils from plants, and animal fur. Besides, it will reduce import duties on pyrite, pure

potassium chloride, and other resource products in short supply at home.

Such tariff adjustments, which are based on China's development needs, help maintain the safety and stability of domestic industrial and supply

chains, supporting the cross-cycle smooth operation and long-term sound performance of the economy, optimizing resource allocation, facilitating scientific and technological innovation and industrial transformation and upgrading, and pushing ahead with green and low-carbon development, pointed out Xu Guangjian, a professor at the School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China.

To continuously advance higher-level opening-up, China will, according to the free trade agreements and preferential trade arrangements signed with relevant countries and regions, impose conventional tariff rates on some products from 29 countries or regions next year.

China will also lower its tariffs under its free trade agreements (FTAs) with New Zealand, Peru, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Iceland, South Korea, Australia, Pakistan, Georgia, Mauritius, and the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and China-Cambodia FTA will take effect on Jan. 1, 2022, under which the country will cut tariffs on imports from relevant countries.

Under the high-profile RCEP, China and Japan will carry out tariff reduction arrangements for the first time, which will undoubtedly bring about new op-

portunities for both countries, according to Cui Fan, a professor at the School of International Trade and Economics, University of International Business and Economics.

After the RCEP agreement takes effect, the tariff reduction among members will help promote regional trade and investment growth, elevate the level of economic integration in East Asia, consolidate and promote the integration of regional industrial, supply, and value chains, and boost members' confidence in post-COVID-19 economic growth, Cui said.

The RCEP will also enable China to give full play to the advantage of its super-large market, actively participate in reshaping the global industrial chain, build a globally oriented network of high-standard free trade zones, and advance higher-level opening-up, he added.

Starting from July 1, 2022, China will implement the seventh MFN tariff concession on 62 products covered by the Information Technology Agreement expansion. After the adjustment, China's overall tariff level will remain at 7.4 percent, the same as that of 2021.

Next year, China will continuously apply preferential tariff rates to goods from the least developed countries that have established diplomatic relations and completed the exchange of notes on establishing diplomatic relations with China.

People's Daily





Aboutwalib Mshery. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

## Mtibwa Sugar ready to negotiate with Yanga over goalkeeper deal

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MTIBWA Sugar goalkeeper, Aboutwalib Mshery, is on the verge of leaving the club despite the outfit's reluctance to let the 22-year-old shot-stopper go.

The Manungu-based team is now willing to negotiate with Yanga that is reportedly seeking the youthful keeper's sign on the deal.

Earlier, Yanga spoke to Mshery and Mtibwa Sugar about having the goalie head to Yanga but Mtibwa Sugar insisted that it still needs the goalkeeper so he could not be sold at any cost.

Mtibwa Sugar claimed that its squad is currently in the transition period in the league so it cannot let go of Mshery as he is one of the key players in the squad.

The outfit is languishing at the bottom of the ongoing NBC Premier League with seven points from 10 games.

This is a busy market for Yanga which is in the process of roping in a new keeper after the squad's number one goalie, Djigui Diarra, was named in Mali national soccer side's squad for

the 2022 AFCON finals set to kick off on January 9.

If this deal fails, Yanga is willing to go abroad to find a competent goalkeeper but the outfit is seeking to find out whether Mtibwa Sugar would reach an agreement with the former on Mshery's transfer.

Reports from Mtibwa Sugar state that after all that, Mshery told his club's officials that his mind is on the Yanga deal and asked to be sold but the administration is not willing to let him go. Mshery wrote a letter asking for termination of his contract with Mtibwa Sugar and the side then called Yanga to settle the issue.

Mshery signed a two-year contract with Mtibwa Sugar at the start of this season, the contract will expire at the end of next season.

The termination of a contract between a club and a player on the latter's demand requires the footballer to pay the outfit 20m/-.

Mshery is willing to pay Mtibwa Sugar so he can join Yanga but the Morogoro club now wants to renew talks with Yanga



Tanzania's senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' players pictured before playing one of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations finals' ties in Egypt.

## SBL continues to pour support in sports development in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

THE year 2021 ends on quite a sound note for the sports sector in Tanzania, especially in soccer, in which the local soccer fans have experienced some of the most exhilarating moments exhibited by not only the local football clubs but also the national soccer men's and women's teams that have regaled the country with admirable performances.

"Jogo bonito" (the beautiful game) in Portuguese, is the synonym popularized by the Brazilian football legend, Pele—the game of soccer continues to delight scores of fans across the globe and however the term one might refer to it (football, le foot, soccer, 'mpira wa miguu')—it is considered the world's beautiful game.

It is this beautiful game that has made Tanzanians proud, with the men and women national teams recording a fantastic run in their respective fixtures throughout the year.

The senior national men's soccer team, Taifa Stars, for instance, qualified for and participated in the African Nations Championships (CHAN) finals held in Cameroon early in the year and gave a good account of themselves.

Taifa Stars, buoyed by the sponsorship from Serengeti Premium Lager, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL)'s pre-

mier beer brand, continued to grow in strength as the year wore on, registering a string of successes in their fixtures for the qualification for the Qatar 2022 World Cup finals.

Taifa Stars' sponsorship by Serengeti Premium Lager, SBL's flagship beer, appears to bear the proverbial silver bullet that has catapulted the team to higher echelons of achievement.

Tanzanians remember with pride that under the beer brand's sponsorship Taifa Stars qualified, after 38 years of being in the continental soccer abyss, for the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals held in Egypt in 2019.

The roaring success was mainly attributed to a 2.1bn/- pumped into the team, in 2017, by SBL through its famed tippie, a shot-in-the-arm that rejuvenated and motivated the team and its management—and they did not disappoint the sponsor.

The sponsorship did not stop there with the expiry of the three-year contract for, Serengeti Premium Lager, in a show of confidence and solidarity with the team, once again sealed an agreement with the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), the country's soccer governing body, this time increasing the sponsorship kitty to a whopping 3bn/-, thus continuing the team's current fairy tale of displaying an exciting soccer show that's a darling of its die-

hard supporters.

Equally, in women's soccer, it's an exciting tale of successes from the sponsor.

It is a tale of 'firsts' in which SBL's Superbrands-award-winning beer brand, Serengeti Premium Lite, supported the Mainland Women Premier League.

The sponsorship deal, sealed by the brewer and TFF in 2018, made history by making the brewer/brand the first-ever sponsor of the league since its inception.

Once again, the sponsor's magic wand started to manifest itself because, shortly after the signing of the contract, the once somber league sprang from its 'slumberland', reinventing and reviving itself, leading to the emergence of some of the most competitive clubs from across the country.

To cap it all, these clubs have produced fantastic players who comprise the senior national women's soccer team, Twiga Stars.

And now, the industrious Twiga Stars did the incredible recently when the team was this year crowned the Council of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) Women's Championships' winners after trouncing all opponents in an exciting tournament held in South Africa.

Needless to say, SBL's sponsorship of these teams and other sports that include golf and athletics has not only highlight-

ed the brewer's love for sports but also demonstrated the beer brewer's quest to support the development of the country's sports sector.

Johnnie Walker Vodka, marketed by SBL, is the main sponsor of the General Waitara Golf Tournament, which takes place in Dar es Salaam.

Additionally, the support is a great boost for the youths, who comprise the majority of participants in sports.

It gives them the requisite exposure, provides them with an ideal opportunity to showcase and develop their talents as well as gives them a lifeline because the sports sector, especially soccer, can raise the standards of living of the players due to its global appeal and besides, it is a multi-billion dollar industry.

According to global market statistics, the global soccer market size reached a value of nearly \$ 383.3 billion in 2020, increasing at a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 3.5 % since 2015.

It is further forecasted that the global soccer market will grow at a CAGR of 18.3 % from 2021 to 2027.

The SBL will continue being a big stakeholder of sports in Tanzania, partnering with other stakeholders in supporting the development of sports through offering both financial and moral support.

## Aucho left out of Uganda's team for international friendlies

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

UGANDA's national soccer team 'The Cranes' head coach, Milutin Sredojevic 'Micho', has named a 23-man squad for international friendly games against Gabon tomorrow and Mauritania in January.

'Micho' has named midfielder, Chris Pius Akena, in the squad for the first time, with Khalid Aucho of Tanzania's Yanga and Emmanuel Okwi of Rwanda's Kiyovu being left out.

Akena, who plays for Ahly Shabab FC, which participates in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Premier League, has shocked many soccer fanatics in Uganda after getting the call-up to 'The Cranes' by coach 'Micho'.

Akena is one of three players named earlier in the squad along with URA FC midfielder, Shafik Kagimu, and BUL captain, George Kasonko.

The midfielder, former Maroons' star, who grew up at the Pro-Way Soccer Academy under the auspices of Aspire from Qatar, joined Ahly Shabab in January this year.

The midfielder has already won the UAE Pro-League title with Ahly Shabab's U-21 squad.

"Akena is a good player, after his success in the UAE we have decided

to call him in these two international friendly matches against Gabon and Mauritania. But we have also called Kagimu and Kasonko to complete the 23-man squad," 'Micho' said.

'Micho' has reinstated Mohammed Shaban, Patrick Kaddu, Makinda Juma, Jack Komakech (goalkeeper), Travis Mutyaba, goalkeeper Isma Watenga, and midfielder, Moses Waiswa.

The squad consists of goalkeepers, Isma Watenga (Chippa United, South Africa), Joel Mutakubwa (Express FC), and Jack Komakech (Vipers SC), defenders are Enock Walusimbi (Express FC), Gavin Mugweri (SC Villa), Abdulaziz Kayondo (Vipers SC), Juma Ibrahim (KCCA FC), Halid Lwaliwa (Vipers SC), Najib Fesali (URA FC) and Kenneth Semakula (SC Villa).

Midfielders are Chris Akena (Ahly Shabab, UAE), Moses Waiswa (Supersport United, South Africa), Martin Kizza (Express FC), George Kasonko (BUL), Shafik Kagimu (URA FC), Bobosi Byaruhanga (Vipers SC), Mahad Kakooza (Express FC).

The strikers are Yunus Sentamu (Vipers SC), Ibrahim Orit (Vipers SC), Travis Mutyaba (SC Villa), Patrick Kaddu (no team), Steven Mukwala (URA FC), Mohamed Shaban (Onduparaka).



Yanga midfielder, Khalid Aucho. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA





## Brighter days should be ahead for the NBA League

By TIM REYNOLDS

THE Utah Jazz leads the NBA League in a handful of categories. Most 3-pointers, just like they did last season. Most points per game. Most rebounds per game. They are also last in use of the word "protocols."

It is not accurate – yet – to say every team in the NBA has had a coronavirus problem this season.

No Jazz player has been on the league's health and safety protocols list yet this season, making Utah the only team yet to lose a player to a virus-related issue.

That is particularly impressive considering what's happening. Right now, 27 of the league's 30 teams are currently waiting for at least one player to come off the list, with some of those teams waiting for way more than one player to be cleared.

"I don't feel any particular pride," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said when asked about being the last team standing in the protocols race.

"I think we've been fortunate. We've tried to be smart about a lot of things. A lot of teams have done that, just in terms of raising a level of awareness. I think we've been fortunate. I also think it's kind of a knock-on-wood situation on some level."

He doesn't really think the run of luck will last. Snyder knows it's an "inevitability" that the Jazz will join the rest of the NBA.

The numbers around the league indicate that day is coming sooner than later.

December 2021 was a difficult month for the NBA, by any measure, probably the most difficult since March 2020.

That was when the decision to shut down happened on the night that Jazz center Rudy Gobert became the first player to test positive for COVID-19.

More than 500 players took the floor this month, a record for any month in league history.

Well over 100 players went into the protocols and the list of postponed games grew to nine.

The NBA had no choice but to basically allow teams unlimited hardship contract slots, agreeing to not have the emergency call-ups count against a team's salary cap or luxury tax numbers.

But just like any new year should, January will likely bring newfound optimism.

The league now has a shorter return-to-play plan in place for those who have tested positive.

It's reasonable to think the percentage of players who have received booster shots – 65% was the last known figure – will rise soon, especially since every team was ordered by the NBA to have an event to make them available to players, staff, and family members by Friday.

And even while well over 100 players tested positive in December, few were known to have much more than a bad case of the sniffles, probably in large part due to the league's 97% vaccination rate.

"We all want to get this all behind us," said Portland assistant Scott Brooks, who will coach the Trail Blazers while head coach Chauncey Billups is in protocols.

Brooks pointed to the silver lining he sees right now – the opportunities that the roster expansion has created for G League players and others to get into the league.

A great example of the newfound chances comes from Indiana and newly signed Keifer Sykes.

He's undersized, a 6-foot guard. Wasn't heavily recruited before enrolling at Green Bay to play college ball.

Had Summer League stints with Cleveland, Golden State, Denver, and Indiana. Went to training camp with the Pacers and San Antonio.

Played for a couple of G League teams in the U.S., plus the winner-take-all summertime event is known as The Basketball Tournament and has worn jerseys for pro teams in South Korea, Turkey, Italy, China, Greece, and Australia. And now, finally, he's in the NBA.

Sykes got the call from the Pacers on Sunday night. The first person he told was his mother, who wanted to scream in delight.

"Don't scream yet. I've got to pass the COVID test," Sykes told her. He passed. Mom can scream now.

"Happy for him," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "This is a great opportunity for him. This is his first official NBA stint and he's been an opportunist in his career. And I know he'll do well with it."

Even in rough times for many in the NBA, there have been stories worth savoring. A rough month is finally ending. The league can only hope that the best of this season is yet to come.

# Australia retains Ashes with win over England

MELBOURNE, Australia

AS Test cricket debuts go, it couldn't have been much better for Australia fast bowler Scott Boland.

Player-of-the-match Boland claimed the remarkable bowling figures of six wickets for seven runs as Australia beat England by an innings and 14 runs before lunch on the third day of the third Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

More importantly, the massive victory meant Australia retained the Ashes with a 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

Trailing by 82 runs on the first innings, England resumed on Tuesday on 31-4 and was bowled out for 68.

Boland, who claimed match figures of 7-55 and a record-equaling five wickets in 19 deliveries, is only the second Indigenous player to represent Australia's men's



Australia's Mitchell Starc (C) celebrates with teammates after bowling out England's Ben Stokes during the third day of their cricket Test match in Melbourne, Australia, on Tuesday.

test side.

He was given the Johnny Mullagh Medal for player of the match, an award which honors Australia's Indigenous team which toured England in 1868.

Australia has swept England 5-0 in an Ashes series three times, in 1920-21, 2006-07 and 2013-14.

"It's moments like these where everyone's clicking, everyone's playing really, that's what you want to really make the most of," Australia captain Pat Cummins said.

"Two more test matches, home conditions. A few of the guys were part of that whitewash series in 2013-14, there's a lot to look back on. We'll savor

this one and once we get to Sydney, we'll be back on the tools."

The fourth test starts Jan. 5 in Sydney and the fifth on Jan. 14 in Hobart.

Moved into the role after former captain Tim Paine's resignation for sending explicit texts to a co-worker, the 28-year-old Cummins is the world No. 1-ranked

test bowler. Now he's an Ashes-winning skipper.

"Winning early on in day three just doesn't happen at the MCG, so it's fantastic result," Cummins said. "To go 3-nil up, it's the first Ashes victory for a lot of guys in the team. It's just a great feeling."

England captain Joe Root, who scored 50 and 28 in the match to become only the third player in test history to score over 1,700 runs in a calendar year, appealed to his side's sense of pride.

"We need to put some pride back into the badge and we need to give people back home something to celebrate," Root said.

Root praised his bowlers for keeping his side in the match by restricting Australia's first-innings lead to under 100.

But Root admitted his side's batting was not good enough and questioned whether England's domestic competition was adequately

preparing players for the challenges of the five-day game.

"We have to stay strong and look at the next two games to take something from the tour," Root said at the post-match ceremony.

Players from both teams were tested for COVID-19 overnight Monday after four persons from the England touring group tested positive, delaying the start of play on the second day.

But play started on schedule on Tuesday after all the players had negative results – and proceeded for about 80 minutes until Australia quickly clinched the series.

Ex-England captain Ian Botham said he was "a little embarrassed" by his former team.

"To lose the Ashes in 12 days . . . I just think that England has lost their way," Botham said on Australia's Seven Network. "The performance today summed it up." AP

## Ralf Rangnick's Manchester United honeymoon is over, as struggles at Newcastle proved

NEWCASTLE, England

RALF Rangnick now knows the true magnitude of the job he has taken on as interim manager at Manchester United.

When he was not shaking his head on the touchline during a dismal 1-1 draw at Newcastle on Monday, Rangnick was rubbing his forehead in frustration.

The only positive for the man who replaced the dismissed Ole Gunnar Solskjaer earlier this month was that his team's second-half performance was better than its first – but it would have been virtually impossible for Man United to have been any worse.

"I didn't like the performance at all," Rangnick said. "Today we didn't control the game apart from a few moments. It's all about energy, physicality and who wins the second balls. In all those areas we weren't at our best. The good thing is we got a point but the performance needs to be better."

"You have to be ready and able to win those direct duels and this was not that often the case. When we were in possession we had too many giveaways and even with the goal, that doesn't make things easy."

Thanks to Edinson Cavani's 70th-minute equalizer, which canceled out Allan Saint-Maximin's seventh-minute opener, Rangnick was able to extend his unbeaten start as interim manager to four games, but Man United have failed to impress in any of their games so far under the former Schalke, Hoffenheim and RB Leipzig coach.

They have laboured to 1-0 wins against Crystal Palace and Norwich City and ground out 1-1 draws against Young Boys in the Champions League and now against Newcastle at St James' Park.

A new face in the manager's chair tends to spark an initial upturn

in performances and results as players who have failed under their predecessor find an extra level of commitment and quality in order to impress their new boss.

However, the bounce under Rangnick has been pretty flat, at best, and now that the novelty factor has worn off following a month in charge, we are about to find out just how good he is both as a coach and manager.

We already know about Man United's players. They showed their shortcomings during the run of four defeats in seven games, which cost Solskjaer his job.

What Rangnick must now do is find a way to make those same players raise their game consistently enough to get Man United back in the race for top four and Champions League qualification – but considering their awful, disjointed first-half display against Newcastle, it won't be an easy task.

There is some mitigation, of course, for Rangnick. This was Man United's first game for 16 days following a COVID-19 outbreak at Old Trafford, which led to the postponement of fixtures against Brentford and Brighton, so there was always going to be an element of rust against Eddie Howe's team.

But United have now been back in full training for a week, so there can be no excuses for the manner of their first-half display which saw them overrun by a Newcastle team that was given a football lesson in their last outing, when they lost 4-0 at home to Manchester City eight days earlier.

Newcastle, with just one win all season, dominated United in all areas of the pitch.

Cristiano Ronaldo was isolated up front as Newcastle nullified wingers Marcus Rashford and Bruno Fernandes.

Meanwhile, Jonjo Shelvey and Joelinton, converted from misfiring striker to box-to-box



Ralf Rangnick

midfielder by Howe, controlled the central third of the pitch against Fred and Scott McTominay

In defense, Harry Maguire and Raphael Varane played like novices at centre-half for Man United, with both losing their men and the ball on several occasions during an error-strewn performance.

There was no energetic and coordinated pressing by United, and certainly no control of the game.

All the while, Rangnick watched in a state of confusion and disbelief

as his hugely expensive team performed like a group of strangers.

It was not until Cavani, a half-time replacement for Mason Greenwood, entered the fray that United began to look like a team.

The former Paris Saint-Germain forward always brings a supreme work ethic and tenacity when he plays, and it rubbed off on his teammates.

His equalizer, after he had missed an earlier chance, gave United a chance to win the game, but they failed to take advantage and ended up

relying on goalkeeper David de Gea to earn a point with a stunning save to deny Miguel Almiron in stoppage time.

"Our biggest problem was the mistakes we made," Rangnick said.

"Even when we scored the equalizer were not really controlling the game and making the right decisions."

"In three days we have the next game [against Burnley]. We can do better but we have to do it. We shouldn't look for excuses – we need to

be better and get more physical."

United probably did enough to merit a draw against Newcastle, just about, but if Rangnick can't inspire an upturn in performances, they will struggle to get anything against the better teams in the Premier League.

Rangnick needs to ensure his backline defends properly and somehow find a way to get his midfielders to look as though they can control a game and dictate the tempo of play.

Fred and McTominay simply aren't good enough, and there is no point in anyone at United pretending otherwise.

The manager must also work out why Rashford's development has been stalled for 18 months now and why Jadon Sancho has been unable to replicate his Bundesliga form at Borussia Dortmund with United in the Premier League.

Rangnick is no fool, so he will know that jobs like the one at Manchester United don't become available when all is going well.

But he has a big reputation and Man United needs him to live up to it by reviving underperforming players and finding replacements for those who don't measure up.

The honeymoon period is definitely over, though. United has been failing for nearly nine years now and the problems run deep.

AGENCIES

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Australia retains Ashes with win over England**

PAGE 19

**TONIGHT @ 7:00**

**EATV WEDNESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Nirvana (r)  
16:00 Skonga (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

**EATV SAA 1**  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**eastafrika 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**

## Simba SC lands tricky group in 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup tourney



Simba SC midfielder, Hassan Dilunga (L), dribbles past Red Arrows FC midfielder, Alassane Diarra, when the clubs faced off in 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup pre-group stage playoffs' first leg in Dar es Salaam on November 28. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**T**ANZANIA'S Simba SC has identified its opponents in this season's CAF Confederation Cup's Group Stage after the showdown's draw was held in Cairo, Egypt yesterday.

Simba SC will come up against Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale of Niger, ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast, and RS Berkane of Morocco in Group D of this season's second tier of continental club tournaments.

The Msimbazi Street outfit stands to confront its former midfielder, Clatous Chama, and winger, Tuisila Kisinda, who used to play for the age-old rival, Yanga, last season.

The two players are currently featuring for the Morocco football big guns, RS Berkane.

Simba SC cruised to the Group Stage of the CAF

Confederation Cup after knocking Zambia's Red Arrows FC out of the playoffs, commanding a 4-2 aggregate victory to secure a Group D spot.

Simba SC opponents, Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale, made it to the Group Stage after commanding an aggregate win over DC Motema Pembe of DR Congo, while RS Berkane

beat Rwanda's APR FC 2-1 on aggregate.

Ivory Coast football giants, ASEC Mimosas, beat Angola's Interclub 5-2 on aggregate to secure a place in Group D.

The outfit has now emerged as the only Ivory Coast representative in the continental showdown.

The tournament, which debuted off in 2004, is expected to kick off next

year. Algeria's CS Sfaxien has clinched the tournament's trophy three times, Raja Casablanca, the tournament's current champion, has won it on two occasions.

South Africa's Premier Soccer League side, Orlando Pirates, has been drawn in Group B of the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup.

The Soweto giants will face Algeria's JS Kabylie and JS Saoura, and Al Ittihad SC of Egypt in their group.

In Group A, Pyramids FC of Egypt, CS Sfaxien of Tunisia, Zanaco FC of Zambia, and Ahli Tripoli of Libya will battle it out for a place in the quarterfinals.

Group C has former CAF Champions League champions and DR Congo football giants, Tout Puissant Mazembe, Coton Sport of Cameroon, Al Masry of Egypt and Congo Brazzaville's AS Otoho d'Oyo.

The draw for 2021/22 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League Group Stage was conducted at CAF Headquarters in Cairo the same day.

Pitso Mosimane, coach of Egyptian giants Al Ahly SC, assisted Khaled Nassar, CAF Head of Competitions in the draw that paved the way towards the Group Stage of the premier continental club competition.

Group A is made up of Al Ahly (Egypt), Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), Al Hilal (Sudan), and Al Merriekh (Sudan).

Group B outfits are Raja (Morocco), AC Horoya (Guinea), ES Setif (Algeria), and AmaZulu (South Africa).

Group C consists of Esperance (Tunisia), Etoile du Sahel (Tunisia), CR Belouizdad (Algeria), and Jwaneng Galaxy (Botswana).

Group D outfits are Wydad (Morocco), Zamalek (Egypt), Petro Atletico (Angola), and GD Sagrada Esperanca (Angola).

## Coach Nabi targets to recruit local players

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA'S head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, has said the side's registration in the mini transfer period is aimed at allowing more local players to prove their worth at the squad.

Nabi admitted he has been impressed with the talent the local players have.

He added that he is considering roping in local players to build a squad that will hold sway for a long time, regardless of whether he will still be at the club or not.

Yanga has completed the registration of only one player, midfielder Salum Abubakar, from Azam FC.

The experienced midfielder joins Yanga as a free agent after terminating his contract with the Chamazi-based outfit.

Nabi confirmed his plan shortly after an NBC Premier League match pitting Yanga against Biashara United which took place in Dar es Salaam last week and had the hosts notching a 2-1 win.

The Tunisian tactician revealed his side does not need many signings in the mini transfer period due to the excellent signings it made in the main transfer period.

Nabi noted he felt he needs to add some players due to injuries some of the footballers have sustained and the shortcomings he has seen in his team.

"We will sign but we will not rope in many players, we have defender Kibwana Shomary that is nursing an injury and he is going to Tunisia for surgery."

"We also have Yacouba Songne that will be out for a long time due to the recent knee surgery he had. These are the positions we need to fill this period."

"My priority has been set on young local players because I have seen that many Tanzanian players have great potential."

The Tunisian coach said the process of recruiting the players is in progress, with the registration committee working on it.

He revealed he cannot mention the players that are to be signed by the Jangwani Street club because some issues have not been completed.

Nabi said the league tie against Biashara United was tough as their opponents were eager to come out victorious.

The tactician said the Mara-based Biashara United's intent on coming out with victory was in view after the club got an early goal but his footballers showcased composure and won the game.

## Azam FC to miss trio in Simba SC clash



Azam FC attacker, Prince Dube. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

Ahead of their NBC Premier League clash against Simba on Saturday, Azam FC is set to be without defender, Bruce Kangwa, midfielder, Never Tigere, and striker, Prince Dube.

The trio is among 30 players in coach Norman Mapeza's Zimbabwe's national soccer team's provisional squad for the Africa Cup of Nations finals, which kicks off on January 9, 2022, in Cameroon. The footballers have reported for camp in Harare.

The trio is set to make its debut appearance at the AFCON finals if it will make it into the final squad.

Coach Mapeza will select his final 23 players today before the team departs for West Africa.

Dube has gate-crashed into the national side's provisional squad following a lengthy period on the sidelines.

He returned to action three weeks ago in Azam FC's goalless home draw with Kagera Sugar before netting his first goal of the season in a Federation Cup game against Green Warriors.

Speaking to the Zimbabwe press after a training session, Dube, who was Azam FC's last season's top scorer, expressed

his wish to do well and help his nation go far in the AFCON tournament.

"As a striker, my wish is to score in every game so that I make my nation happy and proud. As a striker, you are expected to score goals and this is what I wish to do," Dube disclosed.

"It's a great feeling to be called for the national team. Every time I'm called to the national team, it is an honour."

"It is important for me that when selected I play to help the team achieve its targets by scoring goals."

"It has been a tough time for me, I have been through a lot because of the injuries but what's important now is to focus on the job at hand."

"It's not about me alone but it's about the team which is very crucial," he added.

Zimbabwe's Warriors are in Group B together with Malawi, Guinea, and Senegal.

This will be Zimbabwe's third consecutive AFCON finals appearance.

The absence of the trio would leave responsibilities on other foreigners in the Azam FC squad that will be looking for a second consecutive victory following a convincing rout of Ruvo Shooting last weekend.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

NEVER MAKE A GIRL CRY!



YOU MIGHT RUIN HER MAKEUP!