



### National Pg 3 NHC moves to collect rent arrears



### National Pg 4 Agency happy with TASAF programme



### National Pg 5 Professionalism in the workplace



## Govt set for 3bn/- planes in locust swarms' aerial fight

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has allocated 3bn/- for purchase of aircraft to be used against locust swarms frequently surfacing and destroying crop fields and vegetation across wide areas.

Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (pictured) unveiled the plan here at the weekend, addressing reporters on achievements in the agriculture sector in the 60 years of independence.

Frequent appearance of the locusts has led the government to allocate funds for purchase of planes to boost the aerial safeguards in the sector, he stated.

"There is an organization for the fight against locusts based in Ethiopia, but there is a red locusts agency based in Zambia. Tanzania is a member in both of them and contributes funds for their operations," the minister explained, noting that when locust swarms appeared "we had the right to ask for assistance from them."

Despite membership in the two organisations, the country needs to have its own planes to fight the swarms promptly when they appear, he declared, pointing out that disasters brought by locusts can severely impair food security.



**We have received 2,000 tonnes of quality sunflower seeds to be distributed to farmers countrywide**

"The government has decided to strengthen its aerial defences in agriculture," he stated, affirming that the ministry used to have such facilities and would not reintroduce it, also moving to revamp landing strips for their operations.

As to the ministry strategic plans regarding agro-sector imports, he said its agencies are mobilised to strengthen strategic crops including sunflower for edible oil production.

"We have received 2,000 tonnes of quality sunflower seeds to be distributed to farmers countrywide, he said, elaborating that areas for oil palm cultivation are being readied in Kigoma Region to ensure adequate raw materials for higher edible oil tonnage.

"Currently, edible oil has gone up in price with the Covid-19 pandemic. We no longer depend on palm oil from Malaysia due to the year long Covid-19 lockdown that has cut down edible oil production," the minister affirmed.

The current labour force in the country's agriculture sector stands at about 58 per cent from 90 per cent at the time of independence, he added.

# EACOP project's food supply to be localised

By Getrude Mbago



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni (L) presents a symbolic key to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to formalise the handing over of Museveni Pre & Primary School in Chato district, Geita region yesterday.

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan and her Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni yesterday agreed to spur higher food supplies to meet anticipated demand during implementation of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The leaders said the project is a big opportunity for the agriculture sector and horticulture sub-sector in the two countries. Such a rare chance should not be squandered by resorting to food imports because of shortages.

Speaking during the launch of the Museveni Primary in Chato District, Geita Region, President Museveni said the two countries have suitable land for agriculture that can produce enough food to cover all needs during the EACOP project.

"I have discussed with President Samia to see how we can collaborate in the agriculture sector because we both have plenty of land suitable for commercial agriculture," he said, noting that both countries need to invest in greater food production for project needs and cut down expected food imports.

He said that the majority of Ugandans live on subsistence farming and not thinking taking up commercial agriculture. "We should now wake up and invest in agriculture as the government cannot do everything. Farming has a lot to give to improve people's lives," he declared.

The two countries also discussed how

TURN TO PAGE 2

## 'Omicron travel bans unjustified'

- South African infections rise from 500 per week to 2,800 last Sunday alone
- Government adviser projects rise to 10,000 a day within a week

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa has condemned travel bans enacted against the country and its neighbours over the new coronavirus variant, Omicron.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said he was "deeply disappointed" by the action, which he described as unjustified, urging that the bans be urgently lifted.

The UK, EU and US are among those who have imposed travel bans, as Omicron has

been classed as a "variant of concern". Early evidence suggests it has a higher re-infection risk, experts noted.

The heavily mutated variant was detected in South Africa earlier this

TURN TO PAGE 2

## TMA: Current rains ending the drought

By Guardian Reporter

RAINS filling across the country at present are sustainable, on the basis of an affirmation by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), urging people all over the country to continue following up on weather forecasts.

This affirmation takes up from TMA's assertion in October that said the sun was overhead with increased temperatures, while Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Ruvuma regions recorded high temperatures that contributed to drought, with livestock perishing in various areas.

In its October weather forecast, TMA said there would be a period of drought while rains were expected during the third or fourth week of November.

Currently heavy rains are being experienced in Dar es Salaam, Coast, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Rukwa regions.

Speaking to this newspaper yesterday, TMA Forecast Centre manager Samuel Mbuya said the rains that have started were envisaged in its October forecast, which similarly projected that rains starting late November would continue.

"There are no big changes to the pattern. We expect the rains to continue and spread to various areas," he stated, noting that TMA will continue to provide forecasts to enable people take the necessary precautions.

Due to the sharp drought in various areas of the country, religious leaders have been conducting prayers for rains while the

TURN TO PAGE 2



CRDB Bank Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela (3rd L) receives Best Financial Services award for digitalised services in East Africa from the director of foreign diplomacy and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Edwin Rutegaruka during the Consumer Choice Awards held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Others are CRDB Bank officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## EACOP project's food supply to be localised

FROM PAGE 1

residents in the two sides shall benefit from the oil project, he affirmed, extensively showing how Tanzania and Uganda are blood relatives in terms of how they speak and respective cultures.

He said the construction of the school doesn't mean that Tanzania has no funds, but just a sign of affection and unity existing between the two countries, with President Samia affirming that the Museveni Primary School was built with support from the Uganda government.

She said the Ugandan leader floated the idea of building the school to the late President John Magufuli, "so I will supervise it to ensure that quality standards are observed" like its being an English medium school serving children from various areas.

Tanzania and Uganda will continue to strengthen their relations in various areas for mutual benefit, she stated, pointing at Tanzania's intention to continue improving teaching and learning infrastructures to facilitate smooth provision of education.

The government's move to allow children who left school in various circumstances to resume studies will not affect the country's ethics as the government has thought the issue out very well, the president intoned.

"The decision will not in any way affect our education system but rather bring more positive outcomes as more children will have access to education," she declared.

"We should not take much time discussing this. Thinking that the government has taken a bad decision, no, we have thought about this very well before coming up with the conclusion," she emphasised.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, the Minister for Education, Science and Technology said the school will have capacity to accommodate 630 pupils and will commence enrolment in as month from now.

Handing over of the Museveni Primary School is being conducted while the sixth phase government is working hard to improve learning and teaching infrastructures.

"The government disbursed funds to facilitate construction of 15,000 classrooms in primary and secondary schools where 12,000 classrooms are for secondary and 3,000 for primary schools," she said.

Building the classrooms has facilitated all the 907,802 pupils who passed the 2021 Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) to be selected to continue with secondary education in public schools.

The government will continue improving curriculum to ensure that children receive the best and quality education suited to their future needs, the minister added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (R) receives international guidelines book for the Institute of Internal Auditors Tanzania (IIAT) president Zelia Ijeza after holding talks with the delegation at the State House yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has been called on to have in place a simplified system to enable farmers in the cooperative societies benefit from loans provided by Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) to compete in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The secretary general of farmers' forum sponsored by ActionAid Tanzania, Anastazia Madeje made the remarks here at the weekend when presenting issues raised at workshop on policies of the Malabo Resolutions and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Madeje said if farmers are empowered through the system they

## Farmers call on govt's help to access TADB loans

can produce high quality products and add value to the production.

He explained the government should invest in farming and crops storage as well as increasing its budget for research and technology in order to increase production and stir economic growth.

Madeje further said climate change is among big threats for sustainable development because it affects various sectors including food security.

She advised the Ministry

of Agriculture to reintroduce agriculture subjects and explore how best to formulate curricula for primary and secondary schools to prepare students understand how to confront climate change.

"The second Review Report of 2019 shoes that Tanzania did not perform well in its Pledges/Resolutions (No. 6) in regard to how to confront climate change, as one of the recommendations issued by the African Union (AU) is to have a budget for fighting the effects of

climate change," she said.

Receiving the report, the director of Food Security in the Ministry of Agriculture Dr Honest Kessy said as government they have received the report and admitted the existence of challenges including statistics on stakeholders' contributions in the agriculture sector.

However, he said the government will continue to boost seeds accessibility and follow better farming practices to enable farmers withstand free trade markets.

## TMA: Current rains ending the drought

FROM PAGE 1

electricity parastatal, TANESCO announced the reduction of power generation by 345MW or 21 per cent from three hydropower stations - Kihansi, Kidatu and Pangani.

In some areas power has started to be rationed while business units resort to the use of diesel generators for power, while TANESCO focuses on enhancing power generation

from natural gas to cover the deficit of around 358MW.

The Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) embarked on a rationing schedule as yield of water from River Ruvu plummeted. Efforts by the government to prohibit irrigation farming by pumping water from the river was also causing rising prices of vegetables, observers noted.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (3rd L) unveils a curtain to launch the Vocational Education and Training Authority in Chunya district, Mbeya region yesterday. Right is Education, Science and Technology deputy minister Omari Kipanga and left is VETA director general Pancras Bujulo. Photo: PMO

## TPSF mobilises Zanzibar traders to boost businesses

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has embarked on a project dubbed: Africa Franchising Accelerator (Afrap) to mobilise business people to boost their businesses in a joint system so as to be identified globally.

Afrap's advisor Wambugu Gichoni said when addressing reporters

based in Zanzibar on the functions of the institution.

He said the system is used worldwide but in Tanzania and the African continent the concept of its use is still not well known to traders, thereby restricting their sales.

He added that a small trader cannot access big markets but if he is linked to others through the modern online system will enable

a farmer, for example to access to major world markets.

He said lack of markets for goods produced in the country by small and middle entrepreneurs is among challenges that restrict their sales to global markets.

He said by working together with the Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, they are preparing special training to traders

to get those who can join up in the inclusive system.

For their part, traders in Zanzibar were pleased with the coming of the institution that aims to elevate them in business.

Ali Issa, one of the traders said as for now, business is hard due to the Covid-19 pandemic hence the institution has come at the right time.

## 'Omicron travel bans unjustified'

FROM PAGE 1

month and then reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) last Wednesday.

The variant is responsible for most infections found in South Africa's most populated province, Gauteng, over the past two weeks, and the number of cases "appears to be increasing in almost all provinces" in the country, WHO affirmed.

South Africa reported 2,800 new infections on Sunday, a rise from the daily average of 500 in the previous week.

Government adviser and epidemiologist Salim Abdool Karim said he expected the number of cases to reach more than 10,000 a day by the end of the week, and for hospitals to come under pressure in the next two to three weeks.

But Health Minister Joe Phaahla said there was "absolutely no need to panic." "We have been here before," he stated, referring to the Beta variant identified in South Africa back in December last year.

On Monday, Japan became the latest country to reinstate tough border restrictions, banning all foreigners from entering the country from 30 November, meanwhile as the WHO warned against countries hastily imposing travel curbs.

They should act on the basis of a risk-based and scientific approach, it said, as the agency's Africa director Matshidiso Moeti said with the Omicron variant now detected in several regions of the world, "putting in place travel bans that target Africa attacks global solidarity."

However, numerous bans have been introduced in recent days, with Rwanda and Angola being among the African states to restrict flights

to and from South Africa. South African Foreign Ministry spokesman Clayton Monyela described their decision as "quite regrettable, very unfortunate, and I will even say sad".

In his speech, President Ramaphosa said there was no scientific basis for the travel bans and that southern Africa was the victim of unfair discrimination.

The bans would not be effective in preventing the spread of the variant, he declared, underlining that the prohibition on travel will further damage the economies of affected countries and undermine their ability to respond to, and recover from, the pandemic.

He called on countries with bans in place to "urgently reverse their decisions... before any further damage is done to our economies," affirming that South Africa would not impose new restrictions.

It would undertake broad consultations on making vaccination mandatory for specific activities and locations, he emphasized, noting similarly that current regulations in South Africa make it mandatory to wear face coverings in public, and restrict indoor gatherings to 750 people and outdoor gatherings to 2,000.

There are no vaccine shortages in South Africa itself, and the president urged more people to get jabbed, saying that remained the best way to fight the virus.

Health experts said that Gauteng, which includes Johannesburg, had entered a fourth wave and most hospital admissions were of unvaccinated people.

Omicron has now been detected in a number of countries around the world, including the UK, Germany, Australia and Israel.

# NHC moves to collect over 26bn/- rent arrears

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Measures have been employed by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to collect rent arrears standing at 26bn/- and prevent further accumulation.

The instruction was given here yesterday by Dr Angeline Mabulaa, deputy minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development when opening NHC meeting with members of the Editors Forum (TEF).

The deputy minister said if the money is paid, will enable the Corporation to invest in various housing projects including 400 housing units in the country.

She also called on tenants occupying NHC houses but have no contract agreement contact NHC offices located in various regions to be given contracts.

She added that people have been earning money by renting its quarters to others at higher rent and the time is now to stop the malpractice.

"NHC you should stop contracts to your tenants who have rented the quarters to other people, because if you had rented the units yourselves you would have been getting a lot of money," she said.

She said for a long time now NHC has been building many houses and sold them and in the end it found itself with inadequate housing and that the government has vowed to change the practice, as now NHC will build more houses for rent

than for sale.

She said from now on 70 per cent of houses to be built by NHC will be for rent and 30 per cent for sale.

From its long time experience in the sector, as for now NHC has been tasked to build buildings for eight ministries in Dodoma including those for Lands and Home Affairs.

Others she mentioned include ministries of Energy, Minerals, Information and Communications Technology,

Sports and Culture, Industry and Trade and Livestock and Fisheries.

She said as for now NHC has 5.5trn/- capital and 18,622 housing units in various regions countrywide, hence it has the capacity to implement various housing projects as instructed by the government by using its four subsidiaries.

## CARS FOR SALE

Model	colour	Year of Manufacture	fuel use	seating Capacity
LANDCRUISER	BLUE	2000	PETROL	7 Seaters
FUSO	WHITE	2011	DIESEL	3 Seaters
HIACE	WHITE	2011	DIESEL	15 Seaters
GRAND VITARA	BLACK	2008	PETROL	5 Seaters
COROLLA				

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT.  
TEL: 784 282 995, 767 082 252



Defence and National Service minister Dr Stergomena Tax presents a success report of 60 years of her ministry to journalists in Dodoma yesterday towards Tanganyika's independence to be marked on December 9 next month. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Josepha

**NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID**  
actalliance

**EXTRACT OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is hereby publishing the extract of its audited financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The report discloses the state of financial affairs of NCA (the "Organization") for the period.

NCA is registered under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act no 24 of 2002 of Tanzania with registration number 00NGO/0025. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is a diaconal organization mandated by churches and Christian organizations in Norway to work with people around the world to eradicate poverty. NCA is committed to work with faith partners and other stakeholders to provide support that is both relevant and transformative. The 2020-2024 NCA Tanzania Country Strategy is inspired by and contributes to NCA's Global Strategy Faith in Action, which aims to save lives and seek justice.

During the reporting period, NCA received core funding from NORAD that builds strong partnerships and nurtures interfaith civil society to work together to empower Tanzanians so they can climb out of poverty and participate fully in society and to build inclusive and peaceful communities so that all Tanzanians may live with dignity. Additional funding for specific projects were provided by NORAD, Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE), DFID/FCDO and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) which complimented the NCA strategy by promoting multi-stakeholder cooperation, accountability, social cohesion, and empowerment of poor people, especially for women and youth. NCA also managed Norwegian public funds to support Haydom Lutheran Hospital (HLH) in Manyara. NCA delivered its interventions in Kigoma, Lindi, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Pwani, Zanzibar, Dodoma, Iringa, and Morogoro regions.

We hereby present the extract of audited financial statements for the year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 as required by the NGO Act No. 24 of 2002 as amended. The financial statements were audited by M/s PwC and they issued unqualified opinion on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Underneath is the summarized extract from the Audited Annual Statement ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Income from Donors	
NORAD - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	4,063,099,661
Accountability Tanzania – DFID/FCDO	604,345,060
NCA Restricted and unrestricted donations	425,066,737
The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania	249,604,397
United Nations Capital Development Fund - UNCDF	184,287,525
Other Funding Sources	110,574,446
<b>Total income (excluding partner implemented projects)</b>	<b>5,636,977,826</b>

Expenditures as represented by the above Income	
Gender Based Violence (GBV): Women and girls live empowered lives free from gender-based violence	1,441,216,534
Climate Smart Economic Empowerment (CSEE): Communities are lifted out of poverty and food security is ensured in a changing climate	1,779,259,264
Fighting Inequality (FI): Fair and equitable finance and redistribution of resources.	809,521,227
Interfaith Civil Society strengthening (ICSS) - Civil society actors are strengthened to foster human dignity and empower people to participate in the development and implementation of public policies and development plans	724,565,251
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) - Facilitate construction of water facilities and strengthen water user groups in Mbulu District	240,243,079
Grant management to Haydom Lutheran Hospital on capacity building, fundraising and advocacy for sustainability	378,361,195
Social cohesion and youth economic empowerment: Strengthened social cohesion and sustainable peace in Pemba	249,604,397
Contextual Project on Education	14,206,878
<b>Total Expenditure for the Period.</b>	<b>5,636,977,826</b>

The Financial Statements were approved for issue by NCA Tanzania management and signed on their behalf by:

Pauliina Parhiala  
 Country Director

PrayGod Nivocavity  
 Finance and Operations Manager

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**GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM**  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TANZANIA

**STATEMENT OF WORK**

<p><b>Job title</b> : Performance &amp; Analytics Team Lead - Consultant</p> <p><b>Location</b> : Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</p> <p><b>Purpose</b> : To provide supply chain performance monitoring &amp; evaluation and performance analytics consulting services to the Global Health Supply Chain Program – Technical Assistance, Tanzania (GHSC-TA-TZ)</p> <p><b>Duration</b> : Six (6) months after signing the contract.</p> <p><b>1. Background</b> The Global Health Supply Chain Program Technical Assistance – Tanzania (GHSC TA-TZ) project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides expert technical assistance to Tanzania to strengthen country supply chain systems across all health elements, e.g., malaria, family planning (FP), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH). In coordination with in-country and development partners, GHSC TA-TZ assists Government of Tanzania health programs by providing strategic planning and implementation assistance; improving the delivery of health commodities to service sites; providing capacity building support to broaden stakeholders' understanding and engagement of the supply chain system; and strengthening enabling environments to improve supply chain performance.</p> <p>The Performance and Analytics Team Lead (PATL) consultant will work under the administrative and technical guidance of the Deputy Chief of Party, and is responsible for leading the project in determining and documenting its own performance as well as the performance of the public health supply chain.</p> <p>S/he will work in collaboration with national stakeholders such as Medical Stores Department (MSD), the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC), and the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and the Ministry of Health of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. This position will be based in Dar es Salaam, with occasional travel.</p> <p><b>2. Objective</b> The PATL consultant will champion data use, analysis and data quality improvement efforts throughout the supply chain, and promote the use of data-driven decision-making to improve the supply chain.</p> <p><b>3. Tasks/Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create short advocacy pieces, utilizing compelling visuals on supply chain performance, for dissemination to local and international audiences</li> <li>• Leverage data from a range of existing systems (including eLMIS and DHIS2) to conduct statistical analyses and analyze the performance of the supply chain, highlighting pain points; link supply chain data with other health services data.</li> <li>• Elevate the use of supply chain data in programmatic decision making; identify barriers to data quality and use, and develop and implement recommendations for addressing them.</li> <li>• Provide technical input into dashboards from and across information systems, including eLMIS dashboards and the supply chain portal</li> <li>• Assist with the sampling, collection, cleaning, documentation and analysis of primary survey data for the project; assist with training</li> </ul>	<p>of data collectors in preparation for surveys and other field work.</p> <p><b>4. Timeframe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 months after contract signing.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Deliverables</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy pieces</li> <li>• Supply Chain performance analysis reports</li> <li>• Data prepared and reported into donor reporting systems per timeline i.e., DATIM and IPRS</li> <li>• Health Supply Chain KPIs automated through Health Supply Chain Portal and National DHIS2.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Place of Performance</b> Dar es Salaam</p> <p><b>7. Travel schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Position will require travels up to 30% of the period. Travel expenses will be covered per GHSC-TA travel policy</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Knowledge and Experience</b> Applicants for this consultancy should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An advanced degree/ Masters Degree in Health Informatics, Health Information Management, Statistics, Public Health, Pharmacy or other relevant field</li> <li>• Skills in SPSS, STATA, and other statistical software packages</li> <li>• Skills in data visualization tools, such as PowerBI, Tableau or Google Analytics</li> <li>• Strong analytical and problem-solving skills</li> <li>• Experience in logistics/supply chain management and or public health commodities management.</li> <li>• Proven experience in public health programs, with three years or more senior management experience preferred</li> <li>• Specific experience in HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, reproductive health and essential medicines programs strongly desired.</li> <li>• Proven track record in systems performance assessment and M&amp;E responsibilities, including development/implementation in PMP management and analytics</li> <li>• Proven strong leadership skills and ability to build strong interpersonal relationships</li> <li>• Ability to work on a team to develop strategies and manage implementation of projects</li> <li>• Ability to handle multiple tasks, set priorities and work independently.</li> <li>• Excellent technical writing and oral presentation skills highly desired</li> <li>• A proven ability to work as part of a team and to be self-managing</li> <li>• Knowledge of Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint</li> <li>• Experience managing a USAID funded contract or grant is a plus</li> <li>• Experience working with the Government of Tanzania and other NGOs preferred</li> </ul> <p><b>9. Application and Timelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All applications to be sent to <a href="mailto:ghsc.recruitmentz@gmail.com">ghsc.recruitmentz@gmail.com</a>.</li> <li>• Please indicate in the subject line "Performance and Analytics Team Lead - Consultant".</li> <li>• The work is expected to start once the contract is signed by the consultant.</li> <li>• Duration of activity is from about As Soon As Possible, <b>December 2021 or January 2022 latest</b>.</li> <li>• Bids have to be submitted by <b>December 15, 2021 17:00 EAT</b>.</li> </ul>
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## MNH conducts bone marrow transplants

By Guardian Reporter

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has announced that it has officially started conducting bone marrow transplants, making Tanzania the first country in East Africa to offer such service.

MNH executive director Prof Lawrence Museru told journalists yesterday that the hospital has conducted transplants on five patients who are now under special care.

Prof Museru said Tanzania joins the level of five other African countries that offer the services namely South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Nigeria.

"This is another milestone achievement, we expect to conduct transplants to four patients monthly because everything has been prepared to facilitate this including experts and infrastructure," he said.

The beginning of the services at MNH is good news to cancer and sickle cell patients who will now be relieved of pain and suffering accompanied by the diseases.

There are no official figures on people in need of bone marrow transplants but according to Prof Museru about 200 people line up for bone marrow transplants every year relying on figures from MNH.

It costs someone more than 250m/- to get the services in India and other countries but MNH will conduct the transplants at 70m/-.

The process to start the services began with a series of preparatory

stages including selecting and sending abroad for specialized training a team of experts from MNH including hematologists, oncologists, nurses and many others.

The services will be conducted at the hospital's Upanga and Mloganzila branches where he said the government issued 7bn/- last year to purchase necessary equipment and renovate infrastructure.

For her part, head of hematology department at MNH Dr Stella Rwezaura said all is set for super specialized services at MNH saying the hospital aspires to offer all the key services needed to reach out to the demand but also reduce costs that the country was incurring sending patients abroad.

This is another milestone achievement for the country's main referral hospital after several other successful establishments of key services in the last four years.

MNH has in recent years enhanced its capacity to provide major services whereby the first was Cochlea implant, interventional radiology, and kidney and liver transplant and now bone marrow transplants.

Kidney transplant was the second achievement in a row by the hospital after a successful cochlear implant surgery in June 2017.

The move reduces costs of liver transplant by 50percent. One successful transplant costs about 100 million that is for India which is taken as the cheapest.

## Swiss Agency happy with the TASAF programme

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) programme aimed at reducing poverty levels amongst community members in the country.

SDC delegation led by the director general Patricia Manzi visited some of the fund's beneficiaries at Wilunze village, Chamwino district in Dodoma region and applauded the programme, saying it is improving lives of the poor.

Others in the delegation included Swiss ambassador to Tanzania Didier Chassot, Peter Bieler, head of Eastern and Southern Africa Division, Leo Naschev, head of cooperation and Peter Sidier, head of domain employment and income.

Speaking soon after the visit, they were particularly happy with the cash payment programme, saying it is playing a big role in financially empowering the poor and supporting them with savings, which they use for income earning activities.

Manzi described the beneficiaries as people with a lot of strength and serious entrepreneurial that are taking serious steps to move out of poverty.

"Not Swiss government or TASAF can remove you out of poverty but through own determination, efforts and with little support you can make it" she said, calling on the beneficiaries to use the support wisely.

According to the DG, what SDC and other development partners are doing through TASAF to help change lives of the poor Tanzanians is just like lubricating a chain of a bicycle and the beneficiaries have to peddle for the bicycle to move.

She amazingly acknowledged that good ideas in Tanzania and Africa at large that need to be scaled up, stating that Swiss is ready to fuel those good ideas to be practical. "I'm impressed with what you do, what you are and what you want to be later", she added.

The SDC boss noted that they were eager to see what the corporation can do and after seeing and hearing from the beneficiaries, they were pleased and look forward to further support.

On his part, Ambassador Chassot said he was pleased that his country

is supporting poor Tanzanians through TASAF, adding that the programme is useful and efficient in helping uplift living standards of people.

"We are glad to support you through TASAF and it is very impressive to see and hear how the programme has touched lives of many people who could still be in abject poverty without it" said the ambassador.

TASAF's Executive Director, Ladislaus Mwamanga told the delegates that the fund's beneficiaries are happy with the programs because ideas come from them.

He expressed gratitude to the development partners who have been funding the program aimed at improving the living conditions of citizens.

"The government is fully committed in ensuring that programs are implemented for the benefit of the people. Already there are admirable achievements as TASAF has enabled many people in villages to engage in income generating activities, and being closer to social services like health and education facilities," said Mwamanga.

He cited one of the benefits as that of 782 students' beneficiaries of TASAF who have secured full students loan paid at the higher learning institutions and some 2500 currently in high schools are likely to follow suit as they join colleges and universities.

"It is the government plan that all needy students from poor households get support for education" he said, adding all Tanzanians deserve equal opportunities.

TASAF was established in 2000 as part of the government of Tanzania's strategy to reduce poverty. Implemented in phases, it focuses on improving social service delivery; capacity enhancement for communities, construction and rehabilitation of health care facilities, schools and other small-scale infrastructures; and community-based conditional cash transfers (CCT).

*"Not Swiss government or TASAF can remove you out of poverty but through own determination, efforts and with little support you can make it"*



Road Safety ambassadors from various regions visit the site of a road crash in 2017 that saw Lucky Vincent 32 students and 3 teachers dead at Rotya Hill in Karatu district, Arusha region in 2017 during the event to mark the Road Safety Week. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

By Correspondent James Kandoya

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni has expressed satisfaction about Tanzania's economy thriving through the improvement of infrastructure including the ongoing construction of the Standard Gauge Rail (SGR).

President Museveni said that over the weekend after visiting the construction of the SGR one the strategic projects in the country.

He said one of the factors that had contributed to Tanzania's economic growth was improvement of rail infrastructure and the team spirit of the people.

President Museveni said further that rail transport was the only best and cheapest means of transport as well as saving time adding that it will help to improve the economy of the East African countries.

For his part, the Minister for Works and Transport Prof Makame

## Museveni: Tanzania economy doing well

Mbarawa said the construction of the SGR will connect the port of Dar es Salaam and port Bell in Uganda which is crucial for the economic development of the two countries through Lake Victoria.

Also, Mbarawa said SGR will fast track the loading and unloading of cargo and reduce congestion at the two ports.

The minister said the government continues to improve and construct new rail infrastructure in order to increase the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) carriage capacity.

"Tanzania government has invested in renovating old rail tracks and constructing new in order to cope with advancement growth of economy in the EAC member countries," he said.

TRC managing director Masanja

Kadogosa said currently the government was implementing the first phase of the project from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza region (1219 kilometres).

He said once it was co, SGR will help to promote the economic growth and reduce transportation cost by 40 percent.

"Transport using the SGR will simplify and reduce wastage of time adding that it can transport up to 10,000 tonnes per trip," he said.

Additionally, Kadogosa said TRC has also revived the transportation of fuel from Dar es Salaam to Kampala, Uganda by a rail.

Also, efforts were still on the way between TRC and Uganda Railway Corporation to improve rail transport for mutual benefit of the two countries through ports.

"Recently, TRC has re-established

the transportation of fuel from port of Dar es Salaam via lake Victoria to Port bell in Uganda adding that up to date, it has transported 72 tanks equivalent to over 3.2 litres million," he said.

He said the construction of the SGR, for Dar es Salaam-Morogoro section had reached 95 percent, Morogoro-Makotopora had reached 75 per cent and Isaka-Mwanza had reached 3.87 per cent.

According to him, the Makotopora-Tabora section and Tabora-Isaka section were in the preparation and when it was over, the construction would kick start.

President Museveni is on a three days state visit where among others participated in a business forum between Tanzania and Uganda, of which the main focus was on oil and gas sector.



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (C) speaks to Lushoto district officials after his visit to inspect construction of classrooms at Shambalali school in the district yesterday. Right is Lushoto council director Ikupa Mwasoyge. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

## '16 girls expelled from school due to teen pregnancy now re-called'

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SIXTEEN girls in Shinyanga district, Shinyanga Region whose lessons were discontinued due to pregnancy, have now been enrolled back in schools to enable them realise their dreams.

Shinyanga district community development officer Aisha Omari revealed at here at the weekend at a training seminar that aimed to assess the implementation of

the National Strategic Plan against gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse in the district.

She said during last year's school vacation due to Covid-19 pandemic, some girl students in the district were married off while others were impregnated hence discontinued with studies. She added that the district authorities made efforts looking for them and when found they were returned to schools to continue with their education.

"Some of the 16 students who were impregnated and discontinued with their lessons, 11 were sent to study in the informal system in AGAPE school in Shinyanga town, the school that provides education for girl students who were impregnated, while others were similarly taken to study in Nzego town," said Omari.

She added: "These students are cared by the district council from its internal revenues; we meet their school fees obligations including

food, because they are all in the boarding school, since they were rejected by their parents, as they denied them to get livestock as bride price."

For his part, Neema Msangi, coordinator of projects follow up from women fund Tanzania (WFT) said in the war against gender based violence and child abuse, the society is still needed to be more educated to abandon oppressive traditional customs.

By Guardian Reporter

## 'Our Vocational Colleges can address youth unemployment'

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that the government has decided to build vocational colleges in the country so that youth can acquire various skills and enable them to be self-employed.

Majaliwa made the remarks when speaking yesterday soon after inspecting and laying the foundation stone for the construction of a technical college in Chunya district, Mbeya region.

He ordered the construction to be completed on time so that the government's objectives of ensuring that the people have access to vocational education at the college are met.

Majaliwa said the government has

decided to build these vocational colleges to open the doors of employment as the training provided will enable actors to be self-employed in various sectors including manufacturing. "I urge the people to continue to have faith in your government."

He also instructed Mbeya Regional authorities to ensure that Mbugani village where the college is being built there are all social services—clean and safe water and electricity are in place.

Vocational Education and Training Authority (Veta) Director-General, Dr Pancras Bujulu said the project

has a total of 17 buildings which are an administrative building, four garages, a classroom building, two dormitories, a food court, three toilets, a college principal's house, a house for two staff members, a building for electrical installations, storage building, and guard building.

Dr Bujulu said when completed, the college is to start with six long-term professions including computer science, tailoring, and fashion design, masonry, home electronics, automotive mechanics as well as welding, and metallurgy. He said the cost of building the college is 1.6bn/-.



Suma JKT together with Kinondoni militia demolish petty traders' stalls at Mwenje in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday as captured by our roving photographer. Photo: Correspondent Mudy Mnzava

By Guardian Reporter

## CHRAGG extols govt's move to allow girls to attend school after giving birth

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has commended the government move to allow pregnant school girls to continue with formal education after delivery.

"As a commission, we commend the government for this important decision, which guarantees all children the right to a fair education," said CHRAGG deputy chairman Mohamed Khamis Hamad.

"This move is commendable because it takes into account the international legal requirement for all governments to provide education for all children without any discrimination. It also removes Tanzania from the group of a few African Union (AU) member states that continue to exclude pregnant girls from education," he said, adding:

"This decision is also a positive step towards the implementation of the African Economic and Social Development Strategy (Agenda 2063) which aims to build human capital through sustainable

investment in education.

It is also the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aims to ensure that no one is left behind in development and to ensure inclusive and quality education for all."

However, CHRAGG suggested the need for the government to work with various education stakeholders to develop and review policies, laws, strategies and guidelines that will guide the implementation of that goal with a view to revitalizing all systems so that they can comply with Education Document No. 2 of 2021:

"The government should create an enabling environment for children returning to school to continue their education after childbirth. This includes the absence of stigma and discrimination and allows newborn students to choose an alternative school to continue their studies," the commission said in a statement.

CHRAGG also advised the government in collaboration with stakeholders to educate the community and especially students in schools not to stigmatize children who become pregnant while in school and give birth;

It also suggested the need for parents, leaders and the community at large to step up their efforts to provide and manage quality care for early abortions.

"The government in collaboration with various stakeholders should continue to educate the community about the effects of early pregnancy as well as the importance of pregnant and postpartum girls to continue their education."

It also said that education Stakeholders and the general public should intensify their efforts to monitor the implementation of the Act in the protection of children so that they can complete their schooling.

By Guardian Reporter

## Adhere to your professionalism, Dr Mwinyi tells internal auditors

ZANZIBAR President Hussein Ali Mwinyi has suggested the need for internal auditors to adhere to professionalism when executing their duties and ensure that money is wisely spent.

President Dr. Mwinyi made the suggestion yesterday at the Zanzibar State House when he met with a delegation from the Institute of Internal Auditors Tanzania (IIA) led by its president, who is also the chairperson of the Institute, Zelia Njeza.

In his remarks, President Mwinyi explained that it is better for auditors to issue audit reports on the relevant projects rather than ending up in the books which will help address some of the challenges.

He however promised to work with the IIA Tanzania so that Zanzibar can make significant strides in the whole issue of Internal Audit.

Dr. Mwinyi explained that the existence of the institute would lead to and help internal auditors to receive training as well as recognition.

He said the presence of internal auditors was an important factor in government institutions which had been emphasized as internal reports were often unsatisfactory due to the lack of internal auditors.

He commended the overall success of the Institute and expressed that the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar will continue to work with the Institute with a view to achieving greater success.

President Mwinyi commended the institute for its decision to train Zanzibar permanent secretaries, a step he described as important in scaling up accountability.

He stressed that without the effective management of the internal audit, the Covid-19 funds that are expected to be disbursed may be lost, so it is advisable that these executives be trained to get good results in the management of such funds.

"Every institution that receives Covid-19 funding should have a very close involvement with Internal Auditors to avoid possible side effects that may occur in the future," he stressed.

Secretary of the Revolutionary Council and Chief Secretary Eng. Zena Ahmed Said emphasized the need for members of IIA Tanzania to have more education in the cadre for best results.

For her part, Njeza congratulated President Mwinyi for completing one year of his tenure as President

of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council.

In addition, in his statement, the leader who is accompanied by Members of the Institute from Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania explained that their institution established in 2006 is legal and follows all procedures set with the aim of strengthening the cadre of Internal Audit in the country.

She stressed that if the country wants to strengthen the whole issue of good governance then it is better than the issue of the internal audit being given its place while expressing the Institute's intention to train the Permanent Secretaries of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar on Internal Audit.

He also added that the country can achieve significant economic development if the Internal Audit is given priority and explains to Tanzania how it has made progress in this regard in African countries by working well ahead of South Africa.

At the same time, the institute described its achievements as well as the emerging challenges while explaining how it takes deliberate efforts in ensuring those challenges are addressed.



## TAZAMA PIPELINES LIMITED

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION OF GAS PIPELINE AND POWER STATION PROJECT BY ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCING (EPC+F) MODE OF CONTRACT

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

TAZAMA Pipelines Limited owns and operates a 1,710 km long crude oil pipeline which runs from Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania to INDENI Refinery in Ndola, Zambia. The system includes a Tank Farm situated at Kigamboni, Dar-Es-Salaam in Tanzania comprising of six tanks with a holding capacity of 230,000 m3. TAZAMA intends to construct a Gas Pipeline and 350MW Power Station Facility to produce electricity to supply Zambia and the Sub Region through a Power Purchase Agreement with Electricity Supply companies. TAZAMA seeks Contractors or Consortiums with demonstrated Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) performance to express their interest to participate in the pre-qualification for the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) works mentioned in 2.0 below. Only those Contractors or Consortiums who possess substantial and proven track records of execution of EPC projects of similar nature, magnitude and meet the "Specific Pre-Qualification Criteria" defined below shall respond to this Expression Of Interest (EOI).

#### 2.0 SCOPE OF WORKS

The works under this contract comprise briefly the following:

- (i) construction of a 1,105 KM 16" Natural Gas Trunk Pipeline System from a tap- in point at Ubungo Gas Processing Terminal in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania to Chinsali Gas Processing Terminal (CGPT), Chinsali, Zambia. The Receiving Terminal should be complete with station facilities including Dispatch, Receipt and Pigging Stations etc. as per design.
- (ii) The length of the proposed cross-country Natural Gas Trunk Pipeline shall be approximately 1,105 km.
- (iii) The major Long Lead Items (LLIs), broadly including the coated line pipes for mainlines, bare pipes for induction bends, mainline valves (from 8" to 16"), actuators, custody transfer meters (at Dispatch and Receipt stations) etc. shall be procured by the EPC Contractor
- (iv) The project includes conducting construction surveys, detailed design and engineering, procurement and supply of all items, installation, testing, pre-commissioning and assistance in start-up & commissioning of the Pipelines / Power Stations complete with associated mechanical, piping, civil, structural, electrical
- (v) Other project parameters include installation of instrumentation & controls, System Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), telecommunication works and Pipeline Intrusion Detection System (PIDS).
- (vi) The Chinsali Gas Power Stations project comprises of:
  - a. **Component 1:** 350MW Gas Power Plant;
  - b. **Component 2:** Transmission line to evacuate electricity on the Chinsali transformer substation;
  - c. **Component 3:** Construction of access roads to the site; d. **Component 4:** Environmental and social management; e. **Component 5:** Capacity building and skills transfer.

#### 3.0 TECHNICAL

The Bidder shall have successfully executed, as Contractor, in last 5 years, at least 200 km of 16" diameter (or above) construction of cross-country Hydrocarbon Pipeline and Power Station in one solitary order on EPC+F mode of Contract basis. The Contract should have covered all aspects of construction of cross-country Pipeline and Power Station on turnkey basis including Project Management, Procurement, Design and Engineering, Construction and Installation, Testing and Pre-commissioning, and commissioning. Only completed projects shall be considered for evaluation and Pre-qualification.

#### 4.0 REQUIREMENTS

In order to be pre-qualified for further evaluation, Prospective Contractors must:

- 4.1 Provide Company Profile with proof of legal incorporation with valid copies of Certificate of Incorporation, Tax Compliance, Relevant Licences, Consortium Agreements, etc.
- 4.2 Be a Reputable Civil Contracting Company with International experience in Construction of Gas Pipelines and Power Stations based on International Standards of not less than Ten (10) Years.
- 4.3 Listing of necessary equipment for use in the construction including (but not limited to) Lifting Equipment, Industrial Welding Machines, etc.
- 4.4 Provide proposed Project Execution Methodology, including the identification of agencies (as applicable) that will carry out the following activities:
  - 4.4.1 Detailed design and engineering for the project including the pipeline, stations and Power Station
  - 4.4.2 Procurement including engineering for procurement and expediting, logistics.
  - 4.4.3 Cathodic Protection Works.
  - 4.4.4 Non Destructive Testing (NDT), Testing and pre-commissioning.
  - 4.4.5 Third Party Inspection and certification etc.
  - 4.4.6 Specialized studies (e.g. Hazard and Operational Analysis – HAZOP and other safety studies)
- 4.5 Provide proof of Financial (Submission of Audited Financial Statements for Past Five Years – 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017 and 2016) and Technical Capability to carry out the assignment as detailed in the scope on EPC+F Mode of Contract.
- 4.6 Provide written-letter evidence of Financial Mobilization Capability through credit lines or Internal Bankrolling as the Financing Component for the Project (EPC+F).
- 4.7 Provide detailed information of Organization structure, Ownership details, list of manpower and resources with bio-data, Discipline and geographical location-wise, permanent manpower strengths for providing support in execution of proposed EPC Project, current projects under execution and future workload. Any other information deemed relevant for this exercise.

#### 5.0 SUBMISSION

Interested Companies should submit relevant documentation for possible shortlisting clearly marked, "Expression of Interest for Construction of 1,105km Gas Pipeline and 350 MW Power Station at Chinsali, Zambia." at either of the following address:

The Chairman  
TAZAMA Tender Committee  
TAZAMA Pipelines Limited  
TAZAMA House  
P.O. Box 71651  
NDOLA  
ZAMBIA

The Chairman  
TAZAMA Tender Committee  
TAZAMA Pipelines Limited  
Tank Farm, Kigamboni  
P.O. Box 2157  
Dar-Es-Salaam  
TANZANIA

The closing date for submissions is Thursday 13th January, 2022 at 10:00 hours. Kindly provide five (05) bound copies (One original- clearly marked as such and four (04) copies). However, faxed, electronic copies and late submissions will strictly not be allowed.

## Mwambe urges local authorities to allocate enough land for investors

By Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

LOCAL government authorities have been challenged to allocate enough land and provide them with electricity, water supply and reliable road infrastructure to attract investors.

Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Geoffrey Mwambe, threw the challenge yesterday when he visited Sandvik Company Limited that deals with assembling and rehabilitation of mining equipment as well as giving technical training to people engaging mining activities.

He noted that investors are being attracted to invest in areas that have been prepared already in terms of infrastructure so that they can start operations on time.

"Many investors do not want to use a long time making a follow-up on how to be given electricity, water and other services as they regard the situation as inconveniences to them", he said.

He said that if the councils can improve investment environment they will get as many investors as possible and at the end they will benefit adequately by collecting levies as well as creating employment opportunities in the areas.

The minister thanked for the company for opening office in Mwanza, noting that it has helped to add value in mining chain in the country a situation that will push forward the sector.

He noted that before the presence of the company, rehabilitation of different mining machineries was

being done in Europe that was causing trouble to miners.

"It is good news that now the company can even revive worn out machines and appear as brand new. Also company trains young people in the country who get vacancy opportunities in various countries across the world," he said.

He said that if the nation will have many people to serve different mines in the world it is a good track for nation develop in the mining sector.

Speaking at the occasion, Mwanza Regional Commissioner (RC), Eng. Robert Gabriel said that investment by Sandvik Company Limited in the region is an opportunity for development of the nation.

He said that it has been supporting to improve health centres, dispensaries and other social services in the communities around through corporate social responsibility (CSR), urging other investors to emulate the move.



**Many investors do not want to use a long time making a follow-up on how to be given electricity, water and other services as they regard the situation as inconveniences to them**

## TANCDA launches NCDs national advocacy agenda

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Non-communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCDA) has launched national advocacy agenda to further educate the public on how to prevent the diseases.

Reports show that NCDs claim about 50 per cent of all deaths in the country, something which needs more serious measures to address.

Dubbed, "Tanzania Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs," the initiative calls for the government to recognize how people living with NCDs have tough living experience and then take more measures to support prevention and control of NCDs countrywide.

Speaking during the launch of the agenda in Dar es Salaam recently, Dr Omar Ubuguyu, NCD programme manager at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said the government knows the burden of the challenge and it has been implementing various programs to address it.

Dr Ubuguyu said: "Today you marked a new take on the NCDs fight. We as a ministry participated in this project, so we heard your voices; the scope is yours to propose solutions."

He said the ministry is ready to receive solution suggestions from them for the better future of NCDs fighting in Tanzania.

During the inaugural ceremony, secretary of Faraja Group, which involves people living with NCDs, Norbert Silayo said they are not much engaged in the national NCD response and discussions that concern their health highlighting that the Tanzania Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs will address the gap.

"We have come together to raise our voice and plead for our right to have NCD prevention, treatment and palliative care accessible and affordable for all," said Silayo.

He added: "Our key action areas are human rights; social justice and meaningful involvement of people living with NCDs are the foundation for all action on NCDs. Our ambitions to reduce NCDs will not be achieved without action on prevention, and we cannot make progress without

providing adequate treatment, care and support."

The major NCDs diseases includes diabetes Mellitus, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, sickle cell, mental health, renal, oral, injuries, eye and ear diseases.

Silayo said for the NCDs response in Tanzania to make a difference to their life, they should be part of the decision making process at all levels to make sure their views and voices are heard as they focus to extend support to those who have lost hope, thinking that they are alone in the fight against NCDs.

"We call on all key stakeholders such as the government, civil societies, UN agencies, bi-lateral and multi-lateral organizations, religious institutions and communities for necessary actions to address NCDs in our country," concluded Silayo.

TANCDA chairperson, Prof Andrew Swai told the People Living with NCDs that, instead of asking for government to invest more in NCDs fighting they should ask themselves, what they did to improve their living with NCDs.

"I encourage you to go further, take the government budget for the health, discuss and suggest the amount to be used for NCDs, but mostly we must do what we can do first," he said.

Professor Swai said NCDs is burden to government and the most common cause of death and disability, as he emphasized the necessity for every Tanzanian to contribute in health insurance that will help to strengthen access to health care in supporting people living with NCDs.

TANCDA program manager, Happy Nchimbi said the agenda draws from NCD Alliances "Our View, Our Voices" initiative to promote meaningful involvement of people living with NCDs in the NCD response globally.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), NCDs accounted for 41 million death, 71 per cent of all death globally, more than 80 per cent occurred in developing countries include Tanzania as it is projected that, NCDs will become the leading cause of death by 2030.



Truck overturns, dumps fertiliser on Bwawani area in Morogoro yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

COMMUNITY Development experts have appealed to the government to allocate plots for building offices for community development officers to make easy for people to air their problems in privacy as well as for customers' record keeping.

The appeal was made here yesterday by the Chairman of the Association for Community Development experts at its general meeting that brought together over 300 participants.

The meeting's main agenda, among others, was to discuss on various operation regulations and how to deal with work challenges.

"There is no sufficient space, the community development officer has no office of his own, and people with problems find all officers huddled together in the office, hence it is not easy for visitors to air their problems freely," said Dr Mahuu.

## Community development officers call for own offices for privacy

She said having separate offices for community development officers will simplify their work in serving people with problems in privacy, hence, she added, whenever new offices are built, space should be allocated for offices of community development officers.

For his part, Faithmary Lukindo, one of the meeting's participants who is community development officer at Mwanza Regional Commissioner's office said apart from office shortage, still the number of employed community development officers is not sufficient, hence the government should make more efforts to employ more of them.

For his part, Peter Hudson, Community Development officer from Siha District, Kilimanjaro

Region said the non-recognition of the office of community development officers in the local councils discriminate them from other cadres even to the extent of being allocated small budgets in the implementation of their duties.

"We are not being accorded with priorities as for other cadres, despite being employed in the Health Ministry, the situation that make our work harder due to lack of operation funds," he said.

Opening the meeting, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Health, Community Development, gender, Elderly and Children Minister said the community Development sector is a crosscutting sector and hub for the development of the community.

She said in addition, it is the sector that has a lot of misinterpretations,

hence in order to address the situation, her ministry, in collaboration with the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) will convene a meeting involving other stakeholders to find solution to the problem.

"The Community Development sector is a crosscutting one, our services reach down to primary and secondary schools, to various ministries and all local governments, village governments, but many don't clearly understand the functions of community development officers," Dr Gwajima said.

She called of the sector's workers to advertise their functions for the people to understand them, so that more budget is allocated to the sector.



Kimalela Saccos retired leaders share a light moment after receiving appreciation certificates at their general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE Center for Good Governance and Development in Tanzania (CEGODETA) has called on the government to continue improving good governance, strengthening democracy for the country's swift socio-economic development.

CEGODETA executive chairman, Thomas Ngawaiya made the call recently in Dar es Salaam when speaking to reporters from different media outlets ahead of Tanzania's Independence Day, December 9.

Ngawaiya was commenting on the 60 years of the country's independence, where he said much has been done from the first phase to the current government.

"As we move towards the 60th anniversary of our country's independence, CEGODETA calls

## Tanzania at 60: Center calls govt to cherish all pillars of democracy

on the government to promote all what has been achieved for the past sixty years including reinforcing all pillars of democracy.

He said: "The first phase brought independence and strengthened the economy as well as various social services including education, health and many others."

"Basically a lot has been done by that phase, the second one has allowed public servants and officials to do business, invest in agriculture, trade in trade and bring about a free market," he said.

Ngawaiya said the third phase also brought about economic transformation by removing the

government from commercial and industrial ownership and privatizing and manufacturing private individuals.

"The fourth phase brought in foreign investors, but also improved and sustained the construction of the third phase infrastructure, including roads, rail bridges and many more," he said.

He explained that the five phases dealt with theft, corruption, corruption in government and in public enterprises and improved accountability, performance and service delivery in the public sector.

"We now have a sixth phase

that has improved the alliance by removing some of the grievances and grievances that have arisen, and we suggest that it continue to improve all of the previous issues," he said.

He said, the values of the nation which are peace, unity and solidarity have been given priority, as they have a great contribution to the development of the country, that in existence, nothing important can be done.

He however urged Tanzanians to work closely with the government in ensuring that the country is at peace, which is key aspects in attaining quick development.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr. Angeline Mabula (C) speaks to Nera street residents at Isamilo ward in Mwanza region to resolve land dispute of the late Seif on the plot possession at Miembeni area over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Yusuph Ludimo

# Minister challenges IFM to invest in innovative research

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Industries and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigaha has challenged the Institute for Finance Management (IFM) to invest in innovative research especially on finance related issues so as to support the government to achieve its economic development goals.

He made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the 47th graduation ceremony to confer certificates, ordinary diplomas, post diplomas, bachelor and master's degrees to 3,766 graduates of the IFM.

He said since its inception, the Institute has contributed a lot to the government efforts by producing experts on matters related finance, insurance and banking.

Kigaha said the research will enable the country to address various economic and development challenges within and beyond borders.

"It is time for the institute to come up with more research studies that enable the government to fast track economic development," he said.

The official also advised the graduates to know the current demand in the finance, insurance and information communication sector.

He also urged them to shun corrupt habits adding that it is illegal and against code of ethics.

IFM Governing Council Prof Emmanuel Mjema called on the government to support the institute development budget.

He said the council will ensure the institute produces graduates who are competent in the labour market within and beyond borders.

Prof Mjema admitted that shortage of human resources was one of the big challenges in its

campus of Dodoma, Simiyu and Mwanza regions.

The IFM acting rector Dr Emmanuel Mzava said since its inception the institute has recorded notable achievements.

He names some of the achievements as an increase in enrollment from 72 students in 1972 to 14,395 students graduating in the year 2020/2021.

Dr Mzava said the number of courses has also increased from two courses in 1972 to 34 courses in 2020/2021. There is also an increase in the number of researches and publications noting that 70 publications were made.

Additionally, Dr Mzava said the institute has conducted over 22 consultancies to build the capacity of human resources to write research proposals.

He said so far 35,335 have graduated and awarded certificates at the institute.

"Lack of lecture rooms and offices is one of the big challenges the institute faces," he said.

"We call on the government to permit the institute to use some of its building premises to remain idle after workers shifted to the country capital city of Dodoma," he said.

**It is time for the institute to come up with more research studies that enable the government to fast track economic development**

By Guardian Reporter

# Why some innovators make losses amid online business boom - forum

AS online business and digital economy become the new cash cow for innovators in Tanzania, it has emerged that some developers of applications and other products make bad decisions hence huge losses.

A forum which brought together techpreneurs, innovators, investors, and corporates in Dar es Salaam at the weekend heard that most innovators occurs not only financial losses but time too.

"Most innovators take too much time to research rather than put their solutions out there for people to use and give feedback while they improve the same," said Johannes Lutainulwa, Business Development

Manager at Smart Foundry. "They don't have other income apart from their businesses which lead them into making bad decisions."

Ngwinula Kingamkono, Founder of Tunzaa, agreed that putting all eggs in one basket is dangerous in innovation businesses, just like it is in all other businesses.

"As an innovator, you must have food on the table first before innovating or starting a business if you really want to succeed," he said.

He said some people just develop

etch solutions for the sake of it without thorough research hence wasted time and financial resources. "Not all solutions must be digital; it is not necessary to build an app for every problem in the society."

He added: "Do a thorough research before implementing the solution."

Dubbed 'Eureka Hour', the maiden event organized by Smart Foundry was a forum where techpreneurs, innovators, investors, and corporates were connected to digest different problems in Tanzania and

discover different solutions to solve the problems through technology. The theme of this first event was 'Success and failures of digital products in Tanzania'.

The year 2021 has seen a significant uptake of different digital products in different economic sectors in the country. This is what informed the decision to organize the event.

Smart Foundry is part of the Smart African group which houses the other four subsidiaries namely Smart Nology, Smart Codes, Smart Studio, and Smart Lab.

# Linkee announces the launch of its service in Dar es Salaam

By Guardian Reporter

LINKEE, the new technology company that connects drivers with people who need to move around the city, announces the official launch date for its service in Dar es Salaam.

The company is inviting all local users and drivers to sign up to the Linkee smartphone app and start enjoying the advantages of traveling at a fair price, with flexibility, and with total control. The Linkee App started connecting people on Monday, Nov 29th 2021. Users can download the Linkee App from the Android App Store. The IOS version will be available very soon.

Dar es Salaam is Linkee's inaugural market; a huge milestone for the App from Tanzania

for Tanzania. The team seeks to revolutionize the city's collaborative economy, offering a technological platform that evolves and improves every day thanks to the users themselves, as they will be invited to provide feedback, share experiences, ask questions, and create a community.

In the near future, Linkee will incorporate more services into its platform, so that users can find a solution to their daily needs.

Regan Reuben, of the Linkee launch team in Tanzania, celebrated the milestone saying, "At Linkee we are proud to be able to make a reliable tool available to everyone in Dar es Salaam, to help drivers generate an income today when the economic situation is complex; and so that people can access the

comfort and safety that technology provides, at fair prices".

He added, "Our team has been preparing everything for months to offer a reliable, easy-to-use service, and above all, one that is designed from Tanzania for Tanzania."

Linkee's focus is also on entrepreneurs and the fact that today, more than ever, every shilling counts. That's why for six months, the Linkee platform will have no service fee for all drivers from this Monday, no conditions. This way, drivers who connect with passengers through the platform will enjoy 100% of the fare of each trip. This offer, unique in Tanzania, seeks precisely to contribute to the families of Dar es Salaam and, at the same time, to promote cheaper trips that are

convenient for everyone.

This offer for entrepreneurs in Dar es Salaam adds to benefits that will surprise drivers: Total flexibility in choosing the trips that suit them. Linkee will provide drivers with a list of destinations and prices that they can choose.

Linkee will not ask for a minimum number of trips to be completed per day, nor a number of hours connected to its App, and does not consider penalties for not accepting trips. Drivers have control over how, when, and where they want to make their profits.

Linkee was designed to be user-friendly and signing up to the App as a driver is really easy. Drivers only need to switch the Linkee App to "Driver Mode". Then, there are five required documents that drivers can upload directly using the same App, these are driver's license/ permit profile picture. Others are vehicle registration, vehicle insurance and vehicle confirmation photo.

Linkee's registration process will take no longer than a couple of minutes. The approval is typically processed within 24 hours.

## EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND, SWISS COOPERATION AGENCY (HPSS), INTRAHEALTH INTERNATIONAL AND HTT INFRACO TANZANIA.

### PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from Embassy of Switzerland, Swiss Cooperation Agency (HPSS), Intrahealth International & HTT Infraco Tanzania. We shall sell Motor Vehicles by public auction on Saturday December 4, 2021 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street.

#### Motor Vehicles to be sold.

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
6	Toyota Land Cruiser Hard Top	1HZ Diesel Engine	2013	Not Paid
1	Toyota Land Cruiser GX	1HZ Diesel Engine	2011	Not Paid
4	Nissan Patrol S/Wagon	ZD 30 Diesel Engine	2016	Not Paid
1	Nissan Patrol S/Wagon	VK56 Petrol Engine	2013	Paid
1	Ford Everest Station Wagon	P5A Diesel Engine	2016	Not Paid
1	Tata Pick up 3.5 Tons 709 Turbo	Diesel Engine	2011	Paid

All vehicles may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from 30 Nov. to 3th December, 2021 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

#### AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 4 working days by December 10, 2021 at 4:00pm. For payments not made within 4 working days, the Vehicle will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
- Payments via CRDB and NBC Bank VISA & Master Cards will be accepted.
- All vehicle are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- Bidder will remove the vehicle after all payments and duties
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.
- All person entering auction yard must wear Mask, Wash hand with running water or sanitizer.

For further information contact:  
UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,  
E-mail: [universalauction@hotmail.com](mailto:universalauction@hotmail.com)  
Insta: [universalauctioncentre](https://www.instagram.com/universalauctioncentre)

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Dar es salaam



Director for Preventive Services Dr. Beatrice Mutayoba of Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children speaks at the launching of National AIDS control of programme in Mbeya region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

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## Environmental crisis will require modified use of space for results

ONE of the tenets of the Arusha Declaration, the most important policy pronouncement of the first phase government and the post-independence period as a whole, now clocking 60 years, is that in order to develop we need four things: people, land, good policies and good leadership. That has always been true at least in part, and for any country, not only those experimenting with socialism as we were doing at that time. The question is how we can apply this maxim with environmental crisis, with less supportive land.

As new strategic dialogues continue between the government and the private sector on the one hand, and then with the development partners, new unsettling elements crop in, for instance a new variant of the Covid-19 pandemic. It looked ominous when it was first isolated but further checks show that vaccinated people have withstood infections better, in which case it doesn't upset all we know about the pandemic. But it is still early days hence strategic dialogue based on a happy return to massive project aid is risky.

Going back to the themes of the 1967 Declaration and how it can help us find a strategy for the current situation, it would appear that good policies are those which welcome private investors into most areas hitherto expecting sufficient state resources. Union and Environment portfolio holder Selemeni Jafo has alerted that livestock and wildlife are in peril in various districts, while

in Kenya the government last month moved to disburse 450m Kshs for the purchase of cattle all over the country. It was a deal meant to assist cattle herders from just gaze as animals perish; it also means they abandon cattle grazing methods.

At present there is massive surplus capital in the Western world seeking investment outlets, but it is not via IMF or World Bank loans or its affiliates like the African Development Bank (AfDB) that we shall be able to tap into such finances. It is by issuing green cards to investors who wish to settle in the country, so that they take up land that is drying up and can't sustain populations as well as wildlife; they have the capital to tap into underground water, concentrate the keeping of animals and use land more intensively. The population selling land or traditional six room houses in urban areas would get big capital to take off.

Only economies that have large urban populations with industries as well as a developed services sector can survive the current global crisis tied to unpredictable weather cycles. The United States is by far the largest farming country in the world and only five percent of its population depends directly on agro-sector activities. We ought to aspire to the same situation so that we are resilient to environmental crisis, as the government will not find the cash to subsidise everyone, from tourism to fisheries, via agriculture. Relying on aid to make the difference is being disrupted by omnicon.

## World Day of Remembrance for Victims of Chemical Warfare relevant to Africa

MOST Tanzanians nearing middle age - apart from the older generation - may remember how charges of having a stock of 'weapons of mass destruction' including chemical weapons - paved the way for the US invasion of Iraq late 2003, following the September 11 2001 attacks on landmark buildings in New York. The two events, apart from the invasion of Afghanistan late 2001 to overthrow a government allied to Osama bin Laden, were a literally orchestrated way of earnestly moving into the 21st century, grieving. Chemical weapons though were vastly used in the long 1980-1988 war between Iraq and Iran, before the United Nations moved in 1997 to declare November 30 as the day of remembrance of victims of this sort.

Two decades later most of those issues have been forgotten but there are accusations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian civil war, while in Africa what was outrageous in its civil wars at the start of the century was using blade weapons indiscriminately on women and children for instance. Gruesome disemboweling of expectant mothers hurt the conscience of humanity, leading to the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to bring to justice those showing contempt for human life and dignity. Some have decry that the court targets Africans, refusing to acknowledge the gravity of these crimes.

At the world stage, the danger from chemical weapons has now given way to the wider proliferation

of nuclear weapons and dramatic use of robot airplanes (midget aeroplanes known as drones) where populations suffer as guerrillas hide inside urban centres to conduct rocket strikes. Earlier rockets were scarce ballistic missiles in the control of well developed military units, but now they are carried shoulder high and used by urban militia, as in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These aren't chemical weapons but they draw large populations into harm's way in time of war, precisely as with chemical weapons did.

There are other types of chemical weapons that have been used in assassination attempts of critics or in disposing of the body of a murdered dissident to eliminate all investigation, which have rocked ties between European countries in the past decade.

Deplorable as the use of such weapons definitely is, it is still a lot of mileage compared to the indiscriminate use of napalm bombing in the Vietnam War to flush out guerrillas in the bush, poisoning the soil and water sources. The two atom bombs dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 have caused cancers on survivors until they mostly died out.

Without falling into the chemical weapons threat, Africa is beginning to crawl out of a decade long affliction of radical jihad groups especially in Nigeria and Somalia, and freelance fighters picked at random by warlords in the wake of the collapse of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Northern Nigeria is starting to rebuild, Somalia has a more cohesive state and the Sahel is trying to stand up.



## Gas explosions and safety measures

By Special Correspondent

TO reduce the increasing regularity of gas explosions and the attendant dangers to lives and property in Nigeria, it is important to step up advocacy on the danger of using mobile phones whenever they are within the vicinity of gas facilities. We also urge the relevant authorities to conduct regular drills in markets and other public buildings on safety measures regarding the commodity. That is the only way we will not continue to harvest tragic but avoidable deaths in the country.

Following the recent gas explosion in Lagos which claimed no fewer than five lives with scores of people injured, the state Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odunmosu, explained the carelessness that sparked the fire. "It is completely avoidable, human negligence led to it," Odunmosu said in what has become a familiar story that should concern the authorities. "From what

I have seen there, from what I have heard, the thing blew off (when) someone was trying to refill the gas cylinder as well as making a phone call."

What is particularly worrisome is that many of the deaths arising from gas handling are preventable. For instance, when in 2015 a cylinder exploded at the Plateau State Water Board treatment plant leaving eight people dead, it was discovered that the fatalities were recorded because residents around the area inhaled the poisonous gas which enveloped the entire neighbourhood.

There are also cases of illegal gas refilling plants domiciled in highly inflammable areas. So, both ignorance and greed play a big role in many of the tragic occurrences in a milieu where regulation is weak.

Despite repeated warnings by the recently scrapped Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) that motorists should desist from using mobile phones while refuelling at filling stations, many

still do it. To worsen matters, some attendants themselves use phone while discharging petrol into vehicles. Other artisans who work with gas and petrol also do so. Yet, answering calls besides any explosive material is dangerous; which is why people are usually advised to switch off their phones at the gas station. But because many disobey this simple rule, we keep experiencing deaths resulting from gas explosions.

It is therefore clear that much more must be done to ensure that those who handle gas always abide by safety procedures. The relevant authorities need to organise sensitisation programmes to all gas retail outlets on how to operate their business with minimal risk to themselves and the general public. What is particularly concerning about the incessant domestic gas explosions is that they occur amid intense campaigns on the need for Nigerians to drop kerosene for gas as a cheaper and cleaner means of cooking. In recent times, fatal

explosions had been reported in Plateau, Akwa Ibom, Lagos and Jigawa States, killing dozens of people.

In an incident that is typical of the carelessness often associated with many homes, a female domestic help in Epe, Lagos, turned on the gas and left to chat outside. By the time she returned to light up the gas, the kitchen was suffused with chemical. The resultant fire and explosion consumed her and many neighbours.

That gas has progressively become the source of death and bodily injuries for users and innocent bystanders is what should worry critical stakeholders, especially within the oil and gas sector. In recent years, hundreds of lives have been lost to this problem with businesses and property worth billions destroyed. Yet, nothing concrete has come out from any of the investigations into these tragedies. We must handle a problem of this magnitude with some seriousness.

By Amadou Jallow

CROWD wheeling is becoming no longer a parameter to determine a winning presidential candidate in Gambia's political space. Past observations show that the silent majority (mostly of those who do not manifest their loyalty to any political party) have been gaining upper hand in the determination of a winning candidate.

With a population of just under 2 million people, Gambians will be heading to the polls in two weeks for presidential election; first time since the fall of former president Yahya Jammeh who is now in exile in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

In this opinion piece, I intend to bring forth the role of the silent majority in modern Gambian politics and their potential in garnering more votes for a presidential candidate.

The silent majority is an undetermined large group who do not express their opinions publicly. The term was popularized by former U.S. President Richard Nixon in a televised address on November 3, 1969, in which he said, "And so tonight - to you, the great silent majority of my fellow Americans - I ask for your support." In this usage, the Silent Majority it referred to were those Americans who did not join in the large demonstrations against the Vietnam War at the time, who did

## The 'silent majority' may likely determine who becomes Gambia's next president

not join in the counterculture, and who did not participate in public discourse. Nixon, along with many others, saw this group of Middle Americans as being overshadowed in the media by the more vocal minority.

Unfortunately in the case of The Gambia, analysts and the media usually, if not always, over sighted what I also call in this article the "silent majority" in their analysis of the country's political discourse. They usually focus around the moving crowd and the political chit-chat during campaigns to determine the possibility of who becomes president.

Now, there is becoming quite a bit of distance between wheeling crowd, praise singing and noise-making politics and the group of silent majority in Gambian politics. There is a silent majority in this country and they could be the overwhelming group to determine a winning candidate in the December 4th Presidential election. And as long as the six candidates and their electorates cannot see this - as long as they hold to the belief and confidence of winning because of the crowd that follow them - they and their campaigns will continue to

act in ways that may diminish their chance of any legitimate victory on December 4.

Considering the Gambian political practice and the eleventh-hour decision making by many voters, crowd politics could only be a secondary determining factor for victory. Many Gambian electorates usually decide their vote fidelity in the voting room.

As opposed to voters' decision in other countries to cast their votes for the candidate of their choice based on their manifestos on range of issues including tax reforms, improved living standards, job creation and foreign policies, a good number of Gambians decide on their votes based on personal and relative standards, leading to disappointments.

As the political atmosphere evolves in The Gambia, probably starting from the last few years of former President Jammeh's tenure in office, there are now direct fears and anxieties about tribalism, crime and rapid cultural change, as well as the resentments in party politics that is sneaking in to overturn the existing social order.

Most of this "silent majority" is worried about crime and

disorder and violent politics which is now growing big... involving political loyalists. What the silent majority does not manifest is their position on policies of the present administration and how they view any newly incoming government may handle its administration. Although the silent majority has no undeviating view of how to handle issues like rising crime rate, high taxation and rising cost on common goods, particularly on food items, they usually observe fear of hostile rhetoric and draconian policies.

With the current political power struggle, the country is packed with "cautious" majority who are just waiting for the right time to reveal themselves by only going to the voting room and cast their votes and return home silently and wait for the results.

**Amadou Jallow is a Journalist, youth and child empowerment and community development advocate. He is currently studying Human Resource Management at Management Development Institute (MDI).**

**He is a Program and Communication Officer for Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA)**



# Why Tanzania needs to do more to advance women's rights

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

**T**ANZANIA needs to speed up its efforts towards advancing women's rights, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with interest in gender issues have observed.

Speaking at a two-day seminar to discuss the position of Tanzania in Southern African Development Community (SADC) gender barometer in Dar es Salaam recently, representatives of CSOs said Tanzania is lagging behind other countries within the bloc.

The barometer assesses efforts made by SADC member states towards equal representation of men and women politics and decision making positions at all levels such as in cabinet, parliament, council, management of the public services, chief executive officers and boards of state owned enterprises or parastatals as well as the private sector.

The CSOs which participated in the seminar are Salha Foundation, SAWA, YUNA, UMATI, Binti Makini, Msichana Initiative, Mwanamke, Uongozi, KC Saranga, Malala Fund, and Icaao. Journalists also took part in the event.

Anna Mkina, Head of Programme, Activism and Movement Building at Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), said Tanzania, like other members of SADC, signed the agreement to implement the agenda which aims to remove sexual violence, eradicate diseases and bring gender equality in the region.

According to her, Tanzania has achieved little compared to the countries involved in implementing the agreement in the SADC Gender Barometer 2021.

Mkina said some of the areas where Tanzania little progress include early marriage, child pregnancy, safe menstrual health, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and

leadership opportunities.

"There has been an increase in teenage pregnancy whereas 31 percent of girls in Tanzania get married before the age of 18. High Court ordered government to ban marriage for children under 18 years, but the government appealed, she said.

"And there have been more reports concerning sexual violence during Covid-19 restrictions hence a surge in GBV during the period."

Mkina said only two of the 16 SADC countries namely Seychelles and Mauritius, have met SDG target 3.1 of reducing maternal mortality to fewer than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births. Maternal and mortality rate statistics in Tanzania show that there are 524 deaths per 100,000 live births.

"Data show that only 36 per cent of women in the reproductive age group of between 15 to 49 years use contraceptive whereas there is 16 per cent of unmet need for contraception amongst all women aged between 15 and 49," Mkina said.

Speaking about Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (ASRHR) in line with SADC Strategy 2019-2030, she said data show that there is rapid response in only eight countries.

She said that there is minimal number of women leaders in many sectors including media, adding that there is a small number of women in parliament. Statistics of Women in Parliament SADC from 2009 to 2021 shows that only 37 per cent of women are members of parliament in Tanzania.

Lilian Liundi, Executive Director of Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) made a presentation on Gender and Development Seminar Series (GDSS), saying the public needs to report issues related to sexual violence in their respective areas and take action against those culprits.

"There are incidents occurring



Members of Gender and Development Seminar Series (GDSS) take part in a group activity during a training session which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo/ Christina Mwakangale

in our areas but they are not reported, hence the problem continues," she said.

She cited one of the incidences where a disabled child was raped by his uncle but the case ended in negotiation at family level.

"People with disabilities face

more violence; imagine a disabled child being raped by a family member. The society should be more considerate about people in this particular group," she said.

"There is a need to change the society's mindset. Together we can say stop sexual violence taking

place in the society."

Zahara Omary, a participant, said most sexual abuse incidences are committed by trusted close relatives and friends, adding that in such circumstances, it becomes difficult for the crimes to be reported to police for the law enforce-

ers to help victims seek justice.

"A child aged 13 years has delivered a child after she was raped by her step-father. However, relatives and the society kept silence and when authorities intervened, they did not collaborate with police," she said.

# Successes and challenges of council loans for special groups

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

**F**OR decades, cultural practices at community levels and official government policies did not directly and practically seek to emancipate women, youth, and People with Disabilities (PWDs) economically. However, this policy was changed over two decades ago when it was decided that all councils will set aside 10 per cent of their revenues as loans for the three groups.

Our correspondent Gerald Kitabu caught up with Lucas Kifyasi, UNA Tanzania programme officer for youth, economic rights and participation to assess the progress made so far.

**Q: Tell us what this empowerment fund means.**

**A:** The seed money for women, youth and PWDs was first introduced by Parliament resolution in 1993 with the aim of uplifting economically-disadvantaged groups with no access to loans issued by financial institutions due to lack of collateral. However, despite the resolution by the parliament, local council empowerment loans were allocated at 5 per cent for women and 5 per cent for youth, leaving out the PWDs. The loans were issued with interests of 1 per cent.

UNA Tanzania submitted to the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) recommendations collected from 17 districts in Tanzania. These recommendations were gathered from women, youth and PWDs and duty bearers. The recommendations informed the need to ensure effectiveness in the governance of local government, empowerment of own source revenue as loans to the groups. After the recommendations, in 2018, the Local Government financial Act of 1982, CAP 290, section 37A was amended to mandate local councils to set aside 10 per cent of own source revenue (OSR) as no interest empowerment loans to groups of women, youth and people with disabilities. The loan was designed



Youth participating in an advocacy training session on economic rights and access to financial services recently. Photo/ Gerald Kitabu

as a revolving fund to which Local Government Authorities (LGAs) are supposed to allocate 10% per cent of their own source revenue as follows: 4 per cent women, 4 per cent youth and 2 per cent PWDs as enabler to groups in carrying out gainful enterprises to lift their own households out of poverty.

**Q: What were the challenges?**

**A:** Among the challenges includes the failure of LGAs to allocate 10 per cent of their own source revenue to groups of women, youth and PWDs; financial inequalities among LGAs; low repayment rates; low revenue collections by LGAs which reduces the overall allocation of the fund and, in some instances, LGAs competing priorities. Furthermore,

the current capacity of community development departments at LGA level to process, manage and recover the loans and provide business development services to beneficiaries; short period of paying back the loans and lack of lenient mechanism in group formation particularly for people with disabilities.

**Q: What recommendations did you put forward to the relevant authorities?**

**A:** We had several recommendations that were submitted to PO-RALG in October 2019 and these recommendations were taken up for the amendment of the regulation in 2021.

We recommended that the size of the groups of women and youth

should be reduced from 10 to five to help manage them.

We also recommended enhance PWDs' smooth access to empowerment loans. Also, we recommended building the capacity of community development departments to provide technical support as well as formulation of more lenient loan conditions for PWD groups.

Because some projects take time to start generating profits, we suggested that there is a need to extend time for the beneficiaries to pay back.

We also recommended allowing entrepreneurial IDs provided by the government to be used by groups when applying for loans if and when groups do not have business license.

We also suggested that where necessary, councils should consider providing tools instead of cash loans to avoid reallocation of the loans by beneficiaries. Also, bank accounts specified for the loans should be opened and integrate the systems so that the loans can be allocated automatically.

Furthermore, a certain amount of funds be set aside for training and monitoring of groups' development and provide technical assistance on running and managing business.

**Q: Any feedback from the recommendations?**

**A:** There have been improvements made for effective governance of 10 per cent local council's loans for empowerment of women, youth and PWDs.

For example, section 3 provides that loans will mean providing cash and tools required by groups to venture their enterprises. Previously LGAs were required to issue loans in terms of cash.

Also, the new amendments of section 6, article 1, reduce group members from 10 to five for women and youth. Previously, groups of women and youth were required to have 10 members. Again, amendment of section 6 reduces PWDs group members from five to two for women and youth. Previously, groups of women and youth were required to have five members. Section 7 has also been amended to allow entrepreneurial IDs provided by the government to be used by groups when applying for loans.

Amendment of section 23 mandates LGAs to set an amount for monitoring groups' development and provide technical assistance on running and managing business.



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- BUL-RFQ-21-11-08-RB – Purchase of new BTI Rock Breakers – 4 sets

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## Rwanda suspends direct flights with southern Africa over new COVID-19 variant

KIGALI

RWANDA has temporarily suspended direct flights with southern African countries due to concerns over the new COVID-19 variant Omicron, according to a cabinet communique issued by the Office of the Prime Minister.

The decision was made late on Sunday after an extraordinary cabinet meeting on Rwanda's response to the Omicron variant chaired by President Paul Kagame, according to the communique.

"While the variant has not been detected in Rwanda, its effects are potentially dangerous and therefore Rwandans and residents of Rwanda are required to exercise extra vigilance in the practice and enforcement of preventive measures," the communique said.

A seven-day quarantine at own cost will be required for passengers travelling from, or those with a recent history of travelling to, the affected countries, it said.

All arriving passengers must quarantine for 24 hours at a designated hotel at their own cost, it added.

According to the communique, a COVID-19 PCR test will be taken upon arrival at own cost, and an additional test, covered by the government of Rwanda, taken on day seven from the arrival date at a designated testing site. People attending events or gatherings, including conferences, concerts, weddings and festivals or exhi-



President Paul Kagame

bitions, must be fully vaccinated and tested, the communique said.

And gatherings should take place outdoors or in well ventilated spaces as much as possible, it added.

It urged Rwandans to get fully vaccinated, frequently tested and continue being vigilant in practicing COVID-19 preventive measures.

In October, Rwanda removed quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated travellers arriving in the country. *Xinhua*



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**Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Ensure organization climate where resources are identified, deployed, and exploited efficiently and effectively, through coordination of efforts and resources including Personnel, Capital, and information
2. Ensure attainment of SACCOS Vision, Mission, Policies, and Strategies that will facilitate attainment of SACCOS objectives
3. Supervise and direct resources to portfolio growth
4. Oversee, analyze, interpret monthly, quarterly, and annual reports
5. Advise the Board on Investment decisions
6. To prepare and serve as Board Secretary, responsible in preparing, and keeping Board minutes on timely basis
7. To network with other stakeholders in issues relating to innovations, capacity building, legal, and Technology adoption
8. Champion in all matters relating to Product innovations, and marketing of existing and new product
9. In collaboration with Board chair, undertake all human resource issues including staff motivation, create discipline atmosphere to SACCO staff and capacity building to staff and members
10. Resource person in Policy, and bylaw amendments
11. Oversee all compliance issues and ensure that are done timely

12. Represent Tumaini SACCOS to external forums/networking
13. Carry out any other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors

**Required knowledge, Skills and Abilities**

A holder of Master's Degree in Business administration, Cooperative Management, Microfinance, from recognized institution - Chartered Public Accounting (CPA) will be an added advantage

- Mature Christian person committed to Christian values; including integrity and honesty.
- Ability to work with only occasional supervision.
- Ability to learn new things
- Proved Leadership and management skills
- Negotiation skills
- Training skills
- Creative ability
- Experience with personal computers using Microsoft Office including Excel and Word. Skills working with Loan trucking Software is an added advantage

**Experience**

- Minimum 4 years' experience in SACCOS Management

Employment will be granted upon successful completion of all applicable checks, including last working history and Christian maturity. Only successful applications will be contacted regarding to attend scheduled interviews. If you do not receive any feedback on your application, please consider yourself unsuccessful.

All interested Candidates are required to send application letters, with CV to:

**CHAIR PERSON:**  
**TUMAINI SACCOS,**  
**BOX 6070, ARUSHA.**  
Email: [johnson\\_robinson@wvi.org](mailto:johnson_robinson@wvi.org)

Applications should be received not later than **23 December 2021, official hours.**

**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 MATUKI 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

# TFRA makes strides in transforming the country's local fertiliser industry

By Guardian Reporter

AS the clock ticks towards December 9, Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has made significant strides in transforming the country's fertiliser industry.

Among notable successes include controlling the quality of fertilizer, increasing its availability, making it affordable to smallholder farmers, encouraging new investment in fertiliser manufacturing and the spillover effect has been to empower those in the sub-sector value chain—farmers, importers, traders, and transporters.

According to TFRA Executive Director, Dr Stephan Ngailo, fertiliser control systems have continued to be strengthened to ensure that farmers get value for money in the form of the best fertiliser at all times.

He says that fertiliser control has been achieved by continuing to raise awareness among inspectors, identify all traders by registering, monitoring and providing education on effective fertilizer management.

To date, TFRA has trained and registered and announced them in the Government Gazette, a total of 140 fertiliser inspectors working with the authority, regional secretariat and district councils, in accordance with the Fertiliser Act, 2009.

It has also registered a total of 361 fertilizers as of November 10, this year and fertiliser dealers have increased from 51 in 2012/13 to 4,860 as of now.

"As of November, 2021, TFRA issued 6,562 licenses to fertiliser business premises in each of their business areas," he says.

In controlling the quality of fertilizer, TFRA has managed to expand and increase inspections by opening zonal offices—northern zone (Arusha), Lake Zone (Mwanza) and Southern Highlands Zone (Mbeya). "These offices have largely

helped to eliminate substandard and artificial fertiliser in the market," the official says, noting that TFRA has improved fertiliser supply and distribution systems.

Since its establishment, TFRA has created an enabling environment for the fertilizer business in the country and contributed to the increase in fertiliser traders from 51 (2012/13) to 4,860 (2020/21).

"This has increased competition with traders to supply the farm inputs to the grassroots level, where majority farmers do farming. This situation has attracted traders and thus increased the pace of importation and supply of fertiliser in the country from 302,453 tonnes (in 2009/2010) to 546,818 tonnes (in 2020/21), which is an increase of 80.7 per cent," he states.

Increased fertiliser use; According to Dr Ngailo, fertiliser consumption has increased from 263,390 tonnes to 475,870 tonnes for the 2009/10 and 2020/21 agricultural seasons, respectively.

"This equates to an increase of 80.6 per cent. This increase is due to the government through the Ministry of Agriculture closely monitoring the import and export of fertiliser and the promotion of fertiliser use by farmers," he says, adding that awareness has been done by the government and agricultural stakeholders through the media, and different agricultural gatherings.

TFRA's acting Director of domestic manufacturing and bulk procurement, Joseph Charos said the fertiliser availability has drastically increased from 302,000 tonnes in 2009/2010 to 546,818 tonnes in 2020/21. Its use has also improved from 263,390 tonnes and 475,870 tonnes.

The fertiliser delivery system has improved where at present all services are provided using

the Fertiliser Information System (FIS).

"The system has improved customer service within a short period of time and secured records of all transactions by providing fertiliser dealer registration and licensing services, permits for the import and export of fertiliser and fertiliser registration."

The system came into effect on March 01, whereby as of November, this year, the system has successfully issued 1,702 licenses, fertiliser import permits in 310 countries and fertiliser export permits in 79 countries.

Investment in the fertiliser industry.

Prior to 2012, Tanzania had four fertiliser factories, but due to the improved investment climate in the country and the mobilisation carried out and the ongoing political will of the current government, Tanzania has 16 factories that produce various types of fertiliser and their supplements including organic fertiliser, foliar fertiliser and solid fertiliser.

Of the 16 factories, three of them produce lime and gypsum fertiliser in Dodoma and Tanga regions. Ten factories produce grain and foliar fertiliser of which six are in Arusha, three in Kilimanjaro and one in Coast region. The remaining three produce organic fertiliser, one in Manyara and two in Dar es Salaam.

"These factories produce less than 10 per cent of the amount of fertiliser needed in the country per year. In 2020/21 a total of 42,695 tonnes of various types of fertiliser and additives were manufactured in the country, with a mineral factory producing 66.9 per cent of locally produced fertiliser."

In addition, Dr Ngailo says the government continues to encourage the private sector to invest in the construction of fertiliser factories in the coun-



One of the achievements of TFRA is the increasing number of fertiliser factories and the Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda is being briefed about Minjingu mines and fertiliser ltd is operations.

try.

So far, he says different investors have come forward including an investor from Burundi who has already started the construction of the factory in Dodoma.

The factory's foundation stone was laid down by the Burundian President Evarist Ndayishimiye October 22, this year.

"Construction of this factory has reached 25 percent and upon its completion will be able to produce 600,000 tonnes of fertiliser per year," TFRA boss says, adding that the Nigerian investor, Aliko Dangote has also pledged to build a fertiliser factory in the southern region of Mtwara.

"So, we hope that all these ini-

tiatives will increase fertiliser availability as well as reducing the price of the important farm inputs."

TFRA's acting director of regulatory services, Gerod Nganilevanu also unveils that the authority has started building a fertiliser laboratory. Since its inception, the authority could not have its own fertiliser quality testing laboratory.

Nganilevanu adds: "So, in fulfilling our main fertiliser quality control function, we're forced to use Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Tanzania Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), and Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (GCLA) that delay response, thus slowing down implementation of regulatory functions."

Starting in the 2020/21 fiscal year, TFRA is building a special laboratory to measure the quality of locally produced, imported and the one which is in use across the east African nation.

"Construction of this facility has reached 32 per cent... this lab will increase efficiency in carrying out TFRA core responsibilities. It's expected to be used by neighboring countries that use Tanzanian ports such as Malawi, Zambia, DRC, Burundi and Rwanda," he unveils.

On limited production of fertiliser factories, Dr Ngailo says the local fertilizer industry and its supplements face a number of challenges including the misconception that locally produced fertilizers do

not meet quality; low awareness of farmers in using fertiliser supplements; high energy cost; high interest rates on investment banks; taxes imposed on fertilizer raw materials and high cost of accessing raw materials.

"These challenges contribute to locally produced fertiliser; being less competitive in the domestic market compared to imported fertiliser."

On the low use of supplement fertiliser, Dr Ngailo says, despite low production of supplement fertiliser and the low level of awareness among farmers on the use of supplement fertiliser, the country is still very low compared to soil demand.

"This situation has greatly contributed to the low efficiency of fertiliser used in Tanzania, due to soil acidity. FRA continues to work with local government authorities and other stakeholders to sensitize farmers on the importance of using fertiliser," he says.

Addressing challenges; In addressing challenges, TFRA is gearing up and continues to build the capacity of experts on various new fertiliser technologies.

"This training will be conducted locally and abroad in various fields in the fertiliser value chain; we'll also continue to strengthen the quality control of fertiliser in the country by training fertiliser inspectors in every district council, registering all fertiliser, manufacturers and sellers and conducting regular inspections at ports, borders, warehouses and shops as well as encouraging construction

of local fertiliser and auxiliary factories."

TFRA, according to Dr Ngailo, will continue to encourage existing investors to increase production and also new investors to come and invest in the construction of fertiliser production to increase access and affordability of the important farm inputs.

"This will also contribute to increased employment, government output and foreign exchange earnings by exporting the fertiliser. The authority will continue to work with stakeholders to promote the use of fertiliser supplements. TFRA continues to partner with development institutions and stakeholders in promoting the use of fertiliser aids through media and fertiliser symposiums."

"Our hope is that the implementation of these goals; the availability, supply and consumption of fertiliser in Tanzania will increase and thus increase productivity and productivity for food security and increase GDP."

Being one of the key public institutions under the ministry of Agriculture, TFRA was established by the Fertiliser Act No. 9 of 2009 and its regulations of 2011. It began executing its duties in August 2012.

TFRA is responsible for quality control and regulating the fertiliser trade in the value chain including manufacturing, import and export, storage and distribution. To this end, TFRA works with all stakeholders to ensure that farmers receive quality fertiliser on time.



One of the TFRA inspectors in one of the fertiliser warehouses

# China shares agricultural technology, poverty alleviation experiences with Africa

By Special Correspondent

WHEN Chinese agricultural experts visited Mozambique a couple of years ago, they found a lot of rich but mismanaged soil. Highly dependent on weather, the rice yield per mu was only 100-200 kilograms there without scientific planting techniques.

Now with the effort of many experienced Chinese experts and China-invested agriculture enterprises, "the rice yields in most areas of Mozambique have reached 600 kilograms per mu," said rice cultivating expert Li Ganghua, who has been to various African countries with his Chinese coworkers to teach local farmers rice planting skills. "It's common that the rice yield triples [its previous harvest]," Li said.

Li recalls the African villages he has been to, and the lively scenes of locals singing and dancing with drums at harvest time. "They are warm and passionate, and they appreciate the help that Chinese people gave them," said Li, a professor at College of Agriculture under Nanjing Agricultural University

(NAU).

"We are thinking about... whether we can design some [poverty reduction] methods, which have been proven effective in China, for the reference of African countries," Wu Peng, Director of the Department of African Affairs in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in a speech he delivered in late October.

At the eighth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Senegal this week, China and several African countries are expected to jointly plan out cooperation for the next three years, Wu said. The poverty-reduction [experience sharing] will be a part of the discussions, he said.

For decades, China, while exploring its way of rural poverty alleviation and development, has been sharing its experiences with many African countries, such as knowledge and skills in crop cultivation, irrigation, road and network construction, and the development of e-commerce.

China's poverty alleviation is a great project that has attracted global attention.

Now, following the project, China's new rural revitalization strategy can also provide a reference for poverty reduction to its African friends in this new era, observers said.

Sharing with African countries crop cultivation techniques is one main aspect of China's efforts to help local African villages fight poverty. Many outstanding Chinese rice cultivating experts, including the team of "the Father of Hybrid Rice" Yuan Longping, have been on the ground in Africa, teaching locals rice planting skills.

Li has visited villages in African countries including Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique since 2006 to fully understand rice-growing practice in each respective country. He found that the natural conditions in many local areas are even better than those found in China. "Such as the natural wetland near Lake Victoria which is very suitable for growing rice," Li recalled.

By contrast, the lack of water infrastructure and outmoded planting techniques by locals at that time meant swathes of rich arable land went to waste for much of the year.

Having been to almost all the rice-planting areas across China, Li believed that much of the experience of Chinese rice growers could be shared with their African peers. During his visits to African villages, he suggested that people there build water conservancy and irrigation systems, like those built by Chinese villages designed to provide adequate water for the rice growth.

Li himself also brought various types of rice seeds to Africa to know which one grows best there. "We introduced the seeds used in Chinese areas with the similar latitudes in Africa, which can better suit the soils there," Li said. "In terms of latitude, Tanzania is similar to China's Guangdong, Guangxi, and Fujian provinces, and Kenya is similar to our Hainan island," he said.

The university Li works at has long been cooperating with African countries in cultivating agricultural talents from Africa. Li mentioned that his student Elidio David Cambula from Mozambique, who had studied [crop] cultivating techniques at NAU, went back home after graduation, and now

works as an engineer at China-invested Wanbao Agriculture Park Project in Mozambique.

Started in July 2011, the Wanbao Agriculture Park Project is one of China's largest rice-growing projects in Mozambique. The project reportedly planted 2,400 hectares of rice in collaboration with 500 local households during the 2018-19 planting season, increasing the rice production from 1.5 tons per hectare to seven tons.

Li cares deeply about rice cultivation in Africa although he is not there. Amid the pandemic, he keeps in touch with some African villages online. "They come and ask me for help when they encounter problems [in rice cultivation]."

Since 2012, through projects such as sending Chinese agricultural experts to Africa, more than 50,000 Africans have been trained and 23 agricultural demonstration centers have been built, according to a white paper on China-Africa cooperation that the Chinese government released recently.

# The Omicron variant: What now for South Africa?

BY JEFFREY DORFMAN, FRANCOIS VENTER AND JONNY MYERS

ON Thursday, November 25, the South Africa Department of Health, in conjunction with the National Institute for Communicable Disease and the Africa Health Research Institute, held a news conference to announce and describe a newly identified SARS-CoV-2 variant that had quickly become dominant in Gauteng, South Africa's most populous province, which is home to Johannesburg.

Although there are still relatively few cases, about 70% of those diagnosed in the prior few days appeared to be due to this newly identified variant. The prominence of this variant suggests that it is more transmissible than the currently dominant Delta variant. Also worryingly, it has a large constellation of mutations relative to earlier published sequences of SARS-CoV-2 (the "parental" variant), more numerous than any variant noted before that has been able to expand noticeably.

Some of these mutations are associated with the ability to partially evade antibody responses that have been induced by the parental variant or vaccines. This immediately drew notice. Many countries, including the UK, Singapore, Japan, the European Union, Canada and the US are acting to restrict travel from southern Africa in response, and the WHO has declared it a variant of concern, its highest level of variation used so far.

### How dangerous is it?

The short answer is that we do not really know yet and it will take at least two to three weeks to gain any understanding about the severity of disease it causes. It has a genetic profile very different from

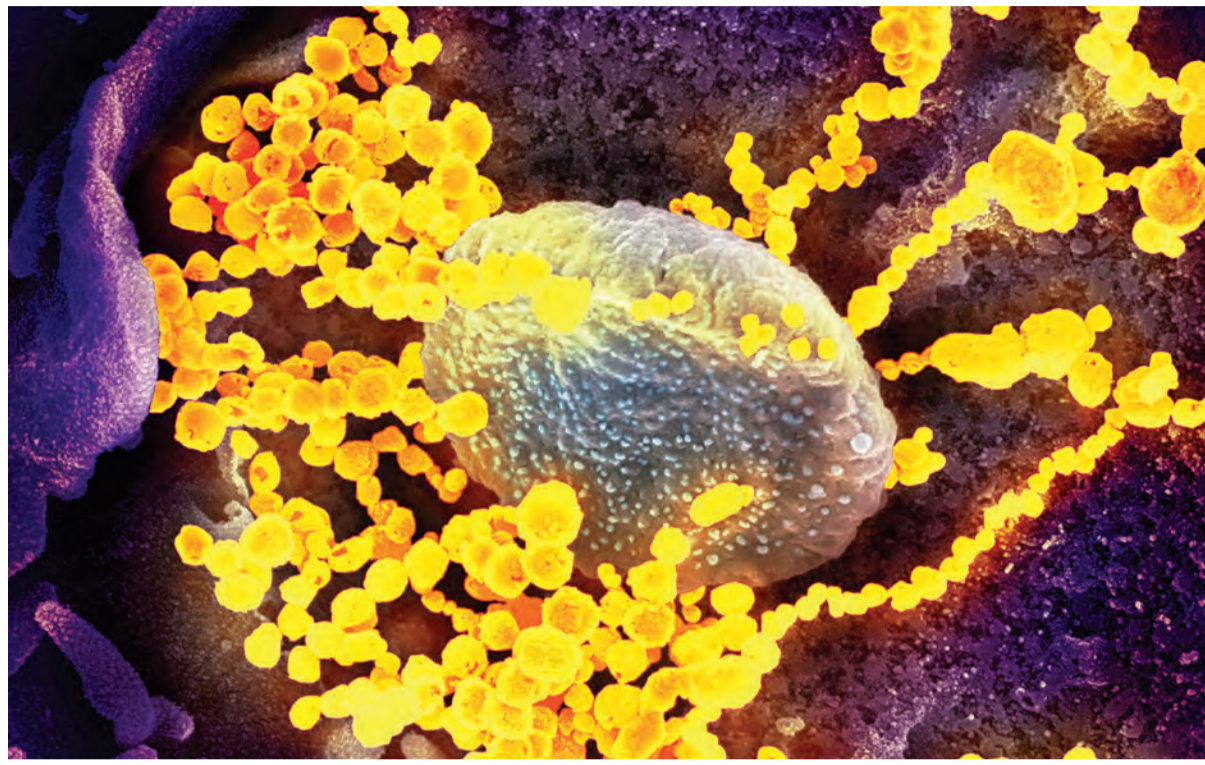
other circulating variants of interest and concern. Some of its mutations are associated with partial escape from antibodies induced by parental variants and have not previously been observed in a single variant. Worryingly, Omicron seems to have exploded quickly in Gauteng. Working out the parameters (infectivity, virulence, etc) of Omicron will take further research, which is already under way.

It is important to note that current vaccines are effective in preventing severe disease and death, even for the Delta variant, whose spike protein contains several mutations. It is thought that T-cell responses are likely to be important for protection against severe disease, hospitalisation and death. Mutations in the spike receptor binding domain will have a smaller effect upon T-cell immunity than on antibody immunity because T-cell targets (called "epitopes") can be throughout the viral genome, while neutralising antibodies are focused upon the receptor binding domain - in which Omicron has many mutations.

We cannot emphasise enough that this new variant is another reason to be vaccinated. The three most important things that can be done now are to be vaccinated, to be vaccinated, and to be vaccinated, especially if one is older than 50, has a comorbidity, or a compromised immune system. Everything we know now suggests that all currently available vaccines in South Africa will provide at least some protection against severe disease, hospitalisation and death from even this new variant.

### Where is it now? What do we know about its origins?

So far, the only large cluster of cases that has been identified is in



Gauteng. It is Omicron's quick rise to dominance in the still relatively small number of cases in Gauteng that attracted immediate attention.

Additionally, four cases of Omicron infection in Botswana were identified, which were reportedly in diplomats who entered Botswana on November 7 and tested positive in routine screening as they were preparing to leave the country a few days later.

Once the South African scientists presented their data and concerns, other countries sprang into action to determine if they had any occurrences of cases with matching sequences. Israel identified a case who is a traveller, still in quarantine, who had entered the country from Malawi.

More worryingly, Belgium quickly identified a case which is a traveller, who returned from Egypt on November 11 with no apparent links to southern Africa and was tested only on November 22.

It seems likely that the traveller was infected on or before November 11 in Egypt, suggesting a much larger geographic spread than just southern Africa.

The delay between her arrival home and testing suggests potential to spark community transmission in Belgium. Cases in travellers who have entered the UK, Germany and Italy have also been identified.

Trevor Bedford, from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle US, who studied the initial outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 in Washington state, estimates that Omicron started between mid-September and mid-October, suggesting that it has had a long time to spread prior to its detection. It remains an open question whether South Africa is currently detecting spillover from an as yet undetected origin in Egypt or elsewhere, or if the virus of the Belgian coming from Egypt can trace its origin to southern Africa.

Other scenarios are possible, and the origin of the diplomats in Botswana has not yet been publicly disclosed. Either way, the evidence suggests wider circulation, and that travel restrictions will only delay the inevitable community transmission to come if Omicron is fitter than Delta from an evolutionary point of view.

### What now for South Africa?

As other sensible recommendations have been recently published, only a few key points will be emphasised here:

First, internal travel restrictions targeting South Africa are completely useless. Omicron has been detected in almost every province already. South Africa should avoid any restrictions that will completely destroy a tourist industry already reeling from almost universal international travel restrictions.

Second, vaccinate, vaccinate,

vaccinate, focusing on the vulnerable. We have every reason to believe that vaccines will continue to supply protection against severe disease, hospitalisation and death caused by this Omicron. Vaccines are already known to provide good protection against severe disease and death caused by every variant that has come before.

Third, the government should do everything it can to preserve people's outdoor choices during the summer. Blanket restriction of use of beaches and parks are counterproductive and should not be imposed. Any regulation that encourages or forces people to stay indoors should be avoided. Government action should rather facilitate outdoor activities. All localities, particularly tourist destinations, should encourage outdoor dining. Local governments should close streets with restaurants to vehicular traffic in the evenings and waive permitting requirements to serve food and alcohol outdoors on the pavement.

These efforts will have to be thoughtful and coordinated, and will not be as easy as blanket restrictions, but will go a longer way to both preserve our now more fragile economy and preserve health. Restrictions should centre on likely effective measures that are targeted and limited, such as limiting large indoor gatherings and requiring proof of vaccination to enter some of the remaining allowed indoor gatherings.

We will have to focus on learning to live with SARS-CoV-2, which has shown remarkable ability to change its coat and survive among us. A combination of sensible, limited and targeted restrictions coupled with protecting the vulnerable among us is essential in the short and long term. MC

# RCEP's entry into force to inject strong impetus into global economic growth

By Wang Junling

RECENTLY, the ASEAN Secretariat announced that it had received instruments of ratification/acceptance (IOR/A) of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement from six ASEAN member states—Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam—as well as four non-ASEAN signatory states, including China, Japan, New Zealand and Australia, which meant that the RCEP reached the threshold of entry into force.

As provided by the agreement, it will enter into force for the above ten countries on Jan. 1, 2022.

Under the RCEP, over 90 percent of trade in goods among countries that

will enjoy zero tariff, which is expected to be realized immediately or gradually within ten years. It means that countries involved will achieve free trade in goods as they promised in a relatively short time, according to an official with the department of international trade and economic affairs under the Ministry of Commerce of China (MOC).

With the implementation of rules of origin, customs procedures, inspection and quarantine requirements, and technical standards, tariff reduction and the abolition of non-tariff barriers will produce even stronger effects and significantly enhance trade ties between relevant countries, the official added.

In terms of trade in services that

cover finance, telecommunications, transportation, tourism, education, and other key fields, the level of trade liberalization in countries participating in the RCEP is much higher than that under the ASEAN's "10+" free trade agreements (FTAs).

RCEP members that adopt positive lists for services trade, including China, will switch to negative lists within six years since the agreement's entry into force, in a bid to further improve opening-up.

As regards investment, all RCEP participating countries made high-level liberalization commitments through negative lists on non-service sector investment, with no restriction added other than the negative lists and enhanced investment protection lev-



An Iranian exhibitor brings characteristic products to the 18th China-ASEAN Expo, Sept. 11, 2021. File photo

els. The RCEP will make it easier for companies from countries involved to expand foreign investment and for Chinese companies to explore the markets of other RCEP participating countries.

As a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, the RCEP agreement includes provisions on market access and rules and will exert a systematic and comprehensive influence on China's domestic industries, according to Yuan Bo, deputy director of the research institute of Asia, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the MOC.

As China and other RCEP parties open up trade in goods and services as well as investment to one another, the country will introduce higher standards of rules concerning competition policies, intellectual property rights, transparency, and other areas, Yuan pointed out.

"The RCEP, the world's largest free trade agreement, was reached when the world was haunted by the COVID-19 pandemic and globalization encountered headwinds. It is expected to give full play to the role of free trade in leading and driving a new round of economic globalization," said Wei Jian-

guo, vice chairman of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges.

RCEP participating countries account for more than 96 percent of the overseas market shares of Ningbo Zhongce Keyin Electronics Co., Ltd., a company mainly engages in original equipment manufacturer (OEM) processing of crop sprayers, oil-well pumps, fuel pumps used in households and agriculture at an industrial park in Haishu district, Ningbo city, east China's Zhejiang province.

China's trade policies have a strong impact on the development of the foreign trade company, which imports materials from and sells its products to foreign countries, said Jiang Li, director of the company's integrated management department, who is excited about the prospect of the RCEP's coming into force soon and believes that it will bring new business opportunities to export enterprises like Zhongce Keyin Electronics Co., Ltd.

"The reduction or exemption of import and export tariffs under the RCEP will reduce the operating costs of our industrial chain and allow us to gain a more competitive edge in price," Jiang said, adding that the company intends to keep close contact with clients and make the pie of cooperation even big-

ger.

After it takes effect, the RCEP agreement will enable countries with a combined GDP of nearly one third of the world's total to form a unified super large-scale market with huge development space and inject strong impetus into regional and even global economic growth, pointed out the official with the department of international trade and economic affairs under the MOC.

RCEP members' economic structures are highly complementary, and the region is rich in a wide variety of factors of production, including capital, technology, and labor, the official noted.

RCEP will further broaden market access in goods, services, and investment among member countries, gradually harmonize their rules of origin, customs procedures, inspection, and quarantine requirements and technical standards, establish high-level rules on intellectual property rights, e-commerce, government procurement, competition, and trade remedies, creating a stable, accessible, convenient, and interconnected high-quality business environment for enterprises from RCEP participating countries, the official added.

People's Daily

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 170 00--

3 LETTERS: FEW, ADD, ANA

4 LETTERS: MEAN, TAME, NOSE, NEWS, REAP DINE, MINT, (7 WORDS)

5 LETTERS: LEAST, AWASH, POEMS, TAPES EGRET (5 WORDS)

6 LETTERS: CAREER, STRIVE, ANSWER, AMORAL, ASSETS (5 WORDS)

7 LETTERS: MALINDI

8 LETTERS: ADAPTORS

10 LETTERS: TYRRHENIAN

1 Printed publications

5 a female servant

7 plural form of ass

8 sliced bread broiled to make it crisp

10 Creator of heaven and Earth

11 edema

13 submit to the authority of

15 an organic compound made by replacing the hydrogen of an acid by an alkyl or other organic group an indirect reference

17 ic make a bleating sound

20 apparition of dead people

1 to specify

2 a time for anticipation

3 sending mail through the post office

4 a small South African antelope

6 a roof that resembles a half circle

7 to make ashamed

9 a hollow ball of perforated metal to hold tea leaves

12 the mark or line left by a fold

14 an adolescent

16 a sudden cry in a loud voice

17 syrian cloth

18 to move at a slower pace to stay behind the others

WORD-FIT: SALVATIONS, SHOPS, SOILED, PRAISE, SUB, D, R, FLOAT, AM, D, ULAMA, SCORE, N, R, TRI, BE, I, SEMA, CCM, SHAMANT, CAREEN, E, SHAMANE, L, C, A, E, T, P, AVOW, EMENT, FRAT, UNDER, A, I, T, D, I, R, I, U, GANDANS, I, AFFE, CTED, SEND, E, C, I, FFY, C, C, E, T, S, E, T, S, E, T, L, U, S, E, N, E, T, E

By Wang Junling 0753429240 telxwangz@gmail.com



**CURRENT NEWS**  
Coca Cola debuts 'Real Magic' platform to spice up consumer life experience

Page14



**TOP VIEW**  
Nigeria's Arnergy launches Diaspora Initiative for clean energy remittances

Page14



**VIEW FROM THE TOP**  
Brewer rescues millions of rural dwellers through investment in water supply

Page15

## Don Bosco equips renewable energy graduates with solar tool kits

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

**T**WENTY seven students who recently finished vocational studies in renewable energy and electric installation have been awarded working kits to offer services to the public especially those seeking to use solar technology.

Don Bosco Network- Tanzania (DBNET)'s Project Officer, Alfred Dalasia said the students who studied at Don Bosco Iringa and Dodoma Vocational Training Centers respectively, got the tool kits thanks to sponsorship of US based Charles S. Mott Foundation.

Speaking during the tool kits handing over ceremony held at Don Bosco Iringa and Dodoma VCT, Dalasia said that the students were given the working kits which included a technician's set of tool kits, solar water irrigation pumps and seed capital all valued at over 48m/-, to start their own businesses.

"On behalf of Don Bosco centers in Iringa and Dodoma, I would like to thank the Charles Mott Foundation for supporting us with these startup tool kits for our graduating solar students who face challenges to get such equipment," he said.

He said the renewable energy project which is solar based started in 2018 with support of the US foundation (Charles Mott) and is divided in two different phases. Dalasia explained that in the first phase of the project, it included five things where they preparing classrooms, designing workshops for young people, making solar mini-grids at Ddodom and Iringa colleges respectively that can generate 34 kilowatts of electricity each.

The DBNET Project Officer further noted that use of solar grids at the two centers have helped reduce energy consumption by 80 percent. "Similarly, in the first phase which was implemented between June and October 2020, we have



Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions' CEO, Winnie Terry (C) accompanied by the principal of Don Bosco Dodoma, Father Bonifasi Mchami (R) hands over a startup tool kit to one of the students who completed studies in solar system installation and servicing last week. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya.

been able to teach 511 young people in Iringa and Dodoma colleges on solar technology with a curriculum developed in collaboration with Vocational Education and Training Authority headquarters.

He said that there has been a big wave of students completing solar training and entering the labour market but there are no jobs because many companies are not hiring. "After realizing this challenge, we came up with a business development skills training in partnership with the US donor, which is more practical to ensure young graduates get self-employed to service renewable energy equipment," Delasia added.

The second phase of renewable energy training began in January 2021, involves an aspect of teaching young people entrepreneurship skills in partnership with business-based organizations including the IMED Foundation.

Through that training young people who have received a short course of six months and those doing three years received the training through the IMED Foundation from June to October. Dalasia explained that throughout the training period students had an idea of various businesses on how to set up small enterprises in renewable energy through solar.

"Our focus as Don Bosco in the pillar of the ecosystem partners is to develop skills that

is to create skilled technicians, who can strengthen the renewable energy sector in Tanzania especially at a time when the nation and the world as a whole are fighting climate change (CC)," he elaborated.

Speaking at the event, Principal of Iringa Don Bosco Youth Training Center, Father Joseph Utouh said the college offers eight courses which are printing, computer, tailoring, carpentry and joinery, motor vehicle mechanics, welding and metal fabrication, electrical installation and masonry.

He said that 12 young people who received the working kits were among 78 who are studying electrical installation and solar technology after emerging winners in the race to complete their business ideas.

Utouh added that before graduating, the students are given the opportunity to present their business ideas which after evaluation the 12 emerged as winners. "The main purpose of providing them with such equipment is to empower them to overcome the concept of saying technicians are people who have failed," he added.

Utouh's observations were

seconded by Principal of Don Bosco Dodoma College, Father Bonifasi Mchami who said that 70 students who studied electrical installation competed of which 15 emerged successful. "We thank the US donors for this support which allows our students to be self employed," Mchami said.

Guest of honour at the event, Winnie Terry who is Executive Director of Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions (TAMFI), urged the students to be more creative in performance. She thanked DBNT for engaging them while urging the students to take advantage of the opportunity to improve their lives. "But you must also make use of your smartphones to learn more about other people to distinguish someone who attended Don Bosco College and those from other colleges," Terry advised.

In remarks at the event, DBNET Executive Director Father Melkey Lukanyanga also wished the students who received the equipment work hard and ensure that they take care of them so that they can last longer.

## Unesco member states adopt global artificial intelligence ethics

**PARIS**  
THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) member states yesterday adopted the first global agreement on the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI).

The endorsement comes three years after the ambitious project to give the world an ethical framework for the use of AI was initiated by Audrey Azoulay, director-general of Unesco. The organisation commissioned 24 renowned specialists with multi-disciplinary expertise on the ethics of AI, tasked with producing a draft Unesco recommendation that takes into account the wide-ranging impacts of AI, including on the environment and the needs of the global south.

The draft document was then placed online for a public consultation process, giving people around

the world the opportunity to participate, leading to the adoption yesterday. According to Unesco, the need for the agreement was motivated by unprecedented global challenges brought about by the use of AI technologies.

"We see increased gender and ethnic bias, significant threats to privacy, dignity and agency, dangers of mass surveillance, and increased use of unreliable AI technologies in law enforcement, to name a few. Until now, there were no universal standards to provide an answer to these issues."

The organisation says these challenges led to the adoption of the global agreement yesterday by its 193 member states, which includes South Africa. Among the key issues in the agreement are recommendations on protecting personal data, banning social scoring and mass surveillance, and protecting the environment.

On protecting data, the agreement calls for action "beyond what tech firms and governments are doing to guarantee individuals and more protection by ensuring transparency, agency and control over their personal data."

It includes actions to improve data protection and an individual's knowledge of, and right to control, their own data. It also increases the ability of regulatory bodies around the world to enforce this. Further, the agreement bans the use of AI technologies in mass surveillance.

Unesco says: "The recommendation explicitly bans the use of AI systems for social scoring and mass surveillance. These types of technologies are very invasive, they infringe on human rights and fundamental freedoms, and they are used in a broad way."



Deputy Minister for Minerals, Professor Shukrani Manya (L), presents a certificate of appreciation to Absa Bank Tanzania's citizenship manager, Hellen Siria, in recognition of the bank's support for the 2021 Consumer Choice Awards Africa, during a prize-giving ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Absa were the event's main sponsors. Photo courtesy of Absa Tanzania.

## Shipping industry fails to back world-first CO2 charge

AMSTERDAM

THE International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) said the industry regulator's failure to make progress on decarbonisation commitments at a key meeting on Friday was a "missed opportunity" for the sector.

The ICS, which represents 80 per cent of the global shipping industry, said it was disappointed that the words and commitments made by governments at Cop26 "have not yet been translated into action" by the International Maritime Organisation.

"This week's meetings have missed the opportunity to take forward a range of greenhouse gas [GHG] reduction measures which would accelerate the development of zero-emissions ships that are urgently needed at scale to decarbonise our sector," said Guy Platten, secretary general of the trade body. "It's almost as if Cop26 never happened."

The CO2-based charge on vessels' fuel

consumption to raise money for a proposed IMO Maritime Research Fund – aimed at the exploration of clean fuels and propulsion systems for international shipping – was not approved by the organisation during crunch climate change talks this week. The plan, backed by multiple countries and entities including the ICS, is not billed as a tax and is not intended to change shippers' behaviour.

Instead, the proposed payments – which equate to \$2 per tonne of oil-derived marine fuel – aims to raise about \$5 billion to help clean up shipping, which is almost exclusively powered by oil and spews more CO2 into the atmosphere than Germany and the Netherlands combined.

While the proposed price is low, the levy is significant because it would be the first ever mandatory, global "fee-based" carbon price, the World Bank reported. However, failure to secure commitment to the R&D fund underscores the challenge facing the industry in its bid to de-

carbonise.

"There was a clear recognition from many more countries that there is an urgent need to significantly increase R&D spending. But we are disappointed that insufficient time was dedicated to allow IMO member states to take a decision on the \$5bn fund at this session," Mr Platten said.

"All we are asking is for governments to let business to get on and do the things that need to be done. We are not even asking for money or the type of subsidies that other sectors receive. This is a no-brainer at a time when we do not have time to prevaricate."

The ICS chief added that the IMRF is the only proposal on the table ready for immediate agreement. "If it is not taken forward soon, we fear this will signal to the world, following Cop26, that IMO is no longer truly serious about maintaining its leadership on GHG issues and that others may then move in to fill the vacuum."



Guy Platten, secretary general of International Chamber of Shipping.

## Coca Cola debuts 'Real Magic' platform to spice up consumer life experience



Coca-Cola Kwanza Tanzania's Managing Director, Unguu Sulay (L) talking to Kinondoni District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe (C) during the launch of 'Real Magic' platform campaign last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

By Smart Money Reporter

**T**HE Coca-Cola system in the country unveiled a new brand philosophy and platform called 'Real Magic,' which invites everyone to celebrate the real magic of humanity.

The platform refreshes the brand's trademark promise - to unite and uplift people every day with renewed relevance for the world. It also acknowledges the many contradictions experienced as new generations find harmony and human connection in a virtual and divided world.

"As we launch the 'Real Magic' platform here in Tanzania, our goal is to share and celebrate electric moments in our everyday diverse lives with our consumers around the country so as to unite and uplift them," said Coca-Cola Kwanza Tanzania's Managing Director, Unguu Sulay during the launch of the campaign in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

In a speech read on his behalf by the company's Business Development and Commercial Director, Josephine Msalilwa, Sulay said Coca-Cola's mission has been to spread positivity and optimism for over 100 years hence Real Magic continues the trend.

"We believe its core philosophy will

resonate with people all over the globe and that we can all experience real magic in real moments when we come together. Through it we will connect and champion the diverse lives of our consumers in Tanzania through collaborations with artists and influencers, to unite and uplift people," he added.

Real Magic marks the first new global brand platform for Coca-Cola since 2016 and is being launched alongside a refreshed visual identity for Coca-Cola, as well as a new perspective on the company's logo that will feature across all markets.

The platform will also host a brand campaign dubbed 'One Coke away from each other,' which has been built for, and with, a community that demands something different than what they may have come to expect from the soft drinks maker.

"Real Magic is not simply a tagline or a one-off campaign but rather a long-term brand philosophy and belief that will drive and guide marketing and communications across the Coca-Cola Trademark," the MD noted.

The brand will take consumers on an exciting journey which will include several launches to reveal and activate the campaign across Tanzania. These will include in-store, cinema, and malls activations, with fantastic offers for customers.

Seconding his boss, the company's Brand Manager, Kabula Nshimo said through the Real Magic platform, the company wants to ultimately engage consumers very differently through an ecosystem of memorable individual experiences.

"Our consumers across Tanzania will also experience a variety of exciting activities through our range of Coca-Cola products with the new hug logo for the duration of this campaign," Nshimo said adding that in order to keep consumers connected with the campaign, a series of activities have been lined up and they include, surprise appearances by partner artists and influencers to engage with customers on several occasions. She said the company is launching the campaign to promote unity and love among consumers.

## Nigeria's Arnergy launches Diaspora Initiative for clean energy remittances

LAGOS

NIGERIA'S leading distributed utility company delivering solar energy solutions, Arnergy, has today announced the launch of the Diaspora Initiative - a groundbreaking scheme enabling the global Nigerian Diaspora to invest in solar energy solutions on behalf of local individuals and businesses.

The first of its kind from an African solar company, the Diaspora Initiative enables Nigerians abroad to purchase off-grid solar panels and storage systems that are installed in households and businesses across Nigeria to deliver a clean and uninterrupted source of electricity.

With Arnergy's tech-enabled solar models marking a major innovation as a sustainable solution to Nigeria's \$29bn per-year energy reliability crisis, outright purchases, as well as lease-to-own options, are now available through Arnergy's partnership with Flutterwave, pioneering a new form of remittances that will significantly address critical energy needs for millions.

As part of the new service, Nigerian Diasporans can purchase the full range of Arnergy's distributed utility models, which are powered by lithium-ion-based batteries - a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel generators, establishing a more reliable electricity supply through storage solutions and an average 10-year lifespan. With the company's proprietary remote monitoring technology, SolarBase, Arnergy's customers are also able to monitor and adjust their energy consumption in real-time through the convenience of a mobile (An-



Femi Adeyemo, CEO and Founder at Arnergy.

droid & iOS) or web app, establishing a major breakthrough for individuals and businesses seeking greater control over their household and OPEX costs respectively.

Speaking on the launch of the Diaspora Initiative, Femi Adeyemo, CEO and Founder at Arnergy, says "For decades, the huge lack of consistent and affordable energy has held millions of Nigerians back from achieving the best possible economic outcomes, but today, we're empowering Diaspora across the globe to drive us closer to a future where energy across the country is 100% renewable, reliable and accessible."

"Now more than ever, we need a direct and sustainable approach to tackling what has consistently been one of Nigeria's most critical challenges not only for the benefit of local Nigerians but also the health of our planet. At

Arnergy, we firmly believe the answer lies in solar energy and during a time where Nigerians at home are facing a difficult economic period, we're proud to be the first solar company in Africa forging a new path for the Diaspora to invest in more accessible solutions for friends and family."

Founded in 2013, Arnergy delivers reliable and sustainable energy services for small, medium, and large businesses and residents across Nigeria. Leveraging its local engineering and customer support teams, it is the only African solar company with fully proprietary IoT, power electronics, and software architecture that allows remote control of solar assets for retail and commercial users.

The platform boasts a leading portfolio of multinational clients including Heineken, KPMG, Shell, Citibank, 54Gene, Ardova, and the Dangote Group, and to date, Arnergy has delivered 3MW+ of installed capacity and 9MWh+ of storage capacity across Nigeria. In 2019, Arnergy also became the first African distributed energy company to be backed by Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos following its \$9mn Series A round led by Breakthrough Energy Ventures with participation from the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries (Norfund), Electrifi (EDFI Management Company) and All On.

The launch of Arnergy's Diaspora Initiative coincides with the recent pledge from President Buhari at the COP26 Summit that Nigeria will reach net zero emissions by 2026. However, the prevalence of diesel fuel generators, which produce an estimated 29mn tonne worth of CO2 emissions each year, pose a major stumbling block to the new target, leading to a significantly increased level of interest in cleaner and reliable alternatives such as lithium-ion based solutions.

## Congo president demands audit of mining registry to fight fraud

KINSHASA

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo President Felix Tshisekedi has demanded a ban on issuing and trading mining permits until the country's mining registry has been audited, a measure aimed at combating fraud within the sector.

Tshisekedi told ministers he wanted to end the squandering of mining assets by unnamed political actors and officials involved in the administration of the mining register which records mining concessions, according to minutes of the meeting seen by Reuters.

"This recommended clean-up will increase the contribution of the mining sector to the state's budget and help, as a priority, the people benefit from the mineral wealth of our country," Tshisekedi told ministers. The move is an escalation of Tshisekedi's ongoing review of deals struck by his predecessor Joseph Kabila, which includes a \$6bn "infrastructure-for-minerals" deal with Chinese investors.

Congo is the world's top producer of cobalt and Africa's biggest copper producer, but more than 70% of its roughly 100 million people live on less than \$1.90 per day, according to the World Bank. Transparency activists have estimated Congo has lost out on billions of dollars of revenue from mining deals over the past two decades.

Tshisekedi gained the presidency through a power-sharing settlement with Kabila, following the disputed 2018 election, but he has gradually taken almost all the levers of government, political analysts say, and been increasingly outspoken about Kabila's mining deals.

Mining companies which fail to comply with their administrative and social obligations should have their licences revoked, Tshisekedi told mining minister Antoinette N'Samba. He asked N'Samba to identify mining companies where the state had not gained 10% of shares when the permit flipped from exploration to exploitation, as required by the mining code.



Democratic Republic of Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi speaks during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow.

## India imposes restrictions on Kenyan tea to protect its farmers

NAIROBI

India's tea regulator has issued fresh rules to curb shipments of low-priced Kenyan tea into the Asian country to protect its farmers from loss of market, stoking fears of a trade spat between the two countries.

The Tea Board of India (TBI) issued circulars to tea stockists on reporting about the quantity and quality of imports from Kenya to rein in shipments. Indian farmers are complaining that cheaper Kenyan and Nepalese teas are being blended with local produce, and then sold on as tea of Indian origin to their disadvantage. The Indian tea regulator threatened to cancel licences of local importers if they are found flouting the new rules.

"The board has taken the right decision to curb the entry of cheap teas to the country, which is being sold in the world markets as teas of Indian origin and thereby tarnishing the image of Indian tea," Tea Board chairman P.K. Bezbaruah was quoted saying. The latest move comes weeks after Indian tea producers and exporters asked their government to limit shipments of lower-priced Kenyan tea into the Asian country. The move is a blow to Kenyan tea farmers at a time the government has been courting countries including India to grow and diversify Kenya's export markets for tea amid a production glut.

In September, the Kolkata-based Indian Tea Association whose members represent more than 60 percent of India's total tea production urged the Indian government to introduce a minimal import value for teas from Kenya. India is among the world's largest producers of black tea alongside China. But compared to Kenya, India's tea export growth in global markets has been trailing Kenya.

## Nairobi leads in recruiting youths for Kazi Mtaani project

NAIROBI

NAIROBI leads in registration for Kazi Mtaani phase three programme with 166,000 individuals listed. The city-county is followed by Kiambu at 70,600 and Nakuru with 53,500, which is part of the 1,028,904 youth registered in only eight days.

The recruitment started last week Friday through the Kazi Mtaani Management System portal. Data from the State Department of Housing and Urban Development showed that on average, 128,613 people are registering for the programme daily.

Housing and Urban Development Principal Secretary Charles Hinga said the portal has witnessed unprecedented traffic with Kenyans in a rush to register ahead of the rollout next month, leading to the system crashing.

"We still have a two-week window period to register and it's on first come first serve. We have over one million traffic trying to register," said Mr Hinga. He said the third phase will be robust and will be implemented in over 900 informal settlements across all 47 counties.

"The expanded phase will equip the youth with skills aimed at creating job opportunities as well as enabling them to engage in self-employment in fields such as plumbing, masonry, carpentry and many more," he said.

The web application will be used to register, process the data received from the mobile application, payments and reports. The mobile application will be used to collect workers, clock in and clock out and projects data.

Mr Hinga also urged the public to be aware of conmen who were duping the youth to pay in order to register. Kazi Mtaani is a national initiative that was launched in April 2020 to cushion the most vulnerable but able-bodied citizens living in informal settlements from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

# Brewer rescues millions of rural dwellers through investment in water supply



Serengeti District Commissioner, Mohamed Babu assisting a woman to balance a pail of water on her head during the inauguration of a 220m/- water project at Machochwe village earlier this year. File photo.

By Smart Money Reporter

WATER remain a rare commodity in some parts of the country with people going for days without filling a bucket while others face rationing. The problem put both the central and local governments on high alert, as efforts are done to address the challenge.

Recently, due to droughts, Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (Dawasa) cautioned the public to preserve each drop of water as shortages persist as water levels at Upper Ruvu and Wami rivers fell to record lows.

In addition to Dawasa's alert which concerned mainly clients from Dar es Salaam and Coast regions, Minister for Water, Jumaa Aweso assured Tanzanians that his office is taking all necessary action to curb the situation. Aweso said that they have been carrying out major institutional, financial and technical reforms to enhance sustainable water supply countrywide.

He said to address the challenge, the state has deployed qualified personnel and equipment to rural areas where the crisis has worsened. "There are about 2,115 rural water supply agencies comprising 1,362 accountants and 1,611 technical staff" in the rural areas," the minister noted.

But the private sector has also

been supporting state efforts to address the clean water supply challenge. One such private company is Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), which has been in the forefront to secure clean and safe water to millions of rural dwellers in the country. Through its Water for Life project, SBL has invested in rural water supply facilities to serve communities in line with the company's plan of action code named, 'Society 2030, Spirit of progress.'

Since 2010, SBL has spent over 1.1bn/- drilling 18 boreholes across the country, which has contributed in alleviating shortage of the precious commodity in the country. The brewer has partnered with other organizations in most of these projects to ensure that Tanzanians get safe and clean water in some of the worst hit areas.

According to SBL Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha, the brewer considers water as a critical commodity needed by the public to contribute effectively in the country's prosperity. "This is the reason that has pushed us to always collaborate with the government and other partners in facilitating access to safe and clean water to millions

of Tanzanians especially those residing in rural areas," Wanyancha said.

Earlier this year, SBL inaugurated a 220m/- water project at Machochwe village of Serengeti district in Mara region, as part of efforts to bring safe and clean water close to the area's residents. With capacity to serve 12,000 people, the project consists of a borehole and its systems, a solar water pump and a water tank that can produce 7,500 litres of water per hour.

The brewer has undertaken other similar initiatives in Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, Tanga, Ruvuma, Dar es Salaam, Coast and Dodoma regions, where in all, over one million people are benefitting from the initiative.

"SBL has a policy commitment towards the wellbeing of our community with Water of Life being one of the company's priority areas defined in its objectives to provide social support to the community in which it serves," he noted. Other said priority areas include: Provision of skills for life; Environmental sustainability; and Promotion of responsible drinking. In addition to contributing to national

economic growth through consistent payment of taxes, SBL has played a pivotal role in the country's development.

Under Water of Life project, the brewer seeks to empower farmers to increase their productivity for cereals such as maize, sorghum and barley, which are vital raw materials for beer making. In 2020 alone, SBL bought 17,000 metric tons of these cereals locally, an equivalent of 70 per cent of its annual total raw materials requirement from a network of 400 farmers.

By 2025, SBL targets to increase raw materials sourced locally to 85 per cent by supporting contracted smallholder farmers with free seeds, field technical services and linking them to financial institutions.

"It is clear that SBL's community development interventions under the four priority areas is helping to improve standards of living of the people," the Corporate Affairs Director added while stressing that the brewer will continue backing state efforts to improve people's lives.

## 50pc of firms hit by Covid target full recovery in June

NAIROBI

MORE than 50 percent of businesses that were hit hard by the ravages of the pandemic expect to fully recover by June next year. This is according to a new survey which also indicates that 4 percent of Kenyan manufacturing companies have not been affected by the Covid-19 setbacks in any way in the past 18 months.

The report, Manufacturing CFO 4.0 2021 Survey, by global enterprise resource planning (ERP) software provider, Syspro and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) also shows that by next month, 8 percent of Kenyan businesses will have recovered. "23 percent of Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) expect their businesses to recover by March 2022 while 20 percent see June 2022 as the time they will bounce back to profitability," says the research.

The study, conducted across over 100 manufacturers and distributors between September and November 2021, indicates that Kenya still has some way to go to achieve full recovery, a road that must be navigated by future-focused financial leaders ready to cast their eyes towards tomorrow's best practices.

Companies interviewed include those that operate in food and beverage, industrial machinery, packaging, medical supplies, chemicals and fertilisers, metals, automotive accessories, plastics and furniture. Optimism remains high with 50 percent of companies saying they are "managing well" while only one percent acknowledged to have "thriving" conditions.

"Crisis breeds innovation, and there is no better proof of that than 2020. A changing combination of global supply chain sources, innovation and digitalisation has forever changed the classic set of responsibilities of CFOs in manufacturing and distribution companies," says Mark Wilson, chief executive officer, Syspro EMEA region.

Despite their size, few have been able to transition into a newer, more agile trading paradigm, the report says. While it has been noted that the government has provided several key policy adaptations - including fiscal interventions - to assist Kenyan businesses with managing their margins, the actual stimulus was less of a feature.

"As of the results of this survey, 51 percent of Kenyan businesses in manufacturing and distribution received none, 38 percent received tax deductions, and only 13 percent noted the reception of a comprehensive stimulus package," the survey says.

Internationally, the packages have been invaluable in bolstering companies' ability to adapt to the new challenges of Covid-19. Moreover, they have been fundamental in expediting moves towards greater diversification. "We see, as a consequence, that Kenya has had to fund their diversification out-of-pocket, greatly influencing a more hesitant uptake," the report says.

Permain Narikae, director-general of the Kenya Industrial Estate (KIE) said the agency has trained over 4,000 SMEs country-wide and provided funding of up to Sh20 million for the MSMEs operating in the value-addition sector.

"The sector was among the six priority sectors that promised to raise the growth rate to 10 percent by 2030. Over the past decade, the sector's contribution to revenue has grown to about 18 percent and its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has on average been 8 percent in nominal terms," he said.

### Risk management

Those interviewed listed accurate insights into risk management as the main skill needed for future CFOs in Kenya at 76 percent, with a comprehensive understanding of finance and strategic business knowledge trailing just behind - 72 percent and 71 percent respectively. The survey findings also showed while global financial leaders have pushed for expansion through continued expenditure, Kenya has elected to place its faith in older stock.

Kenyan manufacturing companies, according to the report, have continued utilising traditional cost-cutting measures as their main contingency measure, with the curbing of discretionary expenditure being most prominent at 70 percent, followed by debt collection at 40 percent. The expansion of revenue models only ranks a low third on the cost-cutting strategies list at 32.56 percent.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

# China asks ride-hailing company Didi to delist from US over security fears

BEIJING

CHINESE regulators have asked Didi Global's top executives to devise a plan to delist from US bourses, people familiar with the matter said, an unprecedented request that's likely to revive fears about Beijing's intentions for its giant tech industry.

The country's tech watchdog wants management to take the company off the New York Stock Exchange because of concerns about leakage of sensitive data, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing a sensitive matter. The Cyberspace Administration of China, the agency responsible for data security in the country, has directed Didi to work out precise details, subject to government approval, it said.

Proposals under consideration include a straight-up privatisation or a share float in Hong Kong, followed by a delisting from the US, the people added. If the privatisation proceeds, the proposal will likely be at least the \$14 IPO price since a lower offer so soon after the June initial public offering could prompt lawsuits or shareholder resistance, the people said.

If there is a secondary listing in Hong Kong, the IPO price would probably be a discount to the share price in the US, \$8.11 as of Wednesday's close. Shares in SoftBank Group, Didi's biggest minority shareholder, slid more than 5 per cent in Tokyo.

Deliberations continue and it's possible regulators will backtrack on their request, the people said. Either option would deal a severe blow to a ride-hailing giant that pulled off the largest US IPO by a Chinese

firm since Alibaba Group Holding's in 2014. Representatives for Didi and the CAC didn't respond to requests for comment.

Didi sparked the ire of Beijing when it proceeded with its New York stock offering this summer, despite regulatory requests that it ensure the security of its data before the IPO. Chinese regulators quickly launched multiple investigations into the company and have considered a range of unprecedented penalties, Bloomberg News reported in July.

It's possible that the delisting would be part of a package of punishments for Didi. Beijing's municipal government has proposed an investment in the company that would give state-run firms effective control, Bloomberg News reported in September. Such an investment could help Didi finance the repurchase of its US-traded shares.

Didi is currently controlled by the management team of co-founder Cheng Wei and president Jean Liu, which received aggregate voting power of 58 per cent after the company's US initial public offering. SoftBank and Uber Technologies are Didi's biggest minority shareholders.

Even if Didi shifts its listing to Hong Kong, it will have to address the data security concerns that have drawn regulatory scrutiny. The company may have to give up control of its data to a third-party - again undercutting its price tag. Regulators have weighed a delisting for Didi since the summer, after the world's largest ride-hailing company infuriated officials by ploughing ahead with its US IPO, Bloomberg News has reported.



A Didi logo is displayed at New York Stock Exchange electronic board during trading last week.

A withdrawal from US bourses could stoke fears of an exodus of Chinese firms as Washington and Beijing quarrel about access to listed firms' books. On Thursday, a senior Chinese regulatory official said such delistings would be a setback for relations with the US, while offering broad support for Hong Kong as an alternative venue.

Didi - once feted for defeating Uber in

China - has now become a test case for a broader Chinese government effort to curb the power of internet titans. Xi Jinping's administration, keen to promote his vision of sharing the wealth or "common prosperity," has targeted an internet sector that's accumulated vast wealth by operating on the periphery of the law, minted an unprecedented number of

billionaires and enriched local and foreign investors in the process.

A state-directed privatisation would be unprecedented for a private firm of Didi's stature and send a signal to American investors, long accustomed to investing freely in China's largest corporations from Alibaba to Baidu and JD.com.

## WORLD

# WHO: Omicron poses 'very high' global risk, nations must prepare

GENEVA

THE Omicron coronavirus variant is likely to spread internationally, posing a "very high" global risk of infection surges that could have "severe consequences" some areas, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday.

The UN agency urged its 194 member states to accelerate vaccination of high-priority groups and, in anticipation of increased case numbers, to "ensure mitigation plans are in place" to maintain essential health services.

"Omicron has an unprecedented number of spike mutations, some of which are concerning for their potential impact on the trajectory of the pandemic," the WHO said. "The overall global risk related to the

new variant ...is assessed as very high."

To date, no deaths linked to Omicron had been reported, though further research was needed to assess Omicron's potential to escape protection against immunity induced by vaccines and previous infections, it said.

"Increasing cases, regardless of a change in severity, may pose overwhelming demands on health care systems and may lead to increased morbidity and mortality. The impact on vulnerable populations would be substantial, particularly in countries with low vaccination coverage," it said.

The variant was first reported to WHO on Nov 24 from South Africa, where infections have risen steeply.

It has since spread around the world,



A medical staff member prepares a syringe with a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) COVID-19 vaccine, in the Lyon Gerland vaccination center, on Saturday AFP

with new cases found in the Netherlands, Denmark and Australia even as more countries imposed travel restrictions to try to seal themselves off. Japan said on Monday it would close its borders to foreigners, joining Israel in taking the toughest measures.

The WHO, in its latest guidance, reiterated that countries should use a "risk-based approach to adjust international travel measures in a timely manner". Further advice would be forthcoming, it said.

"The presence of multiple mutations of the spike protein in the receptor-binding do-

main suggests that Omicron may have a high likelihood of immune escape from antibody-mediated protection. However, immune escape potential from cell-mediated immunity is more difficult to predict," it said.

"Overall, there are considerable uncertainties in the magnitude of immune escape potential of Omicron."

More data was expected in coming weeks. "COVID-19 cases and infections are expected in vaccinated persons, albeit in a small and predictable proportion", it added.

Agencies

# South African president warns of fourth wave as Omicron spreads to all provinces

JOHANNESBURG

WITH the Omicron variant now present in all provinces of South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa has raised the possibility that the country could enter the fourth wave soon if new cases continue to increase.

"The identification of Omicron coincides with a sudden increase in COVID-19 infections. If cases continue to rise, we can expect to see a fourth wave of infection in the next few weeks, if not sooner," Ramaphosa said in his televised speech on Sunday night.

His address to the nation followed a meeting of the Coronavirus Command Council after scientists recently discovered the new variant.

"We have seen an average of 1,600 new cases in the last 7 days, compared to just 500 new daily cases in the previous week, and 275 new daily cases the week before that."

The proportion of COVID-19 tests that are positive has risen from around 2 percent to 9 percent in less than a week," the president said. "This is an extremely sharp increase in infections in a short period of time."

"We know that the variant is respon-



President Cyril Ramaphosa

sible for most of the infections found in Gauteng in the last two weeks and is now emerging in all other provinces," he added.

Given that only 35 percent of the adult population has been fully vaccinated so far and there is still a lot of hesitation to vaccinate, Ramaphosa announced that a working group has been set up to discuss the possibility of making vaccines mandatory to access public places such as public transport, workplaces, public events and public

facilities.

"Government has set up a working group that will consult widely on the introduction of compulsory vaccination in certain activities and places," he said.

The task force will report to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Immunisation, chaired by Deputy President David Mabuza, which will make recommendations to the Cabinet. He said the first and the most powerful tool that mankind has is vaccination.

"Vaccination is by far the most important way to protect yourself and those around you against the Omicron variant, to reduce the impact of the fourth wave and to help restore the social freedoms we all yearn for," he said.

"Vaccination is also vital to the return of our economy to full operation, to the resumption of travel and to the recovery of vulnerable sectors like tourism and hospitality."

Ramaphosa said the COVID-19 virus, like all viruses, does mutate and form new variants. The likelihood of the emergence of more severe forms of variants is increased significantly where people are not vaccinated.

"That is why we have joined many countries, organizations and people around the world who have been fighting for equal access to vaccines for everyone," he said.

"We have said that vaccine inequality not only costs lives and livelihoods in those countries that are denied access, but that it also threatens global efforts to overcome the pandemic."

The emergence of the Omicron variant should be a wake-up call to the world that vaccine inequality cannot be allowed to continue." Xinhua

Agencies

# Venezuela's Maduro brands EU electoral observers 'spies'

CARACAS

VENEZUELA'S President Nicolas Maduro on Sunday denounced members of the European Union's electoral observation mission who monitored voting last weekend as "spies," and accused them of looking to "stain" the regional elections on their preliminary report.

Local and regional elections enjoyed better conditions than during previous voting, the EU mission said on Tuesday, though they raised concerns about arbitrary bans on candidates for administrative reasons, delays

in opening voting centers and "extended use of state resources in the campaign."

"They looked to stain the electoral process (in a report) and they couldn't. A delegation of spies - they weren't observers - wandered freely around the country, spying on the country's social, economic and political life," Maduro said during a broadcast on state television.

The mission did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Voting last weekend was the first time in 15 years that the EU sent a mission to observe



Venezuelan elections. The team included 1,000 observers who monitored voting in 22 out of 23 elections and the full report will

be presented in two months.

In this election, opposition politicians contested votes for the first time since 2017. However, they were roundly beaten, picking up just three out of 23 governorships and 117 mayoral positions, with the ruling party winning 210 mayoral races.

Several mayoral races had yet to be called, and one governor's office - in Barinas state, a Chavismo stronghold - has not been called either.

"The European Union couldn't stain the electoral process, it was impeccable, beautiful," Maduro said.

The President will hold meetings in "the coming hours" with opposition governors, he said, without giving further details. He also suggested the ruling Socialists could have lost in a few states and municipalities due to voters punishing the party at the polls.

While the ruling party picked up the most governorships, votes for the Socialists dwindled to fewer than 4 million, according to figures from the country's electoral authority, down from the 5.9 million it won during regional elections in 2017.

Agencies

# Small mining town in Xinjiang embarks on path of eco-tourism

AS China has actively sought mechanisms for realizing the market value of green products, eco-tourism in the country has embraced new opportunities for development in recent years. Against this backdrop, Keketuohai township in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region has successfully transformed itself from a small mining town into a characteristic tourist destination.

"Welcome to Keketuohai,"

Tan Shengli, manager of the scenic spot of Keketuohai national mine park, part of the Keketuohai National Geological Park, said to tourists, acting as a temporary park guide of the magnificent scenic spot located in Keketuohai township. Tan feels enthusiastic about his job as the scenic spot transformed from an old mining area has made local residents' lives better.

The small mining town in Fuyun county, Altay prefec-

ture of Xinjiang, gradually developed from a rare metal mine in the 1930s. The No. 3 lode in the township, in particular, had the richest mineral resources among all lodes of the mining area. However, after more than half a century of inefficient opencast mining, the site turned from mountains that were more than 200 meters high into a 250-meter-deep mine pit.

The transformation of the locality started in 2013, when

the Keketuohai mining area was listed among the first batch of pilot areas of the country's independent industrial and mining area transformation and relocation project and Keketuohai township's ecological restoration officially started.

Over the past years, a number of ecological restoration projects have been completed, including those launched to improve the environment and flood prevention and

control in industrial and mining areas and to better the geological environment and enhance debris flow control and restore vegetation in the surrounding areas of the No. 3 lode of the Keketuohai mining area.

So far, more than 100,000 trees of various kinds have been planted in relevant areas, adding over 1.5 million square meters of green area to the locality and turning bare mountains green again.

Meanwhile, the No. 3 mine pit, the geological exhibition center, as well as other important sites of the mining area, have been put under good protection.

In addition, the Ayiguozhi cave, which was abandoned many years ago, has become a tourist attraction after restoration, and the abandoned old factory buildings have also been transformed into a tourism facility.

Thanks to such efforts, the

old mining area in Keketuohai has been developed into a new calling card of the locality.

"Today, Keketuohai has straight roads and neat rows of trees, and has increased the income of local residents through the development of tourism. Each local household can earn 20,000 yuan (\$3,138) to 30,000 yuan in three months during peak tourist season," said Tan.

People's Daily

# Official: Britain to offer everyone booster shot eventually

LONDON

BRITAIN is moving towards offering everyone a COVID-19 booster vaccine, a member of Britain's vaccine advisory committee said yesterday, ahead of an expected decision on whether to extend and speed up booster shots.

"Inevitably, everybody will be offered a booster," Anthony Harnden, deputy chair of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), told BBC TV.

"But what we want to do is make sure that it's done in a sensible order so that those that are most vulnerable for this infection can get boosted and their natural immunity levels can go up."

Britain has recorded the third case of the newly identified Omicron coronavirus variant, the UK Health Security Agency said on Sunday, adding that the individual, who was no longer in Britain, was linked to travel to Southern Africa.

UKHSA said that while in Britain, the individual was in Westminster in central London.

"Our advanced sequencing capabilities enable us to find variants and take rapid action to limit onward spread," Jenny Harries, chief executive of UKHSA, said in a statement.

In another development, six cases of the COVID-19 Omicron variant of concern have been identified in Scotland, the Scottish government said on Monday, adding that public health officials were working to establish the circumstances of the cases.

"Public Health Scotland will undertake enhanced contact tracing in all cases," Scottish Health Secretary Humza Yousaf said. "This will help establish the origin of the virus and any further individuals they have come into contact with in recent weeks." Agencies

# Travel bans due to Omicron 'hammer blow' to South Africa's local economy recovery, says official

CAPE TOWN

TRAVEL bans on South Africa due to the new Omicron coronavirus variant will be "devastating" for the provincial economy as the local government is seeking for a recovery on its key tourism sector from COVID-19 impact, Western Cape provincial official said in a press release on Sunday.

The economy of Western Cape, South Africa's popular tourism destination that hosts the legislative capital Cape Town, relies on international visitors during the peak season, which starts from December when South Africa is in summer, said Alan Winde, Premier of Western Cape.

"This has been a hammer blow to our major job-creating sector in the province precisely when we needed a recovery, to claw back jobs lost over the last 19 months," said Winde.

He said the travel bans are "extremely distressing", as the World Health Organization (WHO) has said that they are not an effective response.

Western Cape, which boasts the iconic Table Mountain, Cape of Good Hope, Robben Island, as well as wine routes and a coastline includes sandy beaches with rocky mountains in places, was seeing a hope of recovery in the tourism sector that has been hit hard by COVID-19, with an estimated loss of over 75,000 jobs in 2020.

Both Cape Town and Western Cape governments have been preparing for the peak season by driving vaccinations and launching marketing and other tourism-related activities.

"We are devastated that, at the very moment recovery was kicking in, we have been hit by a new variant which has turned things upside down and which is a major setback for our tourism and hospitality sector in the Western Cape," said the province's Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, David Maynier.

Maynier said the government has been in regular contact with diplomatic corps and will convene meetings with business to provide updates on latest developments as Western Cape's economy needs as much information as possible to make the best decisions.

Despite the disappointment on the travel bans, the local government has been assisting passengers who have been stranded by providing access to transport and accommodation and by liaising with consulates to assist where necessary.

It also set up a dedicated FAQ page with necessary information to assist travelers. Several countries announced a travel ban or tightened travel restrictions on South Africa. Tourism is one of South Africa's key contributors to the economy.

As a whole, the industry directly employs 657,000 people, official figures showed. Xinhua



# The secret to a prosperous China-Africa relationship

NAIROBI

CHINA and Africa have stood together through times of adversity and success, setting a strong example for the building of a global community with a shared future.

The 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will convene despite disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, showing the great significance that Africa and China attach to furthering their ties, as well as a deep mutual trust that will create more opportunities for the two traditional partners to collaborate.

The FOCAC, since its inception in 2000, has become an important platform for collective dialogue and an effective mechanism for pragmatic cooperation that has profoundly benefited the Chinese and African peoples and reshaped international cooperation with Africa.

After years of dedicated efforts, the tree of China-Africa cooperation has flourished – it is tall and strong, and cannot be shaken by any force. The China-Africa friendship is now in its prime.

The secret to fruitful China-Africa cooperation has been revealed by a white paper, titled “China and Africa in the New Era: A Partnership of Equals,” released by China’s State Council Information Office on Friday.

The China-Africa friendship, according to the paper, has been embodied by mutual political trust, rapidly expanding economic cooperation, growing social development cooperation, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and steadily ex-



Trains park on the track at the Mobolaji Johnson Railway Station of the Lagos-Ibadan railway in Lagos, Nigeria, on June 10, 2021. China-Africa cooperation is bearing fruits and unleashing huge potential with the high-quality implementation of the “eight major initiatives.” Put forward at the Beijing summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in September 2018, the eight major initiatives cover the fields of industrial promotion, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, green development, capacity building, health care, people-to-people exchanges as well as peace and security. Xinhua

panding cooperation on peace and security.

Economy-wise, statistics show China has been Africa’s largest trading partner for the 12 years since 2009. China-Africa trade accounted for more than 21 percent of Africa’s total external trade in 2020. China has increased its imports of non-resource products, and offered zero-tariff treatment to 97 percent of taxable items by the 33 least-developed countries in Africa.

By the end of 2020, direct investment by Chinese companies in Africa had surpassed 43 billion U.S. dollars. The over 3,500 Chinese companies across the continent have directly and indirectly created millions of jobs while more than 80 percent of their employees are locals.

When it comes to infrastructure, to say that Chinese companies’ involvement in infrastructure development is profoundly changing Africa’s landscape is no exaggeration. To date, almost all African countries with diplomatic ties with China have already signed agreements on cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. Projects implemented by Chinese companies accounted for 31.4 percent of all infrastructure projects in Africa in 2020.

Since the founding of FOCAC, Chinese companies have utilized various funds to help African countries build and upgrade more than 10,000 km of railways, nearly 100,000 km of highways, nearly 1,000 bridges and 100 ports, and 66,000 km of power transmission and distribution. They

have also helped build an installed power-generating capacity of 120 million kW, a communications backbone network of 150,000 km and a network service covering nearly 700 million user terminals, according to the white paper.

Apart from the fruitful infrastructure cooperation, China has helped advance Africa’s industrialization and economic diversification through building economic and trade cooperation zones, special economic zones, industrial parks and science parks.

China has also been sharing agricultural development experiences and technology with Africa and helping Africa build agricultural value chains and bolster trade. It has also helped Africa bridge the digital

divide by expanding digital cooperation.

Mutual support is prevalent in the new era of China-Africa cooperation. From the devastating earthquake in southwest China’s Sichuan Province in 2008 to cyclone Ildai that swept across Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi in 2019, from the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa in 2014 to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, China and Africa have always stood alongside each other in trying times.

During the toughest times in China’s fight against the COVID-19 epidemic, African countries and regional organizations such as the African Union provided strong support to China. After COVID-19 struck Africa, China immediately offered humanitarian assistance, including urgently-needed medical supplies and vaccines. Earlier this week, the main building of the Chinese-funded headquarters for the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was structurally complete.

At the upcoming conference, China and Africa are looking forward to in-depth discussions on post-pandemic economic recovery, health, infrastructure development and other issues.

The two sides are also expected to nurture new growth drivers such as e-commerce, building 5G networks, and greening the economy with a view to promoting high-quality and sustainable common development.

Looking to the future, the space for mutually beneficial cooperation will surely expand as the China-Africa community with a shared future grows ever stronger.

Xinhua

Agencies

China, Russia maintain close ties amid pandemic – Chinese MFA

BEIJING

CHINA and Russia have worked jointly this year to fight the novel coronavirus pandemic and achieved a stable development of bilateral relations in all areas, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said yesterday.

“China and the Russian Federation maintain close contacts, take intense effort to overcome the impact of the coronavirus epidemic and promote pragmatic cooperation in all areas, generally ensuring its stable development,” he said at a news conference, answering a TASS question about the upcoming meeting of the countries’ prime ministers that will take place by a video link. The Chinese diplomat said that the PRC and Russia, even during the pandemic, are successfully increasing bilateral trade and jointly implementing large projects.

“We continue to actively communicate both online and in person,” he said. “Tomorrow, the prime ministers of China and the Russian Federation will sum up the results of bilateral pragmatic cooperation in all areas and discuss the results achieved over the past year.” “They will outline new steps to advance cooperation at the next phase,” he added.

Last week, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced that on November 30, the 26th regular meeting of heads of the cabinet will take place by video link. According to a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the consultations between China’s Li Keqiang and Russia’s Mikhail Mishustin are aimed at stabilizing global supply chains and restoring the world economy.

## Black market for fertilizers is booming in India as prices soar

BY BLOOMBERG

INDIAN farmers squeezed by a massive shortage of fertilizers are turning to the black market and paying exorbitant prices for supplies.

The shortfall has led to a thriving market where subsidized crop nutrients are sold illegally at prices much higher than levels set by the government. Shady agents have been busy fielding requests from farmers who call them in desperate need.

With a key planting season underway for India’s millions households that depend on agriculture for a living, farmers say they don’t have much of a choice.

We either have to cut the use of fertilizers and risk lower production, or pay sky-high prices on the black market, said Dilip Patidar, a wheat and onion grower in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Either option isn’t great. A drop in crop yields could drive food prices higher, worsening inflation in a country where 15 percent of the population faces hunger. Paying high prices on the black market will hurt the incomes of small and marginal farmers, which make up more than 80 percent of India’s agricultural sector.

India is one of the worst affected by a worldwide fertilizer crisis. Prices of crop nutrients have soared as tight coal and natural gas supplies forced some fertilizer plants in Europe to close. These hurdles will keep fertilizer prices elevated through the first half of 2022, according to Gro Intelligence.

India will be first to feel the pinch as its fertilizer demand tends to peak in the fourth to first quarter, according to Alexis Maxwell, an analyst for Bloomberg Intelligence.

India imports up to a third of its fertilizers and is the world’s biggest buyer of urea and di-ammonium



A farmer fertilizes a crop at a farm in Guna, Madhya Pradesh, India.

phosphate, known as DAP. The supply crunch will likely hurt production of staple crops such as wheat, rapeseed and pulses planted during the winter.

“The shortage of fertilizers comes at a time when the prices of other inputs like diesel are also elevated and some farmers have suffered damage due to erratic rainfall,” said Garima Kapoor, an economist at Elara Securities (India) Pvt Ltd in Mumbai. These may limit the recovery in rural demand, she added.

India is boosting its own fertilizer production and working on long-term deals with suppliers to curb price increases, according to people familiar with the matter. Current subsidies to fertilizer companies are sufficient but if more is required, the government will grant it, said the people, who asked not to be named as they’re not authorized to discuss publicly.

The federal government has started making weekly allocation of fertilizers to districts based on demand to prevent hoarding by retailers and farmers amid low stockpiles, one of the people said. Talks are ongoing with countries such as Oman, Jordan, Morocco and Russia for long-term supplies, the person said.

Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth declined to comment on whether the government will further

boost fertilizer subsidies. A spokeswoman for the fertilizer ministry wasn’t available for comments.

On the black market, a 45-kilogram bag of di-ammonium phosphate is selling for 1,500 rupees (\$20), above the maximum retail price of 1,200 rupees, farmer Patidar said. A bag of urea costs as much as 400 rupees compared with the usual price of 266 rupees.

Patidar is waiting for his fertilizer stocks to arrive. “If I don’t get adequate supplies on time my output will fall,” he said.

Another farmer in India’s northern state of Haryana is also facing fertilizer woes. Sukram Pal said he managed to sow wheat by using half the usual amount of DAP, but now needs urea which is in short supply. “Production is definitely going to fall this year,” he said.

Agencies

## Honduras opposition claims win, to be first woman president

TEGUCIGALPA

LEFTIST opposition candidate Xiomara Castro declared victory in Sunday’s Honduran presidential election, with early results giving her a commanding lead and putting her on track to become the first female leader of the Central American country.

With 40 percent of votes counted, Castro, the wife of former President Manuel Zelaya, had 53.5 percent, while Nasry Asfura, candidate of the ruling National Party had 34 percent, preliminary results from the national electoral council showed.

Castro, 62, (pictured) was competing in a field of more than a dozen candidates, and supporters hailed a triumph that would end a dozen years of conservative rule and return the left to power for the first time since Zelaya was deposed in a 2009 coup.

In a brief victory address, Castro vowed to form a government of “reconciliation,” and to strengthen direct democracy with referendums – a tool that Mexico’s leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has repeatedly employed.

“There will be no more abuse of power in this country,” said Castro, dressed in a red jacket and flanked by the 2017 presidential runner-up, popular TV host Salvador Nasralla, who joined her slate as a candidate for vice president.

Results appeared to be heading to a far clearer result than in the previous election, when irregularities in the vote count sparked deadly protests and led to incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernandez controversially securing a second term.

After polls closed, National Party officials quickly claimed victory after what the electoral council described as an historic turnout. Still, Asfura himself earlier pledged to honor voters’ verdict when casting his ballot.

Castro, the opinion polls leader since tying up with Nasralla in October, sought to unify opposition to Hernandez, who has denied accusations of having ties to powerful gangs, despite an open investigation in the United States linking him to alleged drug trafficking.

“We can’t stay home. This is our moment. This is the moment to kick out the dictator-



ship,” Castro said just after voting in the town of Catacamas, mobbed by reporters.

She urged voters to report any problems they saw and said international observers would help to ensure a fair vote.

Asfura, a wealthy businessman and two-term mayor of the capital, had tried in the campaign to distance himself from Hernandez and the controversies engulfing him.

Flashpoint

The election is the latest political flashpoint in Central America, a major source of US-bound migrants fleeing chronic unemployment and gang violence. Honduras is among the world’s most violent countries, although homicide rates have eased.

Central America is also key transit point for drug trafficking, and where concerns have also grown over increasingly authoritarian governments. Some voters consulted by Reuters expressed dissatisfaction with their choices. But many others had clear favorites.

“I’m against all the corruption, poverty and drug-trafficking,” said Jose Gonzalez, 27, a mechanic who said he was voting for Castro.

Hernandez’s disputed 2017 re-election, and its ugly aftermath, loomed large. Widespread reports of irregularities provoked protests claiming the lives of over two dozen people, but he rode out the fraud claims and calls for a re-vote.

Alexa Sanchez, a 22-year-old medical student, lounged on a bench just after voting while listening to music on her headphones and said she reluctantly voted for Castro.

Agencies

## Lithuania needs to take consequences for publicly violating one-China principle

THE Lithuanian government, in disregard of China’s strong objection and repeated dissuasion, has approved the establishment of the so-called “Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania” by the Taiwan authorities.

This act has created the false impression of “one China, one Taiwan” in the world, flagrantly violated the one-China principle, renounced the political commitment made by Lithuania in the communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic

of China (PRC), undermined China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and grossly interfered in China’s internal affairs.

The Chinese government made it clear that it will take all necessary measures to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Lithuanian side shall be responsible for all the ensuing consequences.

There is but one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China’s territory. The government of the PRC is the sole legal government representing the whole of China.

The one-China principle is a consensus of the international community, a universally recognized norm governing international relations, as well as a political foundation for the development of bilateral relations between China and other countries.

In the joint communiqué signed by Lithuania and the PRC on the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Lithuanian government recognized the government of the PRC as the sole legal government of China and Taiwan as an inalienable part of the Chinese territory. It also

promised in black and white the obligation not to establish official relations or engage in official contacts with the Chinese island province of Taiwan.

However, Lithuania now openly engages in official contacts with the Taiwan authorities, and even backs up “Taiwan independence” supporters, which is a serious betrayal of its promise. Its wicked deed will never be tolerated by the Chinese people. Lithuania’s attempt to undermine China’s core interests by playing the “Taiwan card” is a total miscalculation. The Taiwan ques-

tion concerns China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as core interests, on which China will never make compromises and concessions.

Lithuania’s approval for the establishment of the so-called “Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania” by the Taiwan authorities will not change the fact that the Chinese mainland and Taiwan on both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one China. On the contrary, it will make the Chinese people more determined to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity

and realize the complete national reunification.

China will take all necessary countermeasures in response to Lithuania’s act that has seriously violated the one-China principle to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Going further and further down the wrong path, the Lithuanian government thought that it could attract some attention and gain political capital. The truth is it will only end up shooting itself in the foot.

People’s Daily

# SPORT



Mtibwa Sugar's midfielder, George Makang'a (L), negotiates his way past Kagera Sugar fullback, Bolton Omwenga, when the outfits met in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League clash, which took place in Kagera. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

## Football stakeholders ought to be educated sponsorship

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE FIFA World Cup finals will be held next year in Qatar, ending a fierce battle of various companies to sponsor participating national teams.

The biggest battle is for sports equipment manufacturers like Adidas, Puma, and Nike, who have largely succeeded in capturing the world's major soccer nations such as France, Germany, Brazil, and Cameroon, past African football champions.

Sometimes the battle goes into the teams of those nations. It was reported in 1998, Nike forced the then world star striker, Ronaldo de Lima, to play in the final despite being ill.

Unofficial reports said Nike was the one who saw it to Ronaldo, who suffered a concussion and was treated at a hospital, played the final match against France but the disease was evident as the day saw a shadow of the attacker, nicknamed 'phenomenon', and Brazil fell 3-0 to France.

The companies also compete at the club level. Adidas is said to have been largely responsible for ensuring midfielder Paul Pogba was signed by Manchester United after the European giants did not have a star footballer to sell jerseys and other equipment, especially to youngsters.

That has not been made public but speculation has been high and Adidas has not come forward to comment.

Similarly, other reports suggest that Nike clashed with Manchester United after deciding to sell Cristiano Ronaldo to Real Madrid, who are dressed Adidas. It is said that the source of Nike's departure from Manchester United is the dispute.

Even the signing of Pierre Emerick Aubameyang to Arsenal was made by Adidas after the London club did not have a big name for the equipment.

All of that information has never been official, probably due to the strict rules and regulations governing the football business meaning direct involvement of a sponsoring company or deciding who to play is to raise doubts in the minds of game managers and other participants.

But the situation here seems to be going from bad to worse.

Last week a debate erupted over GSM Group sponsoring a club other than Yanga after the firm owner was said to have helped several clubs avoid financial bankruptcy.

Simba SC leaders have not spoken about the issue, but some of the Msimbazi Street club fanatics have spoken out to show that this is the point on their side.

Yanga has also responded by proving that even Mohamed Dewji's company that invested in Simba SC, namely Mohamed Enterprises, sponsored another club last season and so they wonder why Simba SC fanatics are now complaining after seeing GSM Group financially back NBC Premier League.

It is not an offense for one company to sponsor more than one club in one league.

It's very common and that's why I tried to show at the beginning how these big companies in the world sponsor teams or clubs in the same league and there is no problem about it.

Even here, Simba and Yanga are sponsored by SportPesa and were formerly sponsored by Kilimanjaro Premium Lager and there was no problem, let alone Azam Media television rights which apply to all clubs through the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

Perhaps the problem could be the involvement of employees or high-ranking individuals in those companies, as well as their involvement in the club's major activities when they are the ones with the biggest decisions in their companies.

If MeTL sponsors a club other than Simba, then its owner, Mohamed Dewji, becomes the Chairman of the Simba Board of Directors owning about 49% of the shares, then there is a problem.

If Hersi Said, the GSM Group Investment Director and the assistant to the company owner, Ghalib Said Mohamed, becomes Yanga Registration Committee's vice-chairman and is heavily involved in operational activities, perhaps even more than even the outfit Chief Executive Officer, then there is a problem.

They both deal with their confidence as they choose to embark on their activities at the club.

The key is for football governing body's officials to realize that until the two offenders have reached the point of criticizing their offenses, then there is a problem that needs to be addressed by either a solid guideline or regulation that will do away with conflict of interest.

## SPORTS

## Simba SC canters to victory in CAF Confederation Cup pre-group stage playoff



Simba SC midfielder, Hassan Dilunga (L), speeds past Red Arrows FC defender when the clubs faced off in 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup pre-group stage playoff first leg in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

FOLLOWING their unanticipated and heartbreaking ouster from this season's CAF Champions League, Simba SC fans were rendered downcast and gloomy.

But one expects that Simba SC's fervent and devoted legions of supporters are now walking on air following their club's 3-0 conquest of Red Arrows FC last Sunday in the first leg of their CAF Confederation Cup playoff tie.

Indeed, the clash served as the first real test of Simba SC's new coach Pablo Franco's coaching acumen and all ardent supporters of the Msimbazi Street giants will be mightily chuffed that the Spaniard passed it with flying colours.

However, this being African football, Simba SC has not yet fully secured the victory over Zambian side Red Arrows FC as the second leg of this tie will be played on the latter's shores.

By dint of their first leg triumph, though, Simba SC already has one foot in the next round of the CAF Confederation Cup.

That notwithstanding, what matters most now is that Simba SC prepares meticulously for the second leg showdown in Zambia as Red Arrows FC could still

snatch victory from the jaws of defeat come to the second leg.

After all, we do not want to revisit our CAF Champions League nightmare when Simba SC was cruelly shoved out of the competition in a most critical second leg, which, significantly, followed a first-leg victory for the Msimbazi Street outfit.

At the time Simba SC's second leg heartbreak in the CAF Champions League had been not what the doctor had ordered.

Still, on football, the curtains recently closed in the inaugural CAF Women's Champions League (CAFWCL), which is a tournament that had long been promised but had hitherto never been delivered.

Indeed, it is no secret that there had been no prominent continental women's club football league for numberless years, that is,

until the present day.

Nevertheless, despite seeing the light rather late in the day, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) still deserves hearty praise for organizing the first-ever CAFWCL, which has admittedly been a long time coming.

And, perchance it was fitting too that the CAFWCL was hoisted aloft by South African giants, Mamelodi Sundowns, which has also enjoyed hegemony over continental men's football during recent years.

This might as well be an opportune time for world football's governing body, FIFA, to set up the women's version of the eagerly expected and annual FIFA Men's Club World Cup.

Indeed, a FIFA Women's Club World Cup would serve as the perfect springboard for further promotion of women's football globally, which, as we all know, suffers from a gross lack of sponsorship and promotion too.

Let us still maintain the football theme by turning our focus to the African Amputee Football Cup (CANAF), which is being hosted in our neck of the woods this year.

Pleasingly, our national amputee football team, affectionately dubbed the 'Tembo Warriors', have gotten their campaign off to a flying start after bagging a 2-1 victory over Morocco last weekend.

It is hoped then that the Tembo Warriors can stick to winning ways throughout the competition and eventually emerge as the 2021 undisputed CANAF champions, which, if achieved, would most surely rank as a perfect gift-wrapped sporting present for the festive season, which is well and truly on its way.

## NBC Premier League clubs' choice of home venues ought to consider fans

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS season's NBC Premier League has witnessed the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) allow the sides choose to hold one of their home matches in any of other regions.

The TPLB made it clear that top-flight outfits have been allowed to hold one of their two home matches to other regions.

This is why Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Municipal Council FC opted to hold its league fixture against Yanga at Ruvuma's Majimaji Stadium.

Coast Region-based Ruvu Shooting chose Mwanza's CCM Kirumba to hold its league fixture against Simba SC for the second time in a row.

It is very strange to see a club established by Kinondoni Municipal Council choose to host its home tie in Songea, Ruvuma, that is, the outfit left Dar es Salaam and went to entertain the residents of Ruvuma.

Similarly, Ruvu Shooting, a Coast Region club, was forced to hold one of its home matches in Mwanza to follow strict Club Licensing regulations.

Coast Region soccer fanatics, some of whom contribute to Ruvu Shooting's well-



being, consequently miss an opportunity to attend the outfit's games in the region.

That is not limited to Ruvu and KMC FC, but many clubs, some of which are participating in Championship, which was previously termed as First Division League.

Even Tanzania Prisons, which was established as Mbeya Prisons but now owned by Prisons Department, has now abandoned Mbeya and relocated to Rukwa.

And this behaviour cannot stop there, soccer fanatics ought to expect more changes

as the days go by.

I have tried to reflect on the team's particular reasons for either leaving their bases or opting to hold some of their fixtures elsewhere, ignoring fans who had for years sought to root for the sides' progress.

The home stadium is one of the most important things for a club in building and strengthening its culture.

The venue shapes the club's brand and makes the outfit stand out from the crowd, attracts more supporters and members, and

even attracts companies to invest in the side.

Coastal Union's culture is different from African Sports, and that difference is what creates the rivalry between the two Tanga teams.

It is like forcing a Coastal Union fan to support African Sports, such a fanatic cannot conform to the culture of the rival club.

And one cannot build a fan base for a team that does not have its historic home stadium. As Ruvu Shooting seeks to play one of its home matches outside the Coast Region, it

will not be able to build a wide fan base no matter how impressive it will be in the top flight.

Football fans will not see anything in Ruvu Shooting that they should be proud of other than waiting for the results of the club's matches.

Yes, Mwanza football fans will turn up at the venue on the day Ruvu Shooting faces either Yanga or Simba, but the majority will be doing so to watch the visiting outfits.

The next match, in which the club perhaps takes on Mtibwa Sugar, will witness very few fanatics turn up at the stadium.

A club needs to realize that the place where it was established is important in its history and culture.

Leaving the area for any reason amounts to cutting off the historical part of the club's culture and establishing a new one that is hard to keep in people's minds.

In addition, the team has to spend a lot of money to play at home.

Club officials have to think carefully before deciding to hold one of their respective outfits' home matches in other regions' venues.

It is very important for a team to respect its fans, even if they are few because doing so will build respect and attract other football fans.

## Man Utd appoint Rangnick as interim manager

LONDON

MANCHESTER United have appointed Ralf Rangnick as the club's interim manager until the end of the season, the club announced on Monday.

Rangnick, 63, has left his role as head of sports and development at Lokomotiv Moscow and signed a six-month contract at Old Trafford.

Sources told ESPN that the German was in advanced negotiations with United and a breakthrough was reached when a consultancy role was offered as part of Rangnick's move to the club.

The club said in a statement: "Manchester United is delighted to announce the appointment of Ralf Rangnick as interim manager until the end of the season, subject to work visa requirements.

"Following this period, Ralf and the club have agreed that he will continue in a consultancy role for a further two years."

Rangnick is expected to take charge of his first game when United host rivals Arsenal on Dec. 2 in the Premier League, although this is subject to the finalisation of his British work permit.

He has previously managed Hannover, Schalke, Hoffenheim and RB Leipzig in the Bundesliga.

United have been searching for an interim manager since the dismissal of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after the dismal 4-1 defeat at Watford on Nov. 20.

Former midfielder Michael Carrick will remain as caretaker manager until Rangnick's work visa is completed, the club said. He has been in charge for the side's previous two games, first guiding United to a 2-0 win at Villarreal to secure a place in the Champions League knockout rounds before claiming a 1-1 draw to Chelsea on Sunday.

"I am excited to be joining Manchester United and focused on making this a successful season for the club," Rangnick said.

"The squad is full of talent and has a great balance of youth and experience. All my efforts for the next six months will be on helping these players fulfil their potential, both individually and, most importantly, as a team.

"Beyond that, I look forward to supporting the club's longer-term goals on a consultancy basis."

Sources told ESPN that United held talks with former Barcelona manager Ernesto Valverde and that Lucien Favre, previously at Borussia Dortmund, was also a candidate.

Paris Saint-Germain manager Mauricio Pochettino remains United's long-term target, according to ESPN sources, but the club had an initial enquiry about his immediate availability knocked back.

Sources added that Pochettino would be keen on the vacancy at Old Trafford but is under contract in Paris until 2023 after signing an extension in the summer.

(Agencies)

## Ancelotti: Vinicius has 'best in the world' potential

MADRID

CARLO Ancelotti praised Vinicius Junior's "extraordinary" late strike in Real Madrid's 2-1 comeback win over Sevilla on Sunday, admitting the Brazil star has what it takes "to be one of the best in the world."

The winger's 87th minute winner – already his ninth goal in LaLiga this campaign – came after Rafa Mir had opened the scoring for the visitors and Karim Benzema had equalised in a closely-fought first half at the Bernabeu.

The 21-year-old received the ball by the left touchline, controlling it with his chest and driving infield before unleashing an unstoppable, rising right-footed shot past goalkeeper Bono.

"An extraordinary goal," manager Ancelotti said in his post-match news conference when asked to pick a word to describe the finish, calling Vinicius "a player who has something special in his feet."

He added: "What surprises me about Vinicius is the quality he has in scoring goals. His individual quality isn't a surprise, I knew he was strong in his dribbling, in one-on-ones, with his pace, but he's surprising everyone now with his capacity to score."

Real Madrid's victory over their

(Agencies)

## Portuguese league discuss 'disgrace' after team starts with nine men

PORTUGUESE league officials met on Sunday to discuss the farcical game between Belenenses and Benfica, which had to be called off in the second half after Belenenses started with only nine players, including two goalkeepers, due to an outbreak of Covid-19.

Belenenses played one of their goalkeepers, Joao Monteiro, as an outfield player and had no substitutes at the Estadio Nacional where Benfica strolled into a 7-0 lead before half-time on Saturday.

The Primeira Liga game was called off by referee Manuel Mota three minutes into the second half, after Belenenses were reduced to six players. They had emerged after half-time with only seven players before Monteiro went down injured.

According to reports in Portugal, Primeira Liga officials met on Sunday morning to discuss the controversial fixture and whether any disciplinary action should be taken against Belenenses.

The Portuguese health ministry also issued a statement on Sunday, saying "it does not comment on the holding of games, whether in football or any other sport". Belenenses president Rui Pedro Soares said on Saturday the game was a "disgrace" and criticised the league for effectively forcing the club to play, under threat of being deducted points.

"What happened today was a great shame, there is nothing to justify what happened," he said. "Never in my life have I witnessed such dignified behaviour as from those nine players."

After informing the league "that we didn't wish to play the match, we were told we had eight players able to play" and "not turning up could be considered an unjustified absence", said the Belenenses president.

fellow top four contenders leaves them four points clear at the top of the table, while Sevilla drop to fourth behind Atletico Madrid and Real Sociedad.

"Vinicius today showed a quality that I don't think he's ever shown before," Ancelotti said. "It's another step he takes to be one of the best in the world... The important thing is he focused on being efficient. When the chance comes, you have to take it."

With nine goals in 14 league games, Vinicius has already tripled his tally from both of the last two entire LaLiga seasons, becoming a fixture alongside Benzema – who has 11 goals himself – in attack.

"Vini knows that games are going to be more difficult for him now," teammate Casemiro said. "People have realised that he's a top player."

"We know he'll be man-marked, sometimes by two or three players, but when he gets the slightest chance, he has to make the difference."

Real Madrid are next in action on Wednesday, hosting Athletic Bilbao in a game rescheduled from matchday 9, before travelling to third-placed Real Sociedad next weekend.

# Ronaldo's Manchester United role in question with Rangnick arrival

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

CRISTIANO Ronaldo headed straight down the tunnel at the end of Manchester United's 1-1 draw at Chelsea on Sunday without even a glance over his shoulder to his teammates or the supporters who so readily chant his name.

The former Real Madrid and Juventus forward doesn't tend to hang around on the pitch once the final whistle has blown, but his sharp exit at Stamford Bridge seemed more pointed than usual. It certainly wasn't due to fatigue, considering he had only been involved for 26 minutes after replacing goalscorer Jadon Sancho as a second-half substitute.

Perhaps it was the realisation that, once interim manager Ralf Rangnick arrives to take charge at Old Trafford, he may have to get used to the kind of experience that he endured at Chelsea on Sunday afternoon.

Unless Rangnick changes his entire approach to the game, United's tactics and formation under the new boss will be very similar to those deployed by caretaker-manager Michael Carrick against Thomas Tuchel's team: They will be more solid in midfield and the forwards will be expected to press high with energy and be the first line of defence at all times.

And therein lies the problem for Ronaldo. He is many things, including an incredible goal scorer, but he does not have the energy, or seemingly the appetite, to do the job that Rangnick expects of his forwards and which Bruno Fernandes produced on Sunday.

"I thought the front three, Marcus, Jadon and Bruno, did a great job of knowing when to press and when to drop off," Carrick said after the game.

The big question that Rangnick must answer quickly is whether he will compromise his philosophy to accommodate United's star player or if Ronaldo must now accept a different role – one that he may not like – as an impact substitute.

Ronaldo will never be content to



Cristiano Ronaldo reacts at the end of Manchester United's draw with Chelsea in the Premier League. (Agencies)

spend more time on the bench than the field of play. Even though he is approaching his 37th birthday in February, he remains one of the most driven and determined footballers in the game. It's simply not in his make-up to accept a bit-part role, even though Carrick said before kickoff against the Premier League leaders that Ronaldo did not protest against his surprise demotion.

"I have had a good chat with Cristiano," Carrick said. "And he was great."

With United due to face Arsenal at Old Trafford on Thursday, followed by another home game against Crystal Palace next Sunday, Ronaldo's omission against Chelsea may have been nothing more than game management to ensure that the Portugal international is fresh for those two fixtures. Having made little or no impact during the recent defeats against Liverpool and Manchester City, which played a big part in Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's dismissal as manager, it made sense to leave Ronaldo out against the European champions. Whether it was Carrick or Rangnick who made the decision is unclear, although Carrick in-

sisted that Rangnick was not involved in team selection for the Chelsea game.

"That wasn't the case, no," Carrick said.

But despite his failure to make an impact against Liverpool and City, Ronaldo remains United's leading goal scorer by some distance this season. With 10 goals in all competitions, he has scored more than twice as many Fernandes and Mason Greenwood, who are joint-second on the list with four apiece.

So planning ahead without Ronaldo will be a gamble for Rangnick. Yes, his work rate is not what the German would normally demand of his forwards, but his goals have rescued United more than once this season, so if his involvement diminishes under the new coach, somebody else will have to step up significantly.

When they signed Ronaldo from Juventus in August, there was always a danger that United would become over-reliant on a player who has scored 799 career goals for club and country. Having him back at the club, after he initially left United for Real Madrid in 2009, was regarded as an opportunity that they couldn't refuse

and it is an endless debate as to whether he has been good for the team or detrimental.

But Rangnick represents the here and now and Ronaldo will be judged on what he can and can't do.

When Fabio Capello took charge of England in 2008, he quickly made it clear that he could not, or would not, find a place for Michael Owen in his team, despite the forward being just 28 at the time and having scored 41 goals in 88 appearances prior to Capello's appointment as manager.

Capello regarded Owen as being no more than a goal scorer and a player incapable of bringing enough to the team, beyond his goals, to justify his inclusion. He selected him just once, as a substitute, before overlooking him for the rest of his time in charge.

Ronaldo may turn out to be Rangnick's version of Owen at United – a player with an outstanding goals record but not much else. And if that proves to be the case, Ronaldo's return to Old Trafford is likely to be short-lived because he didn't sign up for a second spell at United simply to watch it all unfold from the bench.

## Juventus turmoil: Raided by police and struggling in Serie A

MILAN

AS if having their offices raided by police investigating financial crimes wasn't serious enough for Juventus, Italy's most successful football team is enduring damaging turmoil on the field too.

For nine consecutive seasons, Juventus won the Italian title before being toppled as champions by Inter Milan in May. Now the team is being booed by its fans as it slides down the standings.

The jeering followed a 1-0 loss to Atalanta on Saturday that left the 36-time Italian champions in eighth place after more than a third of the season. It's not about trying to regain the title now, just a scramble to avoid missing out on lucrative UEFA income with Atalanta seven points ahead in the fourth and last Champions League qualification place.

Although it followed a dispiriting 4-0 collapse at Chelsea on Tuesday, at least a place in the round of 16 of this season's Champions League has already been secured for February.

Much uncertainty, though, hangs over its leadership in the coming weeks after financial police searched the club's offices in Turin and Milan on Friday to gather information relating to player transfers and agent dealings between 2019 and this year.

Prosecutors are investigating whether someone at the club, which is listed on the Milan stock exchange, cashed in on illegal commissions from transfer and loans of players. The case is also exploring if investors were misled with invoices being issued for non-existent transactions to demonstrate income that in turn could be deemed false accounting.

Juventus confirmed that its president, Andrea Agnelli, was under investigation along with vice president Pavel Nedved, a decorated former player, chief financial of-



ficer Stefano Cerrato and other former staff.

Italian market regulator CONSOB is investigating Juventus over revenue from player trading that was €43.2 million (now \$50 million) in 2020-21 and €172 million (now \$195 million) in the previous financial year.

"The company is cooperating with the investigators," Juventus said in a statement, "and with CONSOB and trusts that it will clarify any aspect of interest

to it as it believes to have acted in compliance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial reports, in accordance with accounting principles and in line with the international practice in the football industry and market conditions."

The investigation is a further setback for Agnelli, who had brought back title-winning coach Massimiliano Allegri after Andrea Pirlo's struggles in his single season

in charge.

The end of the team's Serie A supremacy coincided with the fall from grace in football politics for Agnelli, whose reign as head of the European Club Association ended in April with his ill-fated attempt to split from UEFA and form a largely closed Super League.

Agnelli, along with Barcelona and Real Madrid, is still clinging to the hope of launching a breakaway competition that locks in places for the elite like Juve.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Ronaldo's Manchester United role in question with Rangnick arrival

## Nissanka fifty lays solid base for Sri Lanka on rain-hit day

GALLE

PATHUM Nissanka breezed his way to a half-century, Dimuth Karunaratne fell eight short of a fifty that would have seen him equal a world record, and on a day in which rain washed out the first two sessions, Sri Lanka gained a significant advantage, moving to 113 for 1 in the 33.4 overs that were possible.

Before Roston Chase caught-and-bowled Karunaratne late in the day, Sri Lanka's openers had put on 106 runs in 31 overs - their second century stands in the series.

Kemar Roach, returning for this game after having been left out in favour of Shannon Gabriel, was perhaps the best of West Indies bowlers, delivering six overs and conceding just 12. Sri Lanka's batters were largely untroubled by the others.

Nissanka was positive almost from the outset. He drilled a full Jason Holder ball down the ground for four to begin the second over, carved Roach past the slip cordon soon after, and although occasionally beaten by deliveries that jagged past his outside edge, was on a constant hunt for runs, moving to 20 off his first 30 balls.

Karunaratne was typically conservative by comparison - defending and leaving the majority of deliveries he faced from the seamers, making just 4 from his first 30 deliveries.

Eventually, though, Holder and Roach wrapped up their spells, and batting seemed to get easier. Kyle Mayers was hit for three fours - twice through the leg side by Karunaratne - in his first two overs, the only two he bowled on the first day.

Nissanka attempted to dominate the left-arm spin of Veerasammy Permaul, who was playing his first Test since 2015, coming down the track in Permaul's second over to launch him into the sightscreen.

Soon, Captain Kraigg Brathwaite had spinners bowling from both ends, and although they prompted the occasional mistake, the batters largely settled into a rhythm against them, with Nissanka scoring primarily through the off side, and Karunaratne favouring the leg side, as he often does.

Nissanka got to fifty - his third in Tests, and second in the series - off the 74th ball he faced.

Karunaratne's dismissal came against the run of play. Earlier in that Chase over, he had played a late cut and a flick through midwicket, both of which went for four.

But Chase found some rip-off the last delivery of that over, and turned a ball more than the batter expected, which produced a return catch off the inside half of the bat as Karunaratne attempted to drive him down the ground.

If he had got to fifty, Karunaratne would have made seven Test half-centuries in as many innings, a feat only six batters had accomplished. In any case, his last seven scores read 42, 83, 147, 66, 118, 244, and 75.

Oshada Fernando survived ten balls before the players went off for bad light. Nissanka was 61 not out off 109 balls, his scoring rate has slowed as the light faded.

AGENCIES

**EATV TUESDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

**Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 5SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planei Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**



Executive Secretary of the Zanzibar Tourism Commission, Mohamed Juma Abdallah (2nd L) presents prizes to HAZ Zanzibar 2021 Golf Tournament winners, Kyle Veitch (3rd L), and Keith McColnick (2nd R), during the event's presentation ceremony in Zanzibar last weekend. NMB Bank sponsored the competition. Looking on (L-R) are NMB Bank's Head of Insurance Unit, Martin Massawe, and NMB Bank's Card Business Head, Philbert Casmir. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Martin: Simba SC still has work to do



Simba SC fullback, Israel Mwenda (L), shoots past Red Arrows FC fullback, George Simbayambaya, when the outfits faced off in 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup Additional Second Preliminary Round match played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC handed itself massive chances of progressing to the group stage of the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup with a healthy 3-0 win against Zambia's Red Arrows FC in the first leg of the play-off round ties which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Simba SC got their first goal in the 16th minute from a well-taken free-kick by Bernard Morrison which beat off Red Arrows FC goalkeeper Charles Kalumba.

Three minutes later Morrison danced past three Red Arrows FC players, Chepeshi, George Simbayambaya, and Felix Bulaya, as though it was a playstation to set up Meddie Kagere who tapped home Simba SC's second goal.

Morrison, Ghanaian attacking midfielder, then added the third goal in the second half after easily beating Chepeshi again and leaving Kalumba hapless as he failed to cover the near post to make it three 3-0 at Benjamin

Mkapa Stadium.

While Simba SC are well placed to book their place in the group stage, the outfit head coach, Pablo Martin, believes the job is not yet done.

According to the tactician, they will need to show up and ensure they complete the job against a tough opponent when they face each other in the second leg in Lusaka next weekend.

Martin stated: "First of all, I want to say thank you, especially to the fans because the weather was really bad. It was rainy but they were supporting us from the beginning until the end. It could have been a different atmosphere."

"About the game, tactically it was a game that we prepared but when we finally arrived here we realized that because of the weather condition the grass was waterlogged, we had to go for another plan."

"In football, most of the time

it is not only about the plan you have, but it is also about whether you have a plan B, C."

"We knew how they were to play and this weather condition was perfect for their style of play. It was bad for our style of play but even with that we got our act quickly."

"We showed up brave, we fought from the beginning until the end. We scored three goals and I think we deserved to score even four or five. They didn't create chances, maybe just one."

"I think due to the situation and the weather conditions, how my team is improving, how everyone wants to contribute, how everyone is fighting, I have to say I am happy, not very happy because this is not just one game."

"We have to go there and face a tough opponent. We have not already qualified, it is just 90 minutes, we need to be prepared in one week."

## Gritty New Zealand hold on for nervy draw in fading light

KANPUR

New Zealand's final pair saw out 52 balls in a tense last-wicket stand before bad light ended play 12 minutes before the scheduled close.

Two great spinners and their hugely accurate understudy pitting their skills against one of the slowest Indian Test pitches of recent times. A debutant and a No. 11 joining forces to try and eke out a draw. Nervous glances at light-meter readings.

All these ingredients came together in a dramatic final session as an engrossing Test match between the No. 1 and 2 teams in the world concluded with bad light ending play 12 minutes before the scheduled close, with India one wicket from victory.

And while the light situation may have helped them, New Zealand had to earn their great escape, with Rachin Ravindra and Ajaz Patel seeing out 52 balls in a tense, unbroken last-wicket stand.

They may have stopped just short of bowling India to a win, but R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, and Axar Patel put in a tremendous effort in challenging conditions. The fifth-day pitch in Kanpur showed little sign of deterioration, and its slowness and lack of carrying continued to negate the threat of its low bounce.

There wasn't a single bat-pad catch among the 36 wickets that fell over the five days, and only one was a catch in the slips - that too to a helmeted slip fielder stationed unusually close to the bat.

It came down to how well the spinners could attack the stumps, and few do this as well as Ashwin, Jadeja, and Axar.

India needed six wickets at the start of the final session, and they grabbed five - all lbw or bowled - with Jadeja striking three times with quick, stump-to-stump balls on a perfect length laden with the threat of natural variation that could test either edge of the bat.

He had removed Ross Taylor on the stroke of tea with one that slid on with the arm, and six overs into the final session he took out Kane Williamson - who saw out 112 balls to make 24 - with another low skipper that New Zealand's captain played back to.

Around these two key dismissals, New Zealand also lost Henry Nicholls, Tom Blundell - who was bowled when a defensive shot rolled back onto his stumps off a footmark - Kyle Jamieson and Tim Southee one after another, leaving India one wicket from victory with more than 40 minutes remaining, in theory. One good ball was all they needed, but on this day it wasn't to be.

Ravindra's batting talent had won him a spot ahead of another all-rounder who bowls left-arm spin in Mitchell Santner, and a left-arm seamer in Neil Wagner. The first four days had brought Ravindra no wickets in 16 overs, and a first-innings score of 13.

Now, however, was his time. Jadeja had bowled him with a ripper out of the footmarks in the first innings, and he alternated between flighted balls in that area and quicker ones at the stumps.

Ashwin kept switching from over the wicket to around to try and mess with his alignment.

Ravindra, though, showed he had the judgment of length and the footwork to be able to survive this examination, and got the little bit of luck that any batter in his situation would need, particularly when a shooter from Jadeja snuck under the bottom of his vertical bat and hit his back pad. Nitin Menon gave him out on the field, but a review showed the ball had struck him outside the line of off stump.

Ajaz, meanwhile, showed he could defend, keeping out 23 balls. The closest India came against him was when an Ashwin carrom ball from over the wicket straightened past his inside edge to hit his pad, but their review of the not-out decision showed the ball had pitched marginally outside leg stump.

There was probably less than an inch in it, but such were the margins of this Test match.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

