



National Pg 3 Zanzibar education sector development



National Pg 4 Police hold 3 over killing of nurse



National Pg 6 Zanzibar to register foreign ships



NBS: Annual inflation rate saw increase in December

By Getrude Mbago

ANNUAL headline inflation slightly increased to 4.2 percent last month, from 4.1 recorded in November, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

Ruth Minja (pictured), the acting director of population census and social statistics, said the overall index went up to 104.92 last month, compared to 100.73 in December 2020.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased prices rose by 4.9 percent from 4.4 percent the previous month, in November, with annual inflation without food and non-alcoholic beverages decreasing to 3.9 percent from 4.0 percent the previous month.

Rice prices rose by 3.7 percent, maize (5.2 percent), wheat flour (3.4 percent), maize flour (3.3 percent), sorghum flour (2.8 percent), she said.



If the inflation rate will exceed the 5.0 percent then this can bring about a negative impact to the economy

Cow meat rose by 3.0 percent, goat meat (1.6 percent), fish (5.3 percent), fruits (3.7 percent), vegetables (2.3 percent) and potatoes (3.2 percent), she elaborated.

Non-food items pushing up inflation include construction equipment (5.0 percent), gas (2.3 percent), kerosene (1.7 percent), diesel (6.7 percent) and petrol (3.0 percent), she stated.

In addition, annual average Inflation Rate for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages decreased to 4.2 percent in 2021 from 4.8 percent in 2020. Annual average Inflation Rate for All items without Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages in 2021 has also decreased to 3.5 percent from 3.7 percent recorded in 2020.

Minja said however, the pattern of inflation rates observed in 2020 and 2021 are still below the government inflation target of 5.0 percent, for consistent economic growth with a non-erratic operational environment, he stated, asserting that Tanzania is still performing well in terms of maintaining price stability for goods and services.

Inflation was rising in other East African Community (EAC) partner states, with

TURN TO PAGE 2

New roles at State House for Lukuvi, Prof Kabudi



Former Lands, Housing and Human Settlements minister William Lukuvi (R) has a word with some of the newly reassigned ministers shortly after the swearing-in ceremony at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. From-L: Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance), Jenista Mhagama; Health minister Ummu Mwalimu; and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), Prof Joyce Ndalichako. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan said yesterday that she deliberately left out two senior ministers in her recent cabinet reshuffle, so as to assign them to special duties at the State House.

They are William Lukuvi, the former Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, and Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, who was Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister.

In remarks after swearing in newly appointed ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and deputy PSs at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma, President Samia said the two former ministers will help her in supervising ministers and various other government officials.

"I have dragged my two brothers to the State House because when you look at the appointed ministers, you realize that they are all young and the two I have dropped are nearing retirement. They are going to assist me in supervising you," she asserted.

Samia hinted at a new role for Prof Kabudi, saying he will officially be appointed as chief government negotiator, leading all government negotiations with foreign investors.

"Prof Kabudi has done a good job in



All the roles in govt are aimed at assisting the president and we all have been appointed to help her. We should know that we have been entitled to serve the country on her behalf

negotiations during the mineral contracts review exercise. He will now be responsible for overseeing any agreement to be entered by the government and its institutions," she specified.

The president said Lukuvi will be handed special supervisory functions at the State House which will soon be announced, cutting back rumours that the veteran cabinet minister was heading for the role of Speaker of the National Assembly.

The State House was intent on setting up a government service delivery bureau headed by the former minister, she affirmed.

Earlier, Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson said the role of the legislature is to advise the government, but at times it plays the role of a development partner.

"The Head of State is the head of government and leader of the country, therefore her roles and powers are above the powers of any leader in the country," she told the gathering.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa urged the newly sworn in ministers to stand by their oaths and understand that the roles they have been given are aimed at serving Tanzanians.

"All the roles in government are aimed at assisting the president and we all have been appointed to help her. We should know that we have been entitled to serve the country on her behalf," the premier said.

Last Saturday, when announcing the changes at the State House in Dar es Salaam, Chief Secretary Hussein Katanga said the

TURN TO PAGE 2

Lightning: Four die, one injured

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

FOUR people died and one was injured by lightning while digging a grave for their relative at Kibaoni village in Chunya District, Mbeya Region.

Confirming the incident yesterday, district commissioner Mayeka Simon named the deceased as Yohana James (30), a resident of Mjengo, Paul Mwasongole (40) and Swalehe Ibrahim (23), both residents of Chunya town and



...it was raining heavily with lightning, but they went on with their work, then lightning struck

Bonny Lauliano from Songwe Region, while the injured is Zuberi Mahona (40).

The incident occurred on Sunday afternoon at the Kibaoni Muslim Cemetery, he stated.

"They were hit by lightning while digging a grave for their deceased relative, a woman known as Mama Yosefu," conveying heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.

The bodies of the deceased were preserved at the Chunya District Hospital, while the injured person was still receiving treatment, he said, urging people to take precautions during the current rainy season as it is often associated with lightning.

Meshack Luvanda, a witness of the incident, said it was raining heavily with lightning, but they went on with their work, then lightning struck.

For his part, Kibaoni village chairman Joshua Mlambala said lightning that

TURN TO PAGE 2

UN steps up fight against FGM and gender-based violence in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations has partnered with a leading non-governmental organisation to step up the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) in Somalia.

The deal will see the UN and Ifrah Foundation enforce initiatives in areas with the highest FGM prevalence. They will provide further opportunities for grassroots interventions and partner with key stakeholders, including clan

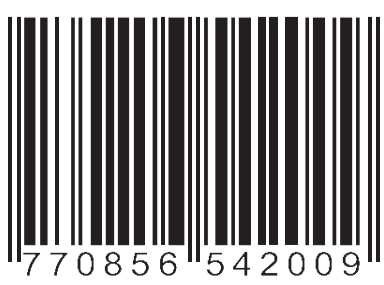


elders, clerics, women leaders and youth, for impactful programming.

"Overall, support for FGM is decreasing, and there are positive signs of generational changes in the practice that need to be further nurtured to put an end to FGM," said Sadiq Syed, the country programme manager for UN Women Somalia.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Mogadishu, Ifrah Ahmed, the founder and executive director of the foundation, said the partnership will enable them to

TURN TO PAGE 2



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New roles at State House for Lukuvi, Prof Kabudi

FROM PAGE 1

president made structural changes in three ministries. The new faces include Nape Nnauye, former CCM publicity secretary who becomes Minister for Information and Communications Technology, and Ridhiwani Kikwete who became Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements.

Former High Commissioner to Kenya, Pindi Chana, was named Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy and Parliamentary Affairs).

Hussein Bashe was promoted to Minister for Agriculture with Anthony Mavunde his deputy, while Prof Adolf Mkenda shifts to Education, Science and Technology, meanwhile the finance, defense, energy, tourism and foreign affairs portfolios remained unchanged.

Former High Commissioner to Kenya, Pindi Chana, was named Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy and Parliamentary Affairs).

NBS: Annual inflation increases in December

FROM PAGE 1

Uganda notching up to 2.9 percent from 2.6 percent for November, while in Kenya inflation decreased to 5.73 percent from 5.8 percent the previous month.

Elisha Mkandya, a central bank economist, said inflation is not necessarily a bad thing as long as it doesn't exceed set national targets.

"If the inflation rate will exceed the 5.0 percent then this can bring about a negative impact to the economy," he said, noting that BoT was taking various measures to control the price surge.

Prices rises for various products stem from increases in demand, population growth and production expenses, he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Nape Nnauye (R) as Information, Communications and Information Technology minister at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

UN steps up fight against FGM and gender-based violence in Somalia

FROM PAGE 1

reach out to communities and intensify collective advocacy in the South West State and Jubaland.

"Ending FGM and other harmful practices is key to promoting overall gender equality and a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030," he said.

The cooperation is part of the Japan-funded Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) programme, which seeks to

promote gender-responsive stabilisation and recovery of conflict-affected and displaced women and men in Kismaiyo, the interim capital of Jubaland, and Baidoa.

The LEAP project team will organise a series of events, including inclusive and regular community-led dialogue sessions, to challenge negative norms, support the community to develop and implement action plan.

The events will be followed by the proclamation of a declaration of zero tolerance of negative social norms.

A public event will additionally be organized for people to pledge, through a campaign, not to cut their daughters.

The partnership will also help identify and train 60 formal, traditional and religious community leaders to act as leaders in action against FGM and SGBV, and identify 60 women, men, youth, girls and boys to act as champions.

The project will as well establish linkages with similar ongoing initiatives and promote multimedia advocacy and community outreach activities targeting 25,000 women, men, boys,

and girls to address negative social norms and attitudes that condone gender inequality.

The linkages will further promote the role of men and boys as advocates for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

According to the UNFPA, Somalia has the world's highest prevalence of FGM, with an estimated 98 per cent of women and girls aged between 15 and 49 having been subjected to the procedure.

AGENCIES



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured in Zanzibar yesterday addressing members of a national task force charged with deliberating on recommendations on democratic practice in Tanzania as made by stakeholders' at a recent meeting in Dodoma city. Photo: State House

By Miriam Berger

Fast-growing global shortage of potatoes affects French fries, from Japan to Kenya

THERE'S a growing global potato shortage – a real problem for a planet addicted to French fries and chips.

French fries, chips, finger chips, French-fried potatoes, or simply fries, are batonnet or allumette-cut deep-fried potatoes, originating from either Belgium or France. They are prepared by cutting the potato into even strips, then drying and frying it, usually in a deep fry.

A number of popular items, including marmite and cream cheese, have faced scarcities amid supply chain disruptions wrought by the coronavirus pandemic and extreme weather. Potatoes are the latest to join the list, becoming

unevenly available in some countries and fast-food chains because of a confluence of factors.

In Japan, McDonald's locations stopped offering large and medium-size French fry orders late last month, after pandemic-related supply chain issues and floods in the Port of Vancouver delayed potato shipments.

Days later, South Africa's leading makers of potato chips warned that potatoes were in disturbingly short supply after a bad frost and excessive rains led to low local yields, on top of global sourcing shortages.

In Kenya this month, Kentucky Fried Chicken locations struck French fries, known locally as chips, from menus, as virus-related shipping delays held up containers full of potatoes for more than a month.

"You love our chips a little too much, and we've run out," KFC Kenya tweeted on Jan. 3. "Sorry!"

In the meantime, the chain offered customers the chance to swap in other menu items – chicken, buns, soda, coleslaw and maize-based ugali – in place of fries in combo meals.

Other Kenyan fast-food restaurants were able to offer the goods.

"We have enough fries for everyone," Kenya's Burger King wrote in a Jan. 4 Instagram post.

Beyond the inconvenience, the shortage drew some anger among Kenyans over KFC's reliance on imported instead of local potatoes, which are in their harvest season.

KFC's chief executive for East Africa, Jacques Theunissen, told Kenya's Business Daily that it could not easily switch to Kenyan potatoes because of global quality standards.

Lightning: Four die, one injured

FROM PAGE 1

accompanied heavy rain struck the cemetery area when the residents were digging the grave.

The bodies of the deceased were identified by relatives and funeral

procedures were underway.

For four days, many areas of Mbeya Region have been awash with rains with frequent bursts of lightning, causing havoc in some areas, like flash floods.

Dutch-based company readies for rebranding

By Guardian Reporter

A Dutch based agri-business and Investment Company Grosso Foods B.V. plans to expand its business in Tanzania as it changes its name to Grosso Africa.

The company said in a statement that the rebrand is in line with its belief that an African farmer's most important asset is soil saying it will empower farmers through conservation agriculture and smart farming expertise, improve soil health and address the shortage of soil-friendly farming systems and practices.

"Our new name represents where the company is going, shows continued commitment to the customers that helped us get here, and points to the future," said Nuradin Osman, Founder and CEO of Grosso Africa.

He said the rebrand highlights the company's growth and strategic expansion plans with an unveiling of a new website redesign to reinforce its growing business model.

"Specifically, our new distribution agreement of leading brands including LS Tractor and Jan Agricultural Equipment reflects our commitment to meeting farmers' needs with tractors, precision

planting, precision seed drill, self-propelled sprayers, combines and smart farming solutions, simplifying our approach to making accessible and affordable smart farming inquiries, connecting with our specialists, and order services," he added.

In 2020, Osman launched Grosso Foods B.V. to focus on last mile farmer-level transformations – increasing yields, reducing post-harvest losses, improving market access, and elevating product margins based on three core pillars: investment, advocacy, and project management.

As it grew, the business began to supply farmers with a carefully selected offering of agricultural equipment and skilled personnel.

Today, Grosso Africa rents and sells farming equipment, while offering agricultural contracting and leasing to farmers.

The company supports its farmers through highly skilled farm machinery operators and agricultural experts with decades of experience in the agriculture machinery industry and precision Ag technology.

Grosso Africa will advance conservation agriculture practices by focusing on minimal to no-till method of farming.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Dr Ashatu Kijaji (R) as Investment, Industry and Trade minister at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Expanding education needs more school buildings - govt

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

NASSOR Ahmed Mazrui, Zanzibar Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender and Children has said more education needs has compelled the government to increase school buildings.

Inaugurating four classrooms at Kiomba Mvua School in Unguja North Region as part of 58th Zanzibar Revolution celebrations, he said the step aims to have in place good learning environment for students.

He said the construction of the classrooms shows the revolution's intention to see students receive their basic rights in accessing free education.

Mazrui stressed the need for parents to supervise and follow their children's studies to ensure the government produce experts and

professionals for various sectors.

For his part, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of education and vocational Training, Ali Khamis Juma called on the people in the vicinity of the school to protect the school's area so that it is not invaded and used for other activities.

He pledged to build new pit latrines and more classrooms in the near future to make sure they do not get such facilities from outside the school area.

Reading her statement on behalf of school staff, Fauzia ussi, a teacher at the school requested the government to increase the number of classrooms at the school as well as a perimeter fence round the school.

More than 600m/- has been spent in the construction of the school including people's own efforts.

Prof Mgaya wants public to adhere to WHO proposal against Omicron

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Director General Prof Yunus Mgaya has suggested the need for the public to continue adhering to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations on Omicron, the fourth wave of the COVID-19 variant.

In televised interview, Prof Mgaya said that Omicron appears to be less severe as compared to the earlier variants, noting that Tanzania has the capacity to detect new Covid-19 variants because of the state-of-the-art scientific equipment available in the country and when this happens, the information has to be shared

in the World Database.

"The good news is the omicron variant has shown high affinity since it does not severely attack the lungs. This one only comes with a mild cough, fatigue, running nose, sore throat and headache. We however still need to observe all the necessary precautions," he said.

He however encouraged people to continue taking covid19 jabs adding that research has shown that vaccines are effective measures for preventing Covid infections.

"I would encourage people to continue vaccinating as fully vaccinated people are less likely to develop serious illness than those who are unvaccinated. The good part is that we have

four different types of vaccines for people to choose from in Tanzania," he added.

He noted that it is the practices of the viruses to transform that is why covid19 has taken different transformations for their survival.

For his part, Hamis Malembo, the Chairman of Traditional and Alternative Health Practice said traditional herbs had the capacity to fight the omicron variant just like it was the case for the first and second variations.

"Tanzanians are witnesses that traditional medicines helped a lot during the first and second covid-19 variants. I strongly believe that traditional medicines have a role to play in the fight against omicron," he added.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan in July last year launched Tanzania's Covid-19 vaccination campaign after receiving just over a million Johnson & Johnson shots donated by the United States through the Covax scheme.

The President was the first to receive the vaccine on live television and reassured the country that the shots are safe.

"I'm a mother of four, a grandmother of several grandchildren, and a wife, but most of all I'm the President and Commander in Chief. I wouldn't put myself in danger knowing that I have all these responsibilities as the shepherd of the nation," she said during a ceremony at State House in Dar es Salaam.

NEMC and Govt Chemist remove hazardous sulphur spilled on road

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mikumi

THE Office of the Government Chief Chemist, in collaboration with the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) have managed to remove nearly three tonnes of sulphur that was spilled along the Morogoro-Iringa highway at Msimba village near Mikumi Town, Kilosa district.

The chemical was spilled by a passing lorry causing many residents in the area suffer from various ailments.

A team of reporters who visited the area saw the spilled sulphur being loaded into a Fusco truck in bags to be carried away for destruction in Dar es Salaam.

Central zone manager from the Office of the government Chief Chemist, Mussa Kazumla said as an institution charged with overseeing the laws governing the control of industrial and domestic chemicals, received reports from NEMC on the accident to a lorry that had been carrying the chemical since January 6 this year.

He said in the following day they camped in the area to make sure the chemical is removed and stored in a safe place for destruction for the safety of the people and the environment.

"We have so far removed an estimated three tonnes of the

stuff from this area and the transporter who we have already identified is under investigation due to what transpired and will later appear in court," said the manager from the Government Chief Chemist.

He cited some of the offences committed by the transporter of the chemical as including non-reporting to the Office of the Government Chief Chemist to enable them supervise the chemical's removal from the accident area, to allow ordinary

citizens to try removing the chemical and leave some on the site.

Kazumla called on the people to report to the Chief Government Chemist as well as other government organs whenever they see chemicals spilled in their areas.

Regarding the Sulphur's effects to humans, he said instant effects happen on the skin and the eyes, but long term effects include the destruction of the human nerve system and chest diseases including asthma.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

American Society for Microbiology (ASM) announces a request for proposals for services and procurement of goods for human and animal health laboratories.

Qualified vendors may contact intprocure@asmusa.org

for a copy of the request for proposals by 17th January, 2022.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE PROVISION OF SOFTWARE AND APPLICATIONS LICENCES AND SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PROJECT IN UGANDA AND TANZANIA REFERENCE: 1007414

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda, to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF WORK:

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) requires the services of experienced and reputable Contractor(s) to provide software and applications licences and services.

Contractor(s) can apply for all or part of the identified products below (non-exhaustive list):

- ADOBE (Sign, Acrobat, Photoshop)
- AUTODESK (AutoCAD, AutoCAD LT)
- BLUE BEAM (Revu)
- ESRI (ArcGIS Desktop)
- MICROSOFT (Project, Visio, Visual Studio)
- NUANCE (Power PDF)
- OODRIVE iExtranet Software as a Service
- Desktop and mobile Apps general solutions: list of editors and products supported by the Contracted to be provided
- Software and Security as a Service general solutions: list of editors and solutions to be provided
- THINKCELL (Thinkcell)
- ZSCALER (Internet Access)

The services shall include the provision of:

- Licenses: between 1 and 500 users according to the solution
- Support services: training, installation and configuration, deployment, user assistance, etc.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Suitably qualified Contractors interested in providing these services shall express their interest and submit the following documentation:

- Authorized reseller accreditation/certification for the provision of software and applications licenses
- References of similar provision of licenses and services
- Good financial solvency to deliver the services
- Financial proposal per year
- Commitment to required statutory National Content requirements for oil and gas operations
- Current registration to; or application to be registered to the National Supplier Database.

Interested companies who meet the above minimum requirements shall express their interest by sending the minimum requirements as email attachments by email to eacop.cf.ist@totalenergies.com (max. email size 10 Mb) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 27th/1/2022.

Note: The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance in the call for tender process.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN TANZANIA

We're hiring for our client in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Our client is in the advisory/service industry and works mainly for multinational companies.

POSITIONS:
Client Service Manager
Markets and manages clients.

A first degree in marketing, business or equivalent may apply. Minimum 4 years experience required.

Social Media Manager
Manages the client's social media.

A first degree in communications, business or PR (or equivalent) may apply.

Minimum 3 years experience required.

Email your cv and one page covering letter showcasing your experience to hr@lexismorton.com.

Climate change pulls back women in Pemba districts

By Jenifer Gilla

STANDING on his farm 45 minutes away by walking from his home in Kiongoni village, Wingwi Mjanzana Shehia, Micheweni District, Pemba Region, Lailatu Rashid (45) does not believe what she sees.

In one and a quarter hector of rice that she cultivated farm in the autumn season that is prepared in September and harvested in December she has got only one sack, she feels confused thinking how she can feed her family with just one sack, she lost strength and went to seat under the mango tree near her farm to anticipate what happened.

She walks slowly towards her neighbor's farms and sees that she is not the only one caught up in the situation issue, everyone was complaining on the same problem. The mother-of-eight tells her tragedy story to The Guardian reporter in grief.

"The situation started to get worse in 2014 when seawater invaded the basin and affected our fields little by little from top to bottom, last year it came to my farm and caused me to harvest only one sack from five I harvested in July," she says.

Before the disaster, Lailatu used to harvest 15 to 20 sacks from her farm and selling 10 to 15 sacks, each Shs.60,000 each and giving her Sh. 60,000 to 1,000,000 which was helping her raise the family.

To survive during this period Lailatu has decided to pick cloves from other people's farms and sell them where she earns Sh. 3000 a day if she manages to get them, the situation he admits is not good for the development of her family.

Lailatu is one of 240 female farmers' equivalent to 86.96 percent of the Tovuni Basin farmers from Kiongoni and Wingwi Mjananza villages with 36 male equivalent to 13.14 percent.

An assessment of the impact of climate change in Zanzibar, conducted by the Department of Environment, Office of the Vice President Zanzibar, shows that the Shehia with a total population of 1702 (856 men and 846 women) 40% of its area is affected by seawater, and affecting 45% of its population whose main activities are agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

According to Saidi Issa (65), chairman of the Rice Basin, 40 out of 216 hectares of the basin can no longer be used for agriculture due to the invasion, leaving 40 out of 276 farmers without land for cultivation.

Efforts made According to the chairman they made various efforts to prevent seawater from entering their fields but it did not bear fruit. "In 2017 we donated money from farmers and got Sh.1, 1000,000, we built a wall with a height of 451 meters but in 2018 a heavy rain fell and the wall was washed away", says Issa.

After that they wrote a letter to Wete District Commissioner who made an effort to build gates for them to take out salt water so that they would not land on the farms, the plan did not work also as sea water continue to get in and were not getting out.

Abandons farms Some of the farmers decided to stop farming because of the loss that they got as days went on. Rehema Alihamad (55), a resident of Kiongoni is one of them.

"I have decided to give up rice farming for now, because I do not see the reason to cultivate crops that I know that I will not harvest, I use my energy and intelligence in the field and finally I get nothing, now I grow vegetables and sell, I earn Sh.1500 to 2000 I buy rice to eat with the family" she complains.

The mother of a family of 12 children was initially earning Sh. 460000 each time he sells 8 sacks of rice she harvest from a hectare and the remaining two sacks were used as food at home.

Worries on the children Some of these women are worrying that their children's health might deteriorate because of not eating as it required because they are eating different foods from the rice they are accustomed to as described by Khadija Bakari.

"You know here our main food is rice despite the fact that we grow other crops like cassava and

vegetables, due to the shortage of rice we have to give them cassava that they are not used to so they are not eating well, my fear is my children will get sick" explains Khadija.

Adaptation Fund to save the ark The Zanzibar Irrigation Department expects to receive \$ 131,893 from Second Vice President office for the implementation of the Tovuni project. The fund was provided by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to mitigate the effects of climate change (Adaptation Fund).

Irrigation Engineer from the Zanzibar Ministry of Irrigation, Mohamed Mohammed explains that the funds will help to renovate Tovuni basin so that farmers can continue their activities as before.

"In the case of the Tovuni Basin we will build a 450-meter embankment (matuta) to prevent salt water from entering the fields which will cost \$ 118,125, but will also build drainage ditches in the fields so that water can flow in and out of the flow to prevent flooding in the fields (\$ 3,768) " he explains

He added that large rainwater harvesting tanks would also be built to harvest water during heavy rains for the drip irrigation system at a cost of \$ 10,000.

Director of the Environment Department from the Office of Second Vice President Office, Farhat Mbarouk, says the Adaptation Fund project will be implemented in nine regions of Unguja and eight in Pemba, will cost \$ 1 million for three years to improve sectors affected by climate change.

"These sectors are the Ministry of Agriculture, Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA), Energy and Minerals, Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, we chose these areas because the research we conducted in 2012 found them as most affected areas" says Farhat.

Fredrik Mulinda, Senior Environmental Officer of the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), who is the National Coordinator of the Adaptation Fund, said the implementation of the project would officially start in January 2022 and thanked the Second Vice President's Office for raising the challenge.

"We received a report on the effects of climate change in Zanzibar from the Second Vice President Office and we wrote a proposal to request funding from the Adaptation Fund. For the Glory of God our proposal was accepted and implementation will begin shortly" he added.

Another challenges Climate change is not the only challenge women are facing, they have also cited lack of modern agricultural education as well as access to credit as a source of underdevelopment.

"If we had the knowledge of modern agriculture we would probably have relocated our rice fields to other areas and cultivate or even cultivate other crops such as maize, but this knowledge is known to men not us," complains Lailatu.

While Mchanga kombo Saidi (38) complains of not having access to credit like the women of other villages is the source of economic backwardness.

"We heard that our colleagues in the city joined groups of 10 people and are given business loans, we want those loans and entrepreneurship education to reach us, the issue of depending on agriculture only is what has made us poorer now, because we have no other means of earning an income," complains Mchanga kombo.

The UNDP report on Gender, Climate Change and food security shows that despite significant strides in addressing gender inequalities over the years, rural women are still among the most marginalized groups in society and are particularly vulnerable to current and future climate change and food insecurity.

The agency of rural female farmers is essential for enhancing agricultural productivity to ensure food security (SDG 2) and addressing the perils of climate changes (SDG 13) because they play a pivotal role in the three components of food security: food availability (production), food access (distribution), and food utilization.



Subisya Kabuje (2nd-L), leader of a government Covid-19 vaccination sensitisation team pictured at the weekend handing over sensitisation placards to Songwe regional vaccination coordinator Dr Enoch Mwambalasa. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga in Mbeya

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

Police holding three people in connection with killing

POLICE in Kilimanjaro Region are holding three people in connection with the killing of a retired nurse at KCMC referral hospital, Patricia Paulo (66), who is said to be killed by her own daughter in collaboration with two other assailants in February last year.

According to police, the plot to kill Patricia was organized by her own daughter-Wend Ibreck in collaboration with two other suspects.

Addressing reporters yesterday, Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander Simon Maigwa was killed in February, 2021 at her residence located at Rau-Mrukuti village, Uru South Ward in Moshi Rural District.

Maigwa said preliminary

investigations showed that the late Patricia fell sick early last year, and that her daughter then hired two traditional healers from Dar-es-salaam and Tanga who stayed at her home for some days.

He said: "After some months, the late Patricia realized that her daughter collaborated with the alleged traditional healers to steal her 60m/- which she was paid after retirement."

RPC Maigwa said following the misunderstandings, the assailants in collaboration with her daughter killed Patricia and kept her body

in one of the rooms in her house. He said the body was later on buried overnight within the house premises.

"After burying the body, Wend started to sell her mothers' properties, the thing that worried some family members. When asked why she was selling her family properties, Wend claimed to collect money to pay for her mother's hospital bill in India," said the RPC.

He said some family members reported the matter to Moshi police station on December 21, last year whereas police officers embarked

on investigations which included interrogating the deceased's daughter who revealed everything on the death of her mother.

He said that on January 9, 2022, police officers in collaboration with medical experts went to the place where the body was buried and found a human skull, bones and one machete.

"We are still working on the matter; we call upon residents to collaborate with the force by providing information which will help in the arrest of suspected criminals," he explained.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (L) bids farewell to senior government officials at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday shortly before jetting off for Lilongwe, Malawi, to represent President Samia Suluhu Hassan at a Southern African Development Community (SADC). Photo: VPO

Majaliwa: Hurry up on implementation of projects

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on officials supervising construction projects to increase the pace so that they are completed in time to enable the people enjoy the fruits of the Zanzibar's Revolution.

The PM made the remarks on Sunday as he was speaking to hundreds of Kiwani residents, in Pemba South Region after laying the foundation stone for the construction of Kendwa Health Centre as part of celebrations to mark 58 years of the Revolution.

He also called on Kendwa leaders and other officials to work together

with the Health Ministry to make sure the buildings and other infrastructures are taken care of including the equipment that will be purchased.

He also appealed to staff and workers who will be assigned to live in the houses at the health centre to take care of them, and plant trees around the area.

Regarding the strengthening of health services, the PM said the aim of the Zanzibar Government is to build as many health centres to make them be closer to the people.

The PM said he was pleased with construction work in regard to other buildings at the centre.

"I congratulate the building

and supervision committee for the health centre. I call for other building committees to emulate the example of this committee. When I was told of the cost I could not believe it. Little money but has produced excellent work," he said.

Earlier, reporting on the project construction, Chief supervisor from Zanzibar Building agency (ZBA) Eng Said Malik said construction work was sponsored by TASAF and begun August 28 last year and is expected to be completed on February 27 this year.

"Total cost is 388m/- but so far only 270m/- has been spent. When completed, the health centre will have Out Patient department

(OPD) wing, laboratories, doctors consulting rooms, dressing room, dental unit, maternity ward and doctors' quarters," he said.

For his part, TASAF Managing director, Ladislaus Mwachanga said due to laws' amendment, the construction of such health centres will be done to all other shehias.

He said from verification of all people under TASAF targets done between July 2020 and January 2021, 1,892 households opted out of TASAF programme and thanked the government.

He said 211,800 other households confessed to have done away with poverty and were ready to opt out as well after six months.

Z'bar Bureau of Standards office and lab building opens

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

COMPLETION of the Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) office and laboratory building will help to strengthen operational capacity and provide better services to product users, manufacturers and traders.

The Second Vice President of Zanzibar, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the Maruhubi Urban Bureau of Urban West Unguja.

Hemed said that the government has a strong plan to ensure that its citizens use quality products with the aim of taking care of their health and future.

He explained that, through the Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) the government will continue with measures to control the quality of products manufactured or imported for public use.

"The government will continue to ensure the availability of quality and compliant products in line with the global market as well as consumer protection," explained Hemed.

He also called on the leaders and executives of the Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) to ensure that they test samples of all products as well as provide timely response and be careful in conducting inspections and controls of imported products using these laboratories using local experts.

He reminded ZBS executives to work hard, creative, honest and confident in managing their work responsibilities.

"I urge you to fulfill your responsibilities as doing so will strengthen the local market and help our local producers including

entrepreneurs to access overseas markets," said the Second Vice President.

He also urged traders to cooperate with ZBS so that the products imported into the Zanzibar market meet the requirements of the relevant standards with the aim of protecting the health and safety of the user.

Zanzibar's Minister for Trade and Industrial Development, Omar Said Shaaban said the intention and determination of the Zanzibar government is to ensure that it provides quality services to the people where ZBS plans to make major reforms in terms of inspection and product testing.

He clarified that within a short period of time ZBS has partnered with various standards institutions in the East African region.



I urge you to fulfill your responsibilities as doing so will strengthen the local market and help our local producers including entrepreneurs to access overseas markets

Aid workers say Ethiopia air strike in northwest Tigray killed 56 people

ADDIS ABABA

AN air strike in Ethiopia's Tigray region killed 56 people and injured 30, including children, in a camp for displaced people, two aid workers told Reuters on Saturday, citing local authorities and eyewitness accounts.

Military spokesman Colonel Getnet Adane and government spokesman Legesse Tulu did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's spokeswoman Billene Seyoum did not respond to a request for comment. The government has previously denied targeting civilians in the 14-month conflict with rebellious Tigrayan forces.

The spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) that has been fighting the central government, Getachew Reda, said in a tweet that "Another callous drone attack by Abiy Ahmed in an IDP (Internally Displaced People) camp in Dedebeit has claimed the lives of 56 innocent civilians so far."

The strike in the town of Dedebeit, in the northwest of the region near the border with Eritrea, occurred late on Friday night, said the aid workers, who asked not to be named as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

Earlier on Friday, the government had freed several opposition leaders from prison and said it would begin dialogue with political opponents in order to foster reconciliation. read more

Both aid workers said the number of dead was confirmed by the local authorities. The aid workers sent Reuters pictures they said they had taken of the wounded in hospital, who included many children.

One of the aid workers, who visited Shire Suhul General Hospital

where the injured were brought for treatment, said the camp hosts many old women and children.

"They told me the bombs came at midnight. It was completely dark and they couldn't escape," the aid worker said.

Ethiopian federal troops went to war with rebellious Tigrayan forces in November 2020. Since the war erupted, Reuters has reported atrocities by all sides, which the parties to the fighting have denied.

One of the aid workers said that one of the wounded in Friday's strike, Asefa Gebrehaworia, 75, burst into tears as he recounted how his friend was killed. He was being treated for injuries to his left leg and hand.

A survivor of an air strike by Ethiopian government forces receives treatment at the Shire Shul General hospital in the town of Dedebeit, in northern region of Tigray, Ethiopia.



Another callous drone attack by Abiy Ahmed in an IDP (Internally Displaced People) camp in Dedebeit has claimed the lives of 56 innocent civilians so far



Prison wardens escort opposition Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe (2nd-R) to a court in Dar es Salaam yesterday for the hearing of his economic sabotage case. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Bahi parents urged against hiding children with disabilities at home

By Guardian Reporter, Bahi

CHILDREN with disabilities in Bahi and Mpwapwa districts, Dodoma Region have appealed to sponsors providing various kinds of assistance for them to educate parents to stop the habit hiding them in homes instead of sending them to school.

The advice was given by the children at different times at their joint meeting with parents and MyRight Organisation, project sponsors held on Sunday at N'home village in Bahi district.

Speaking at the meeting, Annamara Daud (10), a child with albinism who is in Std II at Buigiri Blind school said sponsors, apart from providing assistance to them, they are advised to educate parents to stop hiding children with

disabilities at home.

Annamaria said there are still very many children with disabilities in villages who are supposed to attend school and provided with health care but are hidden at homes by parents.

For his part, Egra Hamisi, a Std IV student at the same school said

there is still a great percentage of children with disabilities hidden and stigmatized by their families thereby denying them of their basic rights.

He said in addition to government efforts to ensure children with disabilities receive education and other basic services, there is still

the due need for the sponsors to educate the families to stop the habit of hiding the children at homes.

For his part, MyRight Chief Coordinator Emmanuel Mhehwa said his institution has been assisting children in collaboration with Tanzania League of the Blind (TLB), Zanzibar association of the Blind (ZANAB) and Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS).

He said the main aim is to make sure to reach children with disabilities in the homes for interview to enable them receive basic services including health and education.

However, he said the project for the period beginning 2018 to 2021 has reached 344 children in Singida and Dodoma regions who have been interviewed and given basic services.



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Zuberi Ali Maulid, Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, speaks at Wete on Pemba Island yesterday shortly after laying the foundation stone for dormitories meant to house members of Zanzibar's anti-smuggling force. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

ACT-Wazalendo adamant on independent electoral body

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

ACT-WAZALENDO has stressed the need for an independent electoral commission and amendments to some sections of the Political Parties Act in order to have democratic freedom in the country.

The remarks were opposition made here at the weekend by the party's Deputy Secretary General, Joran Bashange, during his working visit including issuing directives to regional party officials on the proposed digital registration of party members.

He said an independent electoral commission and amendments to the Political Parties Act will spur the growth of democratic freedoms in the country and will enable political parties to conduct their activities without bother and ensure free elections.

"An independent electoral body means it should be independent at all levels with its own hired full time officials, it should not depend on government officials to manage elections," he said.

"For instance you make an appeal over the conduct of an election in a particular constituency, but you find the person hearing that appeal is the District Administrative Secretary, you will not expect justice to prevail," he added.

In regard to the Political Parties Act, Bashange said it should undergo amendments as if you contravene any of its section is a criminal act, the situation that denies party to freely conduct political activities, as well as the frequent intervention of the police in its meetings, including internal meetings.

He also said if all these issues are worked upon, democracy doors in the country will be swung open and parties will be able to conduct political activities without intervention by state organs including the police.

However, Bashange said they have high hopes on President

Samia Suluhu Hassan to bring about changes to democratic freedoms, as after her meeting with leaders of political parties late last year, changes have started to be discerned, as they are no longer prevented from holding meetings.

For his part, Shinyanga Region Party's Chairman, Siri Yasini, said as for now the party has started boosting its ranks and file through registration of new members digitally.

He also said the party in Shinyanga Region will not boycott any elections, despite what it was subjected to in the previous elections, including the Ndembezi Ward Councillor by-election, when its candidate was removed from the list last minutes, even though he was originally approved to contest by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).



An independent electoral body means it should be independent at all levels with its own hired full time officials, it should not depend on government officials to manage elections



Sheikh Ibrahim Ghulaam (L), Executive Secretary of Tanzania Ha-Atul Ulama Muslim scholars, addresses a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday primarily to congratulate former President Ali Hassan Mwinyi on being honoured with a certified international award from King Feisal of Saudi Arabia related to notable service to Islam and Muslims. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Kahama municipality vaccinates 16,049 people against COVID-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

MORE than 16,049 people in Kahama Municipality, Shinyanga Region have been vaccinated against COVID-19 from its 20 wards since the exercise was launched in early August last year.

This was revealed to this paper here at the weekend by the Municipality Vaccination Coordinator, Mukola Vedastus on how they work together with health workers in providing

education on Covid-19 to the people who visit health centres for treatment.

He said the Municipality received 24,142 doses of Johnson and Johnson, Sinovac and Pfizer and so far they have used 19,155 doses or 16,049 per cent of the targeted have been vaccinated.

He said they received 16,923 doses of Sinovac and vaccinated 9,817 people and more people were still coming up for the shots.

He added that in regard to

Pfizer vaccine, they received 1,764, doses and vaccinated 1,446 people.

"As for now, response from the people is still small, compared to earlier days of the exercise, and in some cases we have to follow them to their homes for Covid-19 education," Vedastus added.

He also added that in the first phase they received 3,000 doses of Johnson and Johnson vaccine, 2,000 doses in the second and 455 doses in the third phase and all of these were

used up since last November.

He also said that just recently the launched mobile circumcision service to men and young people, the service that goes in tandem with educating the public on the importance of being vaccinated against Covid-19.

He also called upon all the people to continue taking precautions against the pandemic by washing their hands with soap in running water, wearing of the masks and observing social distancing.



Residents of Kwastemba village in Kilindi District attend an Ethics and Human Rights Day anniversary meeting at the weekend addressed by district council chairman Idrisa Mgaza. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

JUBA, South Sudan

AfDB announces a grant for US\$14m to boost food security in South Sudan

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) announced a US\$14 million grant to boost food security, value addition and trade in South Sudan.

Benedict Kanu, AfDB country manager for South Sudan, said the five-year project will be implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

"With South Sudan being land-locked and experiencing weak urban and peri-urban

infrastructure, having good access to lucrative markets especially within the country is a necessary condition for farmers to be profitable, productive and reduce risk of loss of surplus farm produce," Kanu said in a statement issued in the capital, Juba.

The project will help increase the production and incomes of almost 20,000 farming families in Central

and Eastern Equatorial and Jonglei states, he said, noting that the grant will benefit formerly internally displaced persons now returned to their homes in need of economic reintegration.

"A key factor explaining Africa's and indeed South Sudan's low level of agricultural value addition is the inefficient marketing infrastructure," Kanu said. "This

prevents farmers and processors from realizing the full value of their products, even in their raw form."

The AfDB also said that the project will create aggregation business opportunities for farmers and traders, including women and youth, and provide them with new skills and knowledge, and the agro-processing equipment they need to produce competitive products.

Zanzibar to register foreign ships to fly Tanzanian flag

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Works, Communication and Transport minister, Rahma Kassim Ali has said Zanzibar is now allowed to register foreign ships that will fly the Tanzanian flag after being barred for more than three years.

Speaking to reporters about the Ministry's achievements in the 58 years of the Zanzibar revolution, the Minister commended the government of the United Republic for its efforts in providing a solution to the issue for the two sides to sit together and present the existing challenges.

She said allowing Zanzibar to register foreign ships would provide another opportunity to reorganize and address the challenges that had arisen that were hampering the implementation of responsibilities.

Minister Rahma said after the president of Zanzibar Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi came to power he wanted to be given full details of the problem including the reasons that led to the suspension of Zanzibar registration of foreign ships.

She said after receiving the information he made contact with the other side of the union and was eventually allowed to register foreign ships.

The minister said the Maritime Transport Authority (ZMA), which is responsible for the registration of foreign vessels, is well-organized to ensure that it fully complies with that duty and avoids any possible shortcomings.

She said the act of Zanzibar being barred from registering foreign ships had lost revenue of more than 3bn/- over the period.

"The ZMA Maritime Authority is well-prepared to start the registration of foreign vessels and address all the challenges that

hindered the implementation of the responsibilities and caused the exercise to stall," she said.

Zanzibar was barred from registering foreign ships after it was discovered that ships flying the flag of the United Republic were exposed to a number of defects, including ships carrying drugs and engaging in piracy.

The move prompted the government of the United Republic of Tanzania to suspend the registration of foreign vessels for Zanzibar until further challenges and dialogue were made to address the shortcomings.



The ZMA Maritime Authority is well-prepared to start the registration of foreign vessels and address all the challenges that hindered the implementation of the responsibilities and caused the exercise to stall

Water management and technology can stave off most effects of climate change

By Special Correspondent

CLIMATE change, which is expressed in terms of drought, floods and changing rainfall patterns and increased variability, is expected to hit sub-Saharan Africa most.

Africa experienced a 30 per cent increase in the frequency and duration of drought events since the year 2000.

In 2019, the climate crisis affected more than 33 million people across East and Southern African countries in food insecurity as a result of floods, landslides, drought and cyclones.

Africa is vulnerable because the economies of its states are largely based on weather-sensitive crop-livestock systems, and also due to the low adaptation capacity of communities to threats of climate change. The adaptation is strongly linked to access and use of improved technologies and practices to develop resilient systems.

The experience of AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa), which has been spearheading agricultural transformation in Africa, shows that improving productivity, profitability and adaptation to climate change could be concomitantly achieved by investments in a number of areas.

About 70 per cent of the land in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) falls within arid or semi-arid farming systems, but only about 5 per cent has access to irrigation using water from rivers, streams, ground water, or rainwater harvesting. Only about 7 per cent of the arable land is irrigated in SSA against 40 per cent in Asia.

Rainwater management could be practised anywhere in the continent by capturing, storing, and efficiently utilising rainwater from roofs and runoff.

Besides, small-scale irrigation from surface and groundwater can reduce farmers' vulnerability to annual rainfall variability and associated climate risks.

The private sector needs to support expansion of small-scale irrigation in SSA by improving market opportunities, energy for water lifting, and access to irrigation water, including from shallow wells and groundwater.

Despite high demand for drought-resistant cultivars, farmers have limited access to high-yielding crop varieties. Availing the right crop to the right agro-ecology will ensure good crop yields and reduce the risk of crop failure due to drought and other climate-related calamities. High-yielding traditional African crops like sorghum and millet rarely reach farmers' fields due to weak last-mile delivery systems.

Improved extension, including using village-based advisers, would help farmers get access to the appropriate varieties along with good agronomic advice.

About 65 per cent of agricultural crop land and 31 per cent of permanent grazing land in Africa is degraded. Only 17 kilogrammes of fertiliser is applied per hectare of arable land in Africa against 250 kilogrammes per hectare in Europe, hence aggravating soil fertility decline through nutrient mining.

Research shows that farming without fertiliser can cause up to 30 per cent and 60 per cent loss of soil organic matter after 12 years and 46 years, with crop yield declining from one tonne/ha to 300 kg/ha.

While applying critical nutrients like phosphorus is important, adopting regenerative practices like composting and returning of crop residues to the soil will reduce fertiliser needs.

Our farmers need to adopt a combination of organic and blended mineral fertilisers, not only to improve productivity but also to improve the grain quality of crops through micronutrient enrichment.

Since most soils in high-rainfall areas are acidic, it is also important to note that soils affected by soil acidity will not give good crop response to fertiliser application unless the soils

are corrected by liming.

Mono-cropping is prone to climatic and market risks. Diverse types of fruit trees, vegetables, cash crops like coffee and cacao are grown in home gardens and produce forage for fattening small ruminants. These gardens are enriched by household refuse, manure, night soils, and other nutrient sources and produce up to 40 per cent of household food on about 15 per cent of the farmland.

They provide a wide range and steady supply of fresh produce throughout the year, potentially with considerable income and should be promoted throughout SSA. Research shows that home gardens in a small-scale setting could produce crops, trees, fodder, medicinal herbs, planting materials, and other products, with an income of about \$3 per square metre per season.

In the era of climate change, lack of mechanisation exposes farmers to drought and invasion of pests and diseases. For instance, in drought-prone locations of Africa, a delay in planting of maize by a day could extend the maturity period of the crop by a month, exposing it to an end-of-season drought.

The hoe-based plough cannot break the hard pan of the soil, preventing rainwater from infiltrating deeper to the root zone. Lack of mechanisation delays harvesting and proper storage, causing huge post-harvest losses, sometimes up to 30 to 50 per cent.

Most importantly, access to mechanisation is exacerbated by an underdeveloped ecosystem (equipment vendors, after sales services, loan and lease products, mechanics workshops, mechanisation as a service model) and the investment in the ecosystem is beyond the reach of individual farmers.

Farmers' livelihoods largely depend on integrated crop and livestock systems. This is not only a risk management strategy (livestock serving as a savings account) but also critical for improved crop productivity due to the need for draught power, manure, efficient recycling of water and nutrients for improved soil fertility, economic risk mitigation and livelihood diversification.

Dairy, fattening, and poultry are becoming attractive investments around urban settings and would play an important role in the agricultural transformation of Africa. Moreover, most African drylands are livestock-based, and hence climate change adaptation and livelihood improvement cannot be achieved without improved management of the pastoral and agropastoral systems.

Aquaculture plays an important role in food security and profitability for Asian farmers, and should be integrated into the increasing rice fields of SSA. Unfortunately, integration of aquaculture has had a poor success rate.

Diverse land uses interact across landscapes to impact on the natural resource base that sustains agriculture and ecosystems. One of the major factors affecting agricultural productivity in SSA has been land degradation due to poor management and soil erosion. Land restoration by adopting soil and water conservation practices accompanied by innovations that bring short-term benefits in terms of fodder, fuelwood, water, and other resources would increase the tree cover, minimise erosion and improve watershed functions.

In the context of climate change, there is need for integrated watershed management that may include technological, social, policy and institutional interventions for land restoration while increasing productivity of water, nutrients, and labour for food security and environmental services. This also demands wider collaboration among key stakeholders at local and higher levels.



Parents and guardians buy school items for their children at Tangamano open market in Tanga city yesterday ahead of next week's countrywide reopening of schools. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

Droughts, Covid-19 intensify food shortage across East Africa region

NEW DELHI

CONSECUTIVE droughts and the Covid-19 pandemic have intensified food shortage in East African countries-- home to lakhs of people of Indian origin. About 100,000 people of Indian descent live in Kenya. In Tanzania, the number is about 90,000 while in Uganda it is 15,000, according to estimates made by the World Economic Forum.

Even before the outbreak of the pandemic, in 2019, an estimated 21.5 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance across South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, the non-governmental organization Action Aid said. But the ongoing drought and the pandemic have made things worse for the people living in the region.

The shortage of food and damaged crops due to the dry climatic conditions have also led to steep increases in prices. Though in December, Kenya received rains, it was inadequate to support crops for the entire population.

"The condition of the common people here and other countries is grim, especially after the Covid pandemic which has raised medical costs. Along with this, people of this region have been hit by concerns of food shortage," an Indian expatriate on condition of anonymity told India Narrative.

Relief Web, humanitarian information portal, said that rainfall in October and November last year was less than 60 per cent of the 40-year average across much of northern and eastern Kenya, with some areas registering a significant

delay to the start of season or no onset of rainfall at all. Increased rainfall in December has improved conditions, but deficits remain severe at 30 to 75 percent of average leading to concerns related to food security.

"India has been sending food assistance to several countries including Madagascar, this region is vulnerable in terms climatic conditions. That apart, in May 2020, locust invasion also hit Kenya and other countries which in turn impacted food production," Sankalp Gurjar, strategic analyst and expert on Africa pointed out.

The shortage has also led to an increase in prices of food items.

In December, food inflation in Kenya was at 9.09 percent. Though this was a tad lower than the double digit mark of more than 10

percent during the middle of last year, "the figure is high enough for the people who are now being forced to eat and spend less," an analyst added.

Meanwhile, NASA's Earth Observatory revealed that following three consecutive failed rainy seasons, more than 20 million people in eastern Africa now face some of the worst food security risks in 35 years. "Climate and agriculture experts are advising governments and relief agencies to expect a significant need for food assistance in Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia," it said in its report, adding that climate change and ongoing La Niña conditions in the Pacific Ocean, half a world away, have contributed to the persistent dry weather and might bring more of it during the next rainy season.



Kibaha district commissioner Sarah Msafiri inaugurates a solar-powered water desalination plant meant to supply potable water to the district's Medewell Hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent

A lowland gorilla, a critically endangered species, was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo's famed Virunga National Park, authorities said.

Conservationists have long sought to protect the world heritage site's gorilla population even as violence and instability has plagued the DRC's eastern provinces over 25 years.

"We're excited to announce the first lowland gorilla birth of the year! Rangers discovered the newborn during a patrol in the Tshiaberimu area yesterday," park authorities

DR Congo park fetes birth of endangered gorilla species

tweeted late Friday.

"Rangers are working hard to safeguard this vulnerable population which now stands at seven individuals," it added.

The global population of lowland gorillas has plunged from around 17,000 to fewer than 6,000 today and they continue to experience a rate of decline of 5 per cent per year, according to the park.

They are often illegally hunted for bushmeat.

Seventeen mountain gorillas—a close cousin of the lowland gorilla—were born in the park last year.

Situated on Democratic Republic of Congo's borders with Rwanda and Uganda, Virunga covers around 7,800 square kilometers (3,000 square miles) of the North Kivu province, of which Goma is the

capital. Inaugurated in 1925, it is the oldest nature reserve in Africa and a sanctuary for the rare mountain gorillas, which are also present in neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda.

Virunga has also become a hideout for local and foreign armed groups that have operated in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo for around 25 years.

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Many lessons learned from 58 years of Zanzibar Revolution

FOR nearly a week now all sorts of public activities are going on as part of marking 58 years of the Zanzibar Revolution, on January 12, 1964. This event was crowned in glory as it became a fitting finale of an acrimonious path to independence which the key power stakeholders in the British Protectorate of Zanzibar unquestionably mismanaged, trying to push through a minority government based on fabricating representative seats. The result: a predictable revolt which with more outward would have been avoided.

Yet perhaps this outcome was unavoidable in the sense that changing spirits to a more amenable outlook, of give and take on both sides, would have been impossible to think out at that time. The result is that a few far sighted individuals saw an opportunity to organise what appeared to be a class uprising, of the port lifters, petty traders and elements of the tiny public service loyal to the main nationalist group, Afro-Shirazi Party.

Still it was their momentary allies, Umma Party, whose links with global revolution furnished the tactic, and definitely to a regrettable efficiency when it was put to work; the scars lasted.

Just how far Zanzibar is now getting out of this psychological ramification cannot be said for certain, as there is willingness to move forward so long as those allied to the overthrown party in 1964 don't seek what the Chinese call hegemony. It is a point that the other side has taken decades to grasp, as

their overly expressed sentiments don't make them guardians of the gains of January 1964, thus they will have wide participatory rights, influencing decisions in many areas, not to change the structure of things. This has been the formula since the multiparty system was restored in 1992 and trudged on with pits and bumps.

Yet there are ways in which this situation can be eclipsed for what in traditional legal language would be called 'a new commonwealth,' where animosities of the past are put aside, permanently. Wishes to that end have been there aplenty but not really a workable formula, partly due to insufficient political will and again on the lack of substance proposed as to what can be done to attain widespread goodwill. Looking over the shoulder, one finds that the model that nearly everyone aspires to is a fully democratic model, but those who make such appeals focus on legal or constitutional restraints on power, not its basic conditions.

Without overstressing the argument, current changes in the sixth phase Union government and eighth phase Zanzibar government - coming into office virtually in synchrony by an edict of divinity - show the most promising start yet in that direction. The Zanzibar plan for a 70 storey luxury hotel/apartment block looks like it will duplicate Dubai on East African shores, and gradually the spirit of being in the same community would spread. With broader economic changes, it adds to changing the psychic environment.

Cuba's Revolution Day still worth being reflected upon

EVENTS which hugely influenced the political trajectory of African countries at the time of nationalist politics can be identified as including India's independence in 1947 (though its acrimonious partition and movement of millions of people on a religious and tribal basis to cross the Indus River is a blot on the global psyche). The other was the Chinese Revolution on October 1, 1949 and twin events ten years later, that is, independence of Ghana in 1957 and the Cuban Revolution, January 1, 1959. Each of those events had far reaching implications on what is possible for countries aspiring to independence - or to revolution.

Africa in general and Tanzania for that matter was massively influenced by those events, despite their cohort of unavoidable contradictions when taken as role models. India's independence drive (marked on January 26) was led by a non-violence philosophy espoused by Mahatma Gandhi, but his assassination at the time that British India was being partitioned left a stain on the legacy. The Cuban model was one of standing up to a great power next door and surviving, not just because of assistance from abroad but popular faith in the revolution, a situation that has lasted to this decade - in part similar to the CCM role.

There are other ways in which the Cuban example can be compared to the situation in Tanzania, namely that the Zanzibar Revolution, while it had practical links with the leaders of revolutionary China, saw in the Cuban example first

an illustration of a mainly urban revolution. The model did not fit in every aspect as Cuba started from some marshlands (like the National Resistance Movement led by Yoweri Museveni in Uganda) and later took the capital. But there were features of insurrection that the early 1960s Zanzibar revolutionaries made a point in starting with them, and unlike perhaps in Cuba, in this case it succeeded.

What is good about this model, in like manner as the popularity of the African National Congress in South Africa and with some limitations the NRM ruling party of our neighbours, is that the more popular the point of departure of a political system, the less it will be amenable to reform. India has not really succeeded, among countries of South Asia, to move its economy on a dynamic plane, as it has vast pockets of cutting edge technology, and inability to change agro-sector systems. Changing it to a market basis and let land be absorbed by industry worked elsewhere but not in India, despite various attempts.

The recent tumult in the ruling CCM is an illustration of why it won't be easy to build an economy of individuals as Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has been explaining, on the strategy of sixth phase policies generally. While only five percent of Americans live on agriculture and the US is the leading agricultural power in the world, reforming land and agriculture itself is impossible in India, South Africa, Nigeria, etc. Countries descend into chaos as communal groups tussle over land and want power to cede more to themselves.



By Olabisi Deji-Folutile

THE General Medical Council of Britain recently revealed that 805 Nigerian doctors were licensed in the UK between July and December 2021. Overall, the number of Nigerian-trained doctors in the UK as of December 25, 2021, according to the council, was 9,189. Of course, the figure does not include the number of Nigerian doctors trained in the UK and practising there.

Similarly, the Nursing and Midwifery Council of the UK has implied that an average of eight nurses have been leaving Nigeria every day for the UK in the last five years. Specifically, the body said 15,049 nurses trained in Nigeria obtained licence to practise in the United Kingdom between March 2017 and March 2021. This makes Nigeria the third highest country with foreign nurses in England coming after the Philippines and India.

If these figures are for the UK alone, the number of Nigerian medical personnel practising abroad can better be imagined. Just this last August, Saudi Arabia representatives were in Nigeria to recruit doctors. This further shows that Nigerian doctors and nurses like other highly skilled and qualified Nigerians are moving to countries where they can work in better conditions and earn more money. The Nigerian Medical Association once told us that of the 75,000 Nigerian doctors registered with the NMA, over 33,000 have left the country. Such movement is referred to as brain drain by owners of English language!

Unfortunately, this is happening in a country where we have doctors to patients' ratio of 4:10,000 which is far below the World Health Organisation (WHO) standard ratio of 1:600. The 'Women and Men report 2021' revealed that a total of 39,912 doctors were available in Nigeria as of 2017. While the number increased to 44,021 in 2018, it reduced drastically to 24,640 in 2019.

But, should anyone be surprised that doctors are leaving a country where they must always have to use diplomatic and legal means before they can be paid their hard-earned salaries? The NMA revealed recently that doctors and other health workers in Abia State were being owed 23 months salaries. The ones in Ondo and Ekiti states are owed about four months' salaries and allowances. Up till now, Nigerian doctors and lecturers must go on strike before government can honour its agreements with them. We even hear stories of doctors being assaulted on duty by politicians. Just recently, doctors at the Ladoko Akintola Teaching Hospital (LAUTECH) withdrew their services over persistent assaults. The hospital chapter of the Medical and Dental Consultants' Association of Nigeria

Feasting on Nigeria's 'stupidity'

(MDCAN) complained that their members were being persistently harassed by some members of the host community.

On one of such occasions, a politician was the one dictating to a doctor what should be done to a patient. The politician's friend was on admission and he allegedly demanded that his friend should be placed on oxygen and sent to Intensive Care Unit (ICU). When the doctors explained that the patient's oxygen saturation (level) was optimal, the politician directed his followers to deal with them. That is the level of lawlessness in this part of the world.

While reacting to the rate at which medical personnel are leaving Nigeria, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, once proposed that the Federal Government should make health workers trained by the Nigerian government to sign a bond of nine years during which they cannot consider relocating to another country. Ngige argued that government-trained medical personnel including doctors should not be allowed to leave the country at will after receiving training for free at public expense.

According to him, medical education in Nigeria is almost free. "Where else in the world is it free? In London, it is 45,000 pounds a session for medical education in cheap universities. If you go to Edinburgh or Oxford, you pay 80,000 pounds. If you go to USA you pay 45,000 dollars but if you go to the Ivy leagues, you pay 90,000 dollars for only tuition, excluding lodging. You do it for six years. So, people in America take loans.

"We can make provisions for loans and you pay back. If the government will train you for free, we should bond you. You serve the country for nine years before you go anywhere," he had argued.

The minister is right in his submission on free medical training for at least those trained in federal-government owned institutions. Not too many countries do that really. In Scandinavian countries where education is free to the tertiary level, their citizens pay heavily in taxes to finance such luxury.

As a matter of fact, the unit cost of training a doctor in the British National Health Service (NHS) according to a study by the UK Department for Health was estimated at between £269,527 and £564,112 for a Foundation Officer 1 and Consultant respectively. A medical doctor in the USA pays an average of \$2,398 a month for a 30-year repayment plan. In other words, a medical doctor owes taxpayers and government \$863,500, which is paid back in monthly instalments. So, it is indeed expensive to be trained as

medical doctors in these countries. And that is why they will forever be eager to attract Nigerian medical personnel to their land.

But where the minister missed the point is his thinking that medical personnel should allow themselves to rot and perish in Nigeria simply because they are trained by the government. More so when there are countries that are not only willing to employ them, but give them better condition of service. You can't hold doctors or anyone for that matter to ransom because the Nigerian government has failed to place appropriate value on its investment. If Nigeria does not value what it has, those who do will take them away.

Personally, I am still bewildered as to why a country should invest its scarce resources in training its citizens and at the end of the day allow other countries to reap the gains of its investment. I don't understand why a country would train doctors and the doctors will end up serving other countries while your own people are dying at home due to lack of doctors to attend to them.

I don't know what is wrong with our leaders. Unfortunately, this has been a recurring decimal in the history of our nationhood. We leave our own educational institutions in decay and pump billions of dollars on yearly basis to keep universities in other countries in good shape. Nigerians spent a whopping \$28.65 billion on foreign education between 2010 and 2020. We foolishly fund educational growth in other countries and kill the sector in ours. We pay heavily to maintain the high standard of education in other countries - turn them to world class institutions at the expense of ours and we come back home to grumble and complain about Nigeria's falling standard of education. And we still use the same excuse as justification to keep pumping money abroad for educational purposes! Could it be that our leaders are so daft, blind and confused or is it just a case of wickedness?

We have become experts at importing everything including education. Some people even send their children abroad for primary and secondary education. And we come back to complain about Naira losing value. How do you shore up the value of your currency when you have only developed taste for importation and none for exportation?

These countries get teachers and students from all over the world but we can neither attract foreign lecturers nor students. Meanwhile, our leaders are not ashamed to announce to the world that education is the foundation for the future. Whereas, they know that as far as education goes, there is no

future for this country going by what is on ground now.

The Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) went on a 64-day strike, between August 2 and October 2021. What were their demands? Simple things like payment of Medical Residency Training Fund (MRTF), payment of outstanding salaries to members on GIFMIS platform, payment of death-in-service benefits to members who lost their lives in the line of duty during the COVID-19 pandemic, etc. Almost 90 per cent of their demands centred round payment for services already rendered. Which sane country gives such treatment to a critical segment of its society?

I guess one of the reasons why we are where we are as a nation is because Nigerian leaders don't really care about the health, welfare, and the general well being of the people. They don't care because they know that they have alternatives. They don't rely on our health care services, so all Nigerian doctors could as well relocate to the moon if they so wish. After all, there is enough money to fly them to world class hospitals to treat ordinary earache or a headache even if everybody thinks Nigeria is broke. They value their own lives but care less about others. Their children still access the best of education the world can offer with stolen funds from our treasuries, so they don't really care.

Nigerians need to take some drastic steps if we are really serious about redeeming this country. One of them is a legislation that makes it compulsory for every government official either elected, appointed or a career civil servant to access their medical needs locally. Likewise, children of politically exposed persons should be banned from schooling in foreign countries. They must all school in Nigeria. Anybody that wants their children to school abroad should not bother to seek electoral positions. Let's face it.

Where do most civil servants, political appointees and our elected officers get the money to send their children to first class institutions abroad? Is it not through stolen fund? Until we do this, we are likely to remain in this quagmire. But, if Nigerians are courageous enough to make this demand of their leaders, I bet there would be an overnight improvement in both our health and education sectors.

No one should be deceived. Our leaders will not give up easily. Our lawmakers would not want to willingly enact laws that will cripple their excesses. So, the onus is on Nigerians to collectively mount pressure on them to do it. Honestly, this should be a major conversation ahead of 2023 elections, because as it is, every sensible country is just feasting on Nigeria's stupidity.

eThekweni accused of deliberately misleading the public over its sewage-polluted beaches

The eThekweni Municipality has some tough questions to answer on whether it misled the citizens of Durban during a series of flip-flop decisions to close/open/close sewage-polluted beaches last week

SOUTH AFRICA

This matters. The ANC is still the only political party able to form a national coalition of interests in our country. But, despite the noble aims to improve service delivery, and work for unity, the road ahead for the movement is still strewn with self-constructed potholes. And the usual promises.

NEC states: "We will put in place

m If the eThekweni Municipality's communications unit and senior city official Malcolm Canham are to be believed, the recent torrent of treacle-coloured water at the mouth of the Durban's Umgeni River "just looks a bit unsightly" and "there might be a bit of a groundwater smell" when bathers take a dip along the city's Golden Mile.

In fact, the communications department claimed, the murky water was "free of any pollution that may pose threat to life" and was due to rotting water hyacinth plants washed down by the recent heavy rain.

No worries. Nothing to see here. It's quite safe to take a dip, they reassured the public on Thursday.

Canham even went on camera on e.tv to declare that "the [water] samples have come back clear".

But which samples was Canham referring to?

Surely not the results obtained by Our Burning Planet, which reveal that on the very day that Canham was reassuring the public that all was safe, *Escherichia coli* levels (an indicator of sewage bacteria) in the Umgeni River exceeded 81,000 cfu/100ml of water and reached nearly 13,000 cfu/100ml at the Bay of Plenty Beach next to the Maharani and Elangeni hotels on Durban's Golden Mile.

These levels are way in excess of Durban's guideline values of less than 100 cfu for "excellent" quality bathing water and the upper limit of 2,000 cfu limit set for "poor" quality swimming water.

Were Canham and municipal spokesperson Msawakhe Mayisela also not aware that the murky seawater had also been linked to sewage sludge overflows into the Umgeni River from two of the city's municipal wastewater treatment facilities?

Previous tests show that *E. coli* levels in the lower reaches of the Umgeni River have been elevated for several months. On 4 November, for example, tests showed *E. coli* levels of more than 3 million cfu next to the Umgeni River Bird Park and over 2.4 million cfu in Springfield Park.

During 2011, University of KwaZulu-Natal microbiology doctoral student Atheesha Singh also found waterborne viruses at every one of the five sampling points tested on the Umgeni River between Inanda Dam and Blue Lagoon.

She said adenoviruses, enteroviruses, rotaviruses and Hepatitis B viruses were detected in all water samples, along with bacterial pathogens such as *Salmonella* and *Shigella*.

"These results indicate the potential of viruses in the water samples, especially from the lower



Visibly murky surf at the mouth of the Umgeni River on 1 January 2022. (Photo: Supplied)

catchment areas, to infect the human hosts throughout the year. These observations have public healthcare implications and establish a need to monitor the viral population in addition to traditional water quality indicators," she warned.

Last week, according to a report presented to the provincial Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs, large volumes of rain and stormwater caused an overflow of sewage sludge at the Northern wastewater treatment works. This was compounded by vandalism and electricity theft from the nearby Johanna Road sewage pump station.

The report was compiled by officials of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs who appeared to be flummoxed by eThekweni's sudden decision to lift the bathing ban on several Durban beaches on Thursday.

On 5 January, the city issued a media statement announcing the temporary closure of six beaches as a precautionary measure because of the "very abnormal murky water" flowing out of the mouth of the Umgeni River.

But the following day the city issued another statement declaring that the beaches were safe again.

"Following tests that were conducted, the city is reopening all beaches that were closed yesterday with immediate effect. According to the results, water is free of any pollution that may pose a threat to life. The water was murky because of hyacinths naturally found in water. It usually increases during summer months."

Immediately after the bathing ban was lifted on 6 January, Canham was interviewed on e.tv at Blue Lagoon beach as visibly dark water continued to pour into

the sea behind him from the mouth of the Umgeni.

During this television interview, Canham (a senior official of the eThekweni municipality's Disaster Management Unit and chair of the city's Festive Season Management Committee) blamed the heavy summer rain for "bringing down lots of products, plastic debris and that sort of thing" as well as water hyacinth weeds.

Because the river water was very discoloured, a decision had been taken to close neighbouring beaches the previous day "to the disappointment of the city and residents".

In a previous press release on 2 January, eThekweni Mayor Mxolisi Kaunda declared that Durban was determined to "reclaim its place as a tourist mecca" after losing hundreds of millions of rands in tourism revenue as a result of Covid-19.

During this festive period, the city recorded more than 80 percent occupancy rates across its accommodation establishments.

"Over the Christmas weekend alone, preliminary indicators show close to 200,000 visitors descended on the City, spending close to R150-million and the contribution to the city's GDP is approximately R350-million," the city said.

Happily, Canham told e.tv, the city had collected water for analysis on 5 January and "the samples have come back clear - but for the fact that the waters are a little more discoloured and murky because of the groundwater that has come from the river.

"It just looks a bit unsightly," he remarked, before announcing that the beaches would be reopened with immediate effect "so that people can enjoy themselves".

Mawande Kheswa of e.tv seemed content to accept Canham's account without further interrogation, and signed off by remarking: "Thank you very much for that clarity." But many others did not buy this official explanation - including Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs of-

ficials.

According to the report to the KZN Parliament: "The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs was not convinced about the change in the colour of the water being solely attributed to the decomposition of the water hyacinth."

In the course of their subsequent investigation, officials were tipped off about a "black discharge" flowing from an outfall pipe from the Northern treatment works. They confirmed this information and also established that "the discharge was not reported to the authorities by eThekweni" as required by Section 30 of the National Environmental Management Act.

During subsequent site visits, they also found "black water with a foul odour" flowing into the ocean through the Umgeni River Mouth. Laguna beach had been reopened, but when life-guards and officials on duty were questioned about which sample results had informed the decision to reopen the beach, "no clarity could be provided".

An official then drove to Willowfield Crescent in Springfield Park and found a black substance flowing into the Umgeni River through an outfall from the Northern sewage treatment works.

According to the report, a government authorities meeting was held on 7 January and a decision was taken to close the beaches once more due to water quality test results "which indicated levels of *E. coli* which were in excess of the acceptable limits for recreational bathing".

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs was also considering "further enforcement actions in this regard".

Further enquiries by Our Burning Planet have established that several water samples were collected from the Umgeni River and Durban beaches on 6 January.

These results show that on the day Canham and the city communications department announced the lifting of the ban, *E. coli* levels on three sections of the Umgeni ranged between 81,640 and 21,420 cfu.

Along the Durban beachfront, *E. coli* levels were North Beach (4,569), Bay of Plenty (12,997), Suncoast and Laguna beaches (9,208) - all considerably in excess of Durban's own safe swimming water guidelines.

How does the city explain its decision to close the beaches (5 Jan), reopen them (6 Jan) and then close them again (7 Jan)?

We sent questions to the city communication unit on 7 January, asking:

Can eThekweni provide a copy of the original laboratory test results received on 6 Jan which demonstrated that *E. coli* levels were "all clear"?

Did Canham see the laboratory test results before he went on TV to make the statements that he did?

Can eThekweni explain why it reopened the beaches on 6 Jan, given that *E. coli* levels recorded on that day exceeded safe levels for swimming?

Were there two sets of results (one set received on 6 Jan and one set received on 7 Jan)? If so, can eThekweni provide both sets of results?

Was Canham misinformed by other officials? Did he jump the gun? Or did he consciously attempt to mislead the public during the TV interview?

When no response to telephone, text and email messages was received from city communications head Msawakhe Mayisela, we contacted Canham on his cellphone at 4.18pm on Saturday 8 January and asked him to clarify his e.tv interview assertion that "the samples have come back clear".

Canham's first response was that the decision to reopen the beaches had now been "rescinded".

"The first lot of tests were on the okay side ... Since then, more have been done," he said.

At this point, before we could ask more questions, Canham stated that he was travelling in a rural area with poor mobile phone reception and requested that the conversation be continued later in the day.

Sure, we responded. "Shall we call you back, or will you call us back?"

Canham promised to call us later. He hasn't.

DM/OBP



A stream of treacle-coloured water flowing under the bridge at Blue Lagoon in Durban on 6 January 2022. (Photo: Tony Carnie)



A local resident observes murky waters flowing into the sea at Blue Lagoon in Durban on 6 January 2022. (Photo: Tony Carnie)

Lindiwe Sisulu and her extraordinary attack on South Africa's Constitution

SOUTH AFRICA

This is a person with an impressive track record that dates back to her training as an Umkhonto weSizwe (MK) cadre who specialised in security. She has been a member of Parliament since 1994. A longstanding member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC, Sisulu started in government as deputy minister of Home Affairs, following which she successively served as minister of Intelligence; Defence; Public Service and Administration; Human Settlements; International Relations and Cooperation; Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation; and now, Tourism.

Quizzically, in the article under reference, Sisulu questions the import of the rule of law, since apartheid and Nazism were also underpinned by the "rule of law". She deplors the "sea of African poverty" that persists despite the existence of the Constitution of South Africa, which she dismisses as a palliative. One tries to discern what exactly makes the Constitution the agency for addressing issues of "African poverty". And what in that incarnation causes it to be effete: maybe a failure in its provisions to address uniquely "African poverty"?

Sisulu asks sarcastically: "What has this beautiful constitution done for the victims [of colonialism] except as a palliative (Panadol)? [sic]"

The logic of blaming the government's failure to effectively address the plight of the poor on the country's Constitution is a trifle obscure. As is known, it is the executive arm, and not the legislature or judiciary, that carries the mandate and responsibility for poverty alleviation. Regardless of whether one is functioning in a democratic, autocratic or fascist state, the

remit of the rule of law is all-encompassing. It transcends concerns for the poor. It affects all persons, institutions and entities in the state, all of which entities are accountable to publicly promulgated laws.

Sisulu expresses feelings of righteous indignation at the well-known evils of colonialism. She says: "Many years down the line, Africans manage poverty while others manage wealth."

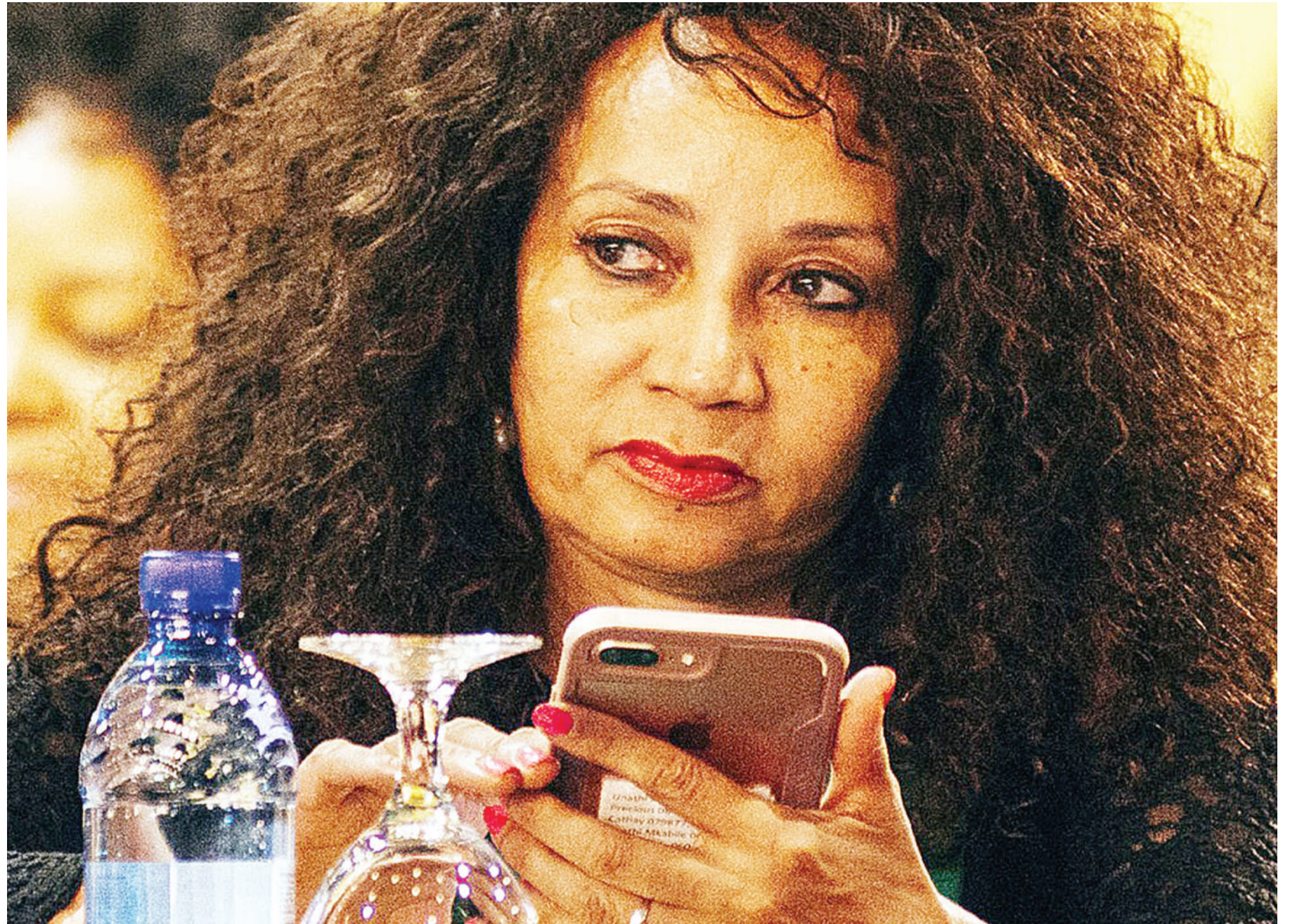
This articulation with respect to wealth and poverty invites a couple of observations. For starters, it is the government, of which Sisulu has been an integral part for more than two decades, that has caused not only continuing, but escalating poverty during the democratic era.

Among factors that, sadly, account for this state of affairs, are first and foremost a lacklustre commitment to the resolution of the scourge, and also inadequate budget allocations, poor planning and management and the sheer scale of corruption.

Sisulu categorises the impact of poverty in terms of "Africans" and "others", and not, curiously, of "blacks" and "whites". There can be no gainsaying the fact that Africans suffered the worst ravages of apartheid oppression, and as a consequence, substantial numbers within this group continue to need support.

It is nevertheless a truism also that apartheid laws dehumanised and discriminated against people the apartheid laws classified as black and therefore second-class citizens. Recent Statistics South Africa reports show that whites, as a group, are perched at the top of the wealth ladder, while the rest of the populace – blacks in progressive nomenclature – remain pegged on the lower rungs, albeit at different levels.

Sisulu would thus not have been wrong if, in her classification, she cited the black group as



Minister of Tourism Lindiwe Sisulu. (Photo: Waldo Swiegers / Bloomberg via Getty Images)

a whole, rather than only Africans, among those said to be still "managing poverty". But then, she may very well be serving notice in terms of battling exclusively for the African poor.

Sisulu says there have been calls for "a new Truth and Reconciliation Commission focusing on economic justice". But they have "been consistently ignored by those with the power to actually give effect to these calls".

It's not clear whether the minister is implying that there may exist ANC conference resolutions in support of such calls which were ignored by the National Executive Committee, or Cabinet. Since she is a member of those committees, she would hardly be in a position to blame others for "failing to give effect to these calls".

On the other hand, it is possible that Sisulu tried, to no avail, to convince her colleagues about the desperate straits of the "African poor", and is now petitioning the public for help.

But it gets worse.

Sisulu also bewails "the co-option and invitation of political power brokers to the dinner table, whose job is to keep the masses quiet in their suffering while they dine [on] caviar with colonized capital".

Only desperation would drive a person of Sisulu's stature to breach protocol and expose such malfeasances to the public. A justification would probably be that her message is of national importance, but is being ignored in relevant councils. Short of that, the breach would be inexcusable and

deserving of a sanction. On the persistent subject of the relevance of the rule of law to democracy, Sisulu points to the situation in the US where "almost half the country voted for a man [former president Donald Trump] who seemed to care nothing about democracy and the rule of law".

She adds: "At the deepest level, it is not very different from South Africa."

"What's this about?" I ask myself as I continue reading. Is the reader being told that South Africans who voted for the ANC (we don't have a presidential system of elections, so we vote for parties) may have voted for a party that "seems to care nothing about democracy and the rule of law"? Or, is it President Cyril Ramaphosa, perhaps, who is being

compared to Trump? Scary stuff this, but either way, this is a serious indictment on both party and president. Might there be other reasons behind these fulminations?

On the judiciary, Sisulu shoots straight from the shoulder, and takes no prisoners: she tells the reader that, "Today, in the high echelons of our judicial system are these mentally colonized Africans, who have settled with the worldview and mindset of those who have dispossessed their ancestors."

And then: "Rulings against their own speaks [sic] very loudly, while others, secure in their agenda, clap behind closed doors." Sisulu is saying, without substantiation, what an ANC faction that calls itself the RET, whatever that means, has also been saying since former

president Jacob Zuma got hopelessly entangled with the law. Like these notables, she feels, "There is a need for an overhaul of a justice system that does not work for Africa and Africans."

Sisulu has also come to a determination that "we have a neo-liberal constitution, with foreign inspiration..."

She asks, "And where is the African value system of this constitution and the rule of law? If the law does not work for Africans in Africa, then what is the use of the rule of law?"

With this kind of gibberish coming from on high, leadership beware! I am sure St Matthew would not disapprove of this paraphrase: Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to Organisational Renewal. It is often fraught with thorns and thickets.

DM

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 UMJUAYVO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Research projects promoting industrialisation in Tanzania

By Correspondent Deodatus

Mfugale

WHEN the late President John Magufuli delivered a speech to inaugurate the new Parliament at the end of 2015, he stressed that industrialization was a key priority of the government and that industries producing goods such as clothes, textiles and edibles would be encouraged. Other priority industries that the government pledged to invest in value-addition include cashew processing as well as dairy and meat processing.

The President also underscored the need to promote small-scale industries that would focus on value-addition of agricultural products so that small producers can get better prices in the market.

It was a coincidence that Tanzania started participating in the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) in the same year thus giving impetus to the country's industrialization policy. COSTECH, Tanzania's Science Granting Council, oversees implementation of SGCI projects which mainly focus on improving the country's scientific research outputs and support various policy initiatives. The Science Granting Council Initiative thus seeks to strengthen national science systems and lead to nationally led research that contributes to development in Tanzania by managing research, designing and monitoring research programmes based on the use of robust science, technology and innovation (STI) indicators. SGCI projects also contribute to the realization of Tanzania's 2025 Vision which spelt out the country's aim to become a semi-industrialised country by 2025 with targeted contribution of the manufacturing to the national economy to reach a minimum of 40 percent of GDP.

"In order to achieve this target, Tanzania aims to transform from being dominated by natural resource exploitation activities and extractive industries to become an economy with a broad and diverse base of manufacturing, processing and packaging industries that will lead both the productive as well as the export sector," reads



A technician observes the performance of an avocado oil extraction machine. Photo courtesy of Dr Sigisbert Mmasi

part of a document by Tanzania Invest.

According to the Second Five Years Development Plan Tanzania's average industrial growth rate should have increased to 10.5 percent, raising the sector's con-

tribution to GDP to 12.5 percent by 2020. "Tanzania will need to transform its economy in order to increase value addition in its export basket, tap into global value chains (GVCs) and, ultimately, provide its citizens with a better

life," reads part of the FYDP 2 document.

Thus implementation of SGCI projects has contributed to the government's industrialization policy, realization of Vision 2025 as well as implementation of the

FYDP2.

"Since inception of SGDI in 2015 we have made tremendous contribution to policies related to science and technology. Most of our research projects are directed at designing and producing simple machines so that small producers can add value to their goods and earn more money. However, influencing change of policy and even advocating a review of some cannot be attributed to only one institution but a collective action of several institutions with each making contributions relevant to their area subject of specialty," says Neema Tindamanyire, Coordinator of SGCI in Tanzania.

"We have made our own contributions in policy reviews but I cannot say what we have suitable can entirely be attributed to SGCI," she adds.

Partners implementing SGCI projects in Tanzania include Mgolole Agro-processing Company, Arusha Oil processing company and Tanzania Engineering Manufacturing Design Organization which implement projects some of which are directly related to value-addition of agricultural products. Avocado oil extraction, sunflower oil refining and sunflower harvesting, threshing and improvement of oil processing for small scale producers - all these are projects that focus on value-addition of agricultural crops by small-scale producers.

"Since agriculture is the mainstay of the Tanzanian economy, the manufacturing industry is centred on turning raw agricultural products into finished goods. Currently, the majority of crops in Tanzania are marketed in their raw forms while value-addition to agricultural products is mostly done on small-scale secondary level," reads part of a document by Tanzania Invest.

The small-scale producers and growers are the ones who need simple and efficient technology for value-addition of their products because they cannot afford imported machines. So in contributing to implementation of the policy of industrialization and other policy statements, SGCI pro-

jects address grassroots level producers with the aim of raising their incomes and reducing poverty at family level but at the same time participating in making the country realize sustainable development.

"In executing the industrialization policy, we must not leave small producers behind because they need efficient and affordable technology that will help them improve their lives. Big producers can always find their way out," says Dr Sigisbert Mmasi who is the Principle Investigator of the Development and Commercialization of a Suitable Avocado Oil Mini-Extraction Plant to Enhance Productivity and Quality of Avocado Oil in Tanzania. The main objective of the project is to develop and commercialize suitable technologies (machine and equipment) for extraction of avocado oil from farm growers and oil processors.

The project aims to enable small-scale farmers to make good use of avocado fruits that have been rejected by buyers. There are also local species that find no buyers in the market. "Under the circumstances farmers suffer big loss that frustrates them from expanding avocado farms and has hindered their efforts to reduce poverty. The project seeks to reduce the loss by providing farmers with simple technology to extract oil from avocado fruits. This will reduce waste and provide income which farmers would otherwise have not realized," explains Dr Mmasi

At the heart of the industrialization policy is the need to take affordable science, technology and innovation to the common man so as to change their lives. "The policy of industrialization requires people to access simple, efficient and affordable technology that they can use to improve their lives. That is why we plan to open centres in Morogoro and Arusha to market plasma cutter machine products so that fabricators and construction contractors can access quality machine parts from us," explains Engineer Patrick Kivanda the Principal Investigator for plasma cutter machines project.

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

Iringa

AN Iringa-based private company - Farm For the Future Tanzania Ltd (FFF) has called upon local and international investors to invest in its ongoing construction of an irrigation dam and irrigation infrastructure to accelerate production of seed maize and macadamia, one of the most profitable crops in the world.

FFF chairman and project manager, Osmund Ueland said in a statement yesterday that the company has raised the first US\$350,000 for the investment in the earth dam, and hopes that new investors can inject an additional US\$950,000 to set up the irrigation infrastructure and facilities to facilitate rainwater-harvesting for irrigation on a 250-hectare farm of seed maize and macadamia, an investment that is expected to kick-off from October 2022.

According to Ueland, irrigation is the key investment that unlocks the potential of these highly profitable crops and removes the vagaries of weather and climate.

Calls to invest in high-value crops, seed maize, macadamia in Iringa



Construction of an irrigation dam is in top gear at Farm for the Future commercial farm in Iringa where a 250-hectare investment in production of seed maize and macadamia is expected to kick off from October 2022. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

"Irrigation would promote successful production of seed maize and macadamia nuts, which are high value products with prospects to significantly raise the Farm profitability and contribute towards raising household incomes in the area

through hundreds of employment in the farm", said Ueland.

He emphasized that the investment in high-value crops will be a strong engine in the development of the communities around the Farm by turning more than 2,000 smallholders

and medium size farmers into outgrowers and would uplift thousands from poverty through development programmes.

The number of permanent and temporary employees will increase a lot, and many macadamia outgrowers

will develop around FFF.

Ueland said investors in FFF should make prudent decisions because agriculture is a long-term investment. "I believe investors with a long-term investment vision would find this project exciting. Full production starts after

seven years which means investors will have to wait for five years for their first dividend from macadamia nuts, although investors with a medium-term horizon would still attain a higher re-sale value once planting starts in 2022." Helping the poorest

farmers move from subsistence to semi-commercial farming and young mothers become self-sufficient while contributing to food security and nutrition in Tanzania, are noble outcomes from this investment.

The time to protect our oceans is now

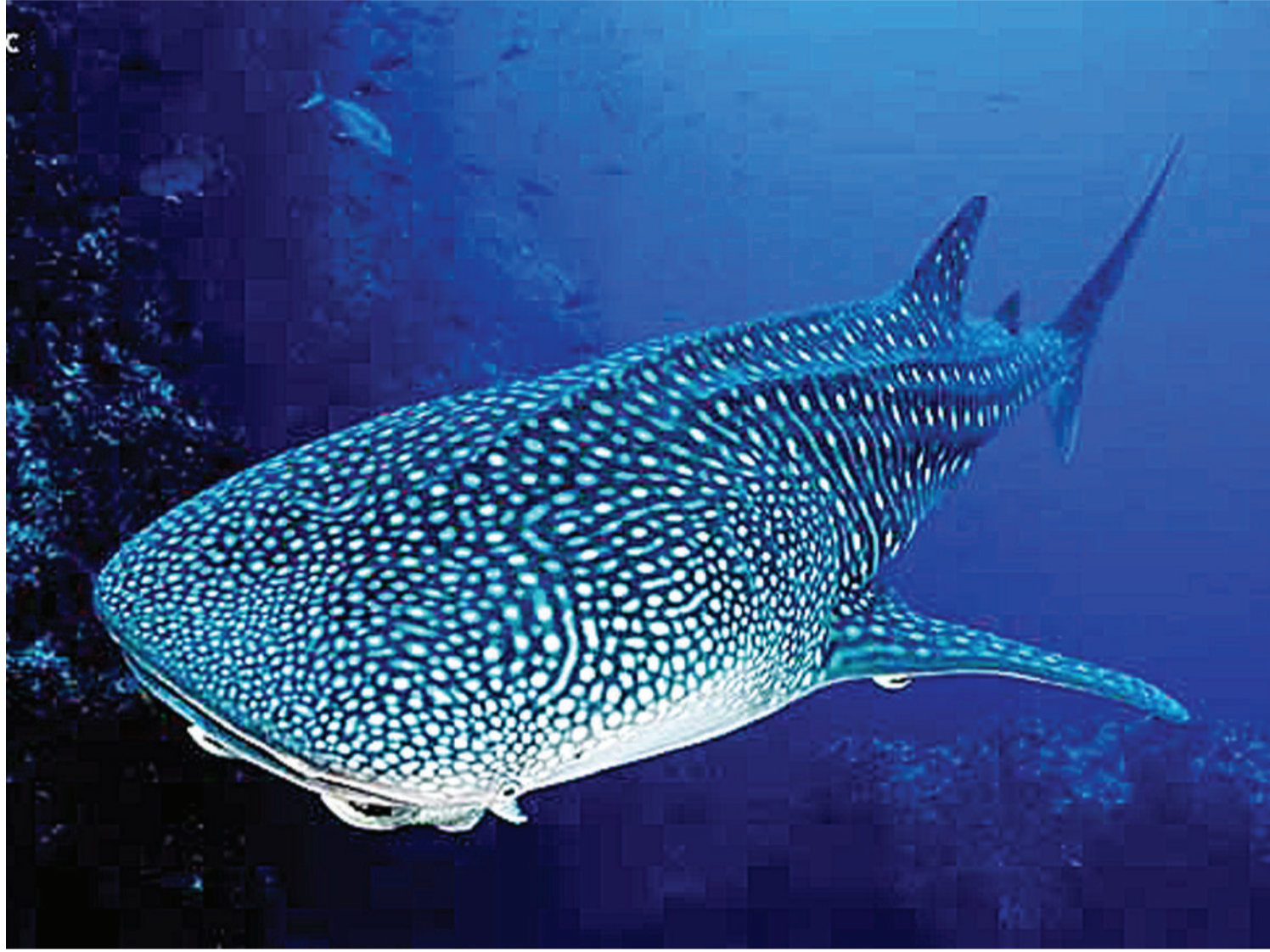
WASHINGTON DC.

There is no other place in the world like Costa Rica's Cocos Island National Park. The waters surrounding the island-covered with tropical forests—are a playground to countless shivers, or schools, of sharks, including hammerhead sharks, whitetip reef sharks and whale sharks.

Also boasting rays, turtles, whales and dolphins, it's one of the world's most biodiverse waterways. In recent years, however, industrial fishing activity has encroached on the area, threatening this unparalleled marine life.

Fortunately, Costa Rica took decisive action this month by expanding the protected waters by 27 times. They also protected an additional marine area—the Bicentennial Marine Managed Area, which is twice the size of the expanded Cocos Island National Park. The area includes no take zones and will closely monitor fishing activity.

Stories like this one are all too rare. In the last



Whale sharks, the largest of living sharks, filter-feed on plankton and other small marine creatures, which they suck into their open mouths as they swim. Credit: Enric Sala, National Geographic Pristine Seas

century alone, we have removed over 90% of the ocean's large fish, yet less than 8% of the ocean is under some kind of protection. We're still learning about the collateral damage from destructive fishing activities, like bottom trawling, which scrape up the ocean floor—the world's largest carbon storehouse.

It's clear that commercial fishing, global warming and pollution have decimated the ocean. Few corners of the vast ocean are safe. As a result, the seas are losing their ability to safeguard biodiversity, provide food and store carbon—all of which are critical to maintaining a livable planet, which was under intense discussion at the climate talks in Glasgow late last year.

But it is possible to restore the ocean's benefits to people and the planet. All we must do is rewild the sea. The only catch is that we can't wait. We have less than a decade to act.

Since 2018, I have worked around the clock and around the world with a team of scientists to identify which areas of the ocean we must protect first. We have discovered through our research and countless expeditions the trade-offs among the ocean's benefits.

To support our work, we developed a framework that could help us maximize the benefits that humanity obtains from the ocean. We found that if we were to give equal importance to biodiversity, food and carbon, it is imperative to protect 45% of the ocean—the "right" 45%.

Even if we decided that biodiversity is not so important, we would need to protect 30%—the minimum area needed to preserve marine life and all of the benefits it provides to people.

Costa Rica is part of a growing group of world leaders that understand the benefits of protecting marine areas. At the Glasgow climate talks, Costa Rica, together with Colombia, Ecuador, and Panama, announced their commitment to create

more marine reserves in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

Establishing no-take areas along an "ocean highway" for migratory species such as tuna will actually increase fish supplies in the surrounding areas. As a result, biodiversity and economies benefit.

Earlier this month, the government of Portugal expanded a marine protected area around the Selvagens Islands, located midway between Madeira and Canary Islands. At 3,677 square kilometers, the area is now the largest fully protected marine reserve in Europe.

Countries worldwide must establish more of these protected areas by 2030 if we are to ensure that the ocean can continue to provide us with its benefits. Protections must be strong. Marine protected areas can only work their magic if all fishing and other damaging human activities are banned—and these rules are enforced.

So far, 77 countries have agreed to champion a global goal to protect 30% of the ocean—and well as land—by 2030. They are pushing to ensure that the 30x30 target is enshrined in a global UN biodiversity agreement, under negotiation now and expected to be signed in 2022.

But the world doesn't have to wait for the ink to dry on the agreement to establish more marine protected areas. Too much is at stake. I have seen with my own eyes how nature recovers in marine reserves. More importantly, I have seen how this return of nature has helped people gain better lives.

Enric Sala is an Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society, the founder of Pristine Seas, and the recipient of this year's Prince Albert I Grand Medal for his work to protect the ocean. Pristine Seas has helped to establish 24 marine protected areas, covering a total area of more than 6.5 million square kilometers—more than twice the size of India.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 202 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 LETTERS: PLY, FIG, ALL
 4 LETTERS: SALT, TIME, LOME, IGAD, ENDS, ISLE SNAR (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: PANEL, ENDED, STARK, TIGRE, ROMEO (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: NEEDLE, PENALS, RUSSIA, SKILLS LOOSER (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: TUNNELS
 8 LETTERS: FLAMINGO
 10 LETTERS: SITUATIONS

CLUES: Across

- a Japanese dish of thinly sliced beef or pork boiled quickly with vegetables and then dipped in sauce
- a crow-like bird
- little in size
- a soft plastic mixture
- a male child
- police officer in East Afrika
- a musical instrument
- a piece of writing on a particular subject
- laws formerly in operation in S.Africa controlling blacks
- rowdy behaviour
- the holding of an office

Down:

- class, kind, variety
- on the top of
- the place where one lives
- basic monetary unit of Panama
- large New Zealand parrot
- labour hard
- Assegai
- Lake victoria in Kenya
- a course or run for skiing
- someone who plants
- argument in favor of something
- a habitual drunkard

WORD-FIT

Y U G O S L A V I A
 E A M I D D I L M A
 R N O T E D U
 C O L O U R A N T
 L I C
 P O N D E M A I L
 M O O I
 A B R O G A T E N
 D O O R A T E Y
 O E S T A T E G

CROSSWORD

R E F E R E N C E S
 L E A T E N U
 T E N D O L D
 D E M A N D F
 E L S
 K N O B E V E N T
 A I E R
 A G O N I Z E D A
 B E R G R A T
 A B U L A Y A T

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 AM MTA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11.00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS WAMBO YA PWANI 18.00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MBAYU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END MISETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	



CURRENT NEWS

Brewer's agri-business programme boosting growth of smallholder cereal farmers

Page 15



OUTLOOK & ANALYSIS

Green Resources expands plantations in East Africa targeting carbon credits

Page 14

BHP commits 92bn/- to Kabanga Nickel project in Ngara

By Smart Money Reporter

KABANGA Nickel Limited has announced that BHP, a world leading resources company, has invested US\$40 million (over 92.05bn/-) into Kabanga Nickel Project in Ngara district of Kagera region.

In a statement, Kabanga Nickel said the money will be used to accelerate the development of the Kabanga Nickel Project, the world's largest development-ready nickel sulphide deposit. In parallel, BHP has also invested US\$10 million into Lifezone Limited to advance the roll-out of its patented hydrometallurgical technologies.

Lifezone hydromet is more cost-efficient than smelting, has a significantly lower environmental impact, and will ensure that finished Class 1 battery grade nickel, copper and cobalt will be produced in Tanzania, the company said.

Kabanga Nickel's CEO, Chris

Showalter said the deal highlights the world-class nature of the project's deposit and its importance in helping meet the crucial decarbonisation challenge facing the world today.

"BHP is the ideal partner for Kabanga Nickel, bringing significant advantages and expertise that will enable us to move ahead with the project. BHP's investment reflects the project's strong ESG credentials and its role in improving environmental performance throughout the nickel value chain," Showalter said.

He said in addition, BHP's funding support of Lifezone's hydromet technology - the future of sustainable metals processing - will drive progress towards a greener world. "Through development of Kabanga and Lifezone hydromet, Tanzania will have a growing role in the supply of the battery metals needed to move to a global low carbon economy," he added.



Kabanga Nickel's CEO, Chris Showalter (C), signs a mining agreement with the government in Dar es Salaam later last year.

Future investment tranches in Kabanga Nickel have been agreed subject to certain conditions, including a second tranche of US\$50m and the right for BHP to make a further investment in Kabanga Nickel subject to achieving certain agreed milestones. BHP will invest US\$90 million in unsecured convertible securities in Kabanga Nickel in two tranches: an initial US\$40 million, followed by a further US\$50 million on successful agreement of definitive documentation and satisfaction of certain other conditions.

The investment into Kabanga Nickel from BHP will

support an acceleration in the mine's development, including an enhanced metallurgical drilling programme to enable update of the Definitive Feasibility Study and support the construction plans for the hydromet refinery. These studies are expected to be completed by the end of 2022. Site and

infrastructure development is already underway. The investment will also support hiring and training of local Tanzanian talent.

The investment into Lifezone allows for new patent applications as well as R&D work that will further commercialise the Lifezone hydrometallurgical technology. Lifezone currently has patents granted in over 150 countries. Hydrometallurgy, already in operation at various operations around the world, is becoming increasingly attractive to produce base and precious metals. Crucially, it has lower energy consumption and a smaller environmental footprint.

The current project development timeline anticipates first production in 2025. Output will ramp up to target a minimum annual production of 40,000 tonnes of nickel, 6,000 tonnes of copper and 3,000 tonnes of cobalt.

Kabanga Nickel described the government as an impor-

tant partner in the development of the integrated project. In her address at the COP26 Summit in Glasgow last November, President Samia Suluhu Hassan stressed the need for developed countries to help the African continent with the challenges of climate change. The partnership in Kabanga with the government, and the backing of BHP is an example of how this can be achieved.

Minister for Minerals, Doto Biteko backed President Samia's observation saying, "Tanzania has a vision to become an important hub for critical decarbonisation minerals. I am pleased that Kabanga Nickel Limited recognises this potential and has invested in our future." "We now stand ready to help the world in the production and refining of the crucial metals that society needs, while creating skilled jobs and benefiting the economy of our country," Biteko noted.

The government as an impor-

tant partner in the develop-

Faithful to Nature becomes first SA retailer to achieve B Corp certification

JOHANNESBURG

Faithful to Nature is the first retailer in South Africa to become B Corp certified, for its commitment to social and environmental sustainability.

With innovations like product transparency, sustainable packaging and carbon neutral delivery, the brand has been instrumental in introducing South African consumers to more natural, ethical and sustainable products and practices, and they continue to pioneer this movement in the country.

B Lab, a non-profit organisation, awards the B Corporation (B Corp) certification to organisations that voluntarily meet required standards of transparency, accountability, sustainability and performance, with a business objective to create value for society. All aspects of the business are assessed, from supply chains to employee benefits and charitable donations.

Faithful to Nature innovations around product transparency, sustainable packaging and carbon-neutral delivery contributed to the milestone achievement. Founded by Robyn Smith in 2007, the retailer has worked to introduce South African consumers to more natural, ethical and sustainable products and practices.

"As our focus is on environmentally-friendly and sustainable practices, we're incredibly proud to be recognised by B Lab Africa for our efforts in this space," says Luisa Tropartz, head of innovation and merchandising at Faithful to Nature. "People in developing countries feel the effects of environmental destruction the most, and B Lab aims not only to combat climate change but inequality as well through using business as a force for good."

There are currently over 4,200 B Corp certified businesses in over 150 industries and 70 countries, with one goal: to redefine what business



Luisa Tropartz, head of innovation and merchandising at Faithful to Nature.

success looks like. Globally, these include corporations like Patagonia, Wren Design, Chris Bertish, Danone NA, Whole Foods and Ben & Jerry's, among others.

New generations are looking to brands to initiate change. "We share the same goals for purposeful changes, not only in the decisions we make but how we approach the way we manage our business. B Corp certification has the potential to change how the economy works in South Africa and the continent as a whole," Tropartz

says.

Adds Tropartz, "Faithful to Nature scored highly in the area of assessment of workers, as our employee attrition rate is below 10%. We conduct annual employee engagement surveys and ensure that communication between management and staff is well-aligned across the business. We also offer free transport to the majority of workers, free meal options and additional leave allowance.

"There's a four-month partial maternity leave benefit and two weeks leave for

secondary caregivers. We grant ongoing external professional development opportunities in the form of courses or training, and our internal promotions exceed 15%. Finally, the majority of our supplier base is women-owned."

Source: "In terms of environmental benefits, a 15-year-in-the-making ingredient onboarding policy means that all FtN products are natural and planet-friendly, Faithful to Nature's own branded products feature sustainable packaging with cellulose biodegradable bags, vegetable-based inks and recyclable materials wherever possible. And with every customer order placed on Faithful to Nature being carbon-neutral, there is less climate impact than shopping most other e-commerce sites or brick-and-mortar stores, the company states.

"We have dedicated our time and resources to providing local consumers with products that have minimal impact on the environment and use business practices that are ethical and socially conscious. As such, we have had great success in changing the conscious mindset of local consumers and doing our part in improving the lives of everyone on our planet - we wholeheartedly encourage other companies to invest in doing the same as it's up to us to make these purposeful changes," Tropartz says.

IMF: Emerging economies 'must prepare for Fed tightening and threats to global recovery'

WASHINGTON

The resurgent pandemic and faster US Federal Reserve tightening pose risks to global recovery and emerging economies should prepare for bouts of economic turbulence, according to the International Monetary Fund.

As well as the rampant Omicron variant, supply-side pressures and the Fed's decision to accelerate the tapering of asset purchases, emerging markets are confronting elevated inflation and substantially higher public debt, the Washington-based lender said in a blog post on Monday.

"Average gross government debt in emerging markets is up by almost 10 percentage points since 2019 reaching an estimated 64 per cent of gross domestic product by the end of 2021, with large variations across countries," said Stephan Danninger, who co-wrote the blog and is division chief of macro policies in the IMF's strategy, policy and review department.

"But in contrast to the US, their economic recovery and labour markets are less robust. While dollar borrowing costs remain low for many, concerns about domestic inflation and stable foreign funding led several emerging markets last year, including Brazil, Russia and South Africa, to start raising interest rates," he said.

The global economy, which in 2020 entered its deepest recession since the 1930s, bounced back strongly last year on the back of \$25 trillion in fiscal and monetary support by governments and central banks around the world.

In October, the IMF lowered its global economic growth forecast on weakening momentum, Covid-19 outbreaks, uneven access to vaccines, supply chain disruptions and risks from rising inflation. The fund revised growth down in 2021 to 5.9 per cent from its 6 per cent estimate in July, while keeping its 2022 projection at 4.9 per cent.

LSK queries lack of uniformity in EAC degree curricula



Law Society of Kenya president Nelson Havi.

NAIROBI

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has raised concerns on the lack of uniformity in the qualifications for admission to study law degree and to join the respective bars of the East African Community (EAC) member States.

LSK Nairobi chapter chairman Eric Theuri said there is a need to clarify eligibility requirements on matters such as training for non-Kenyans who practice law in the EAC before seeking admission to practice law in Kenya.

"There ought to be a standardisation of legal training so that a lawyer who trains in Kenya undergoes the same curriculum as a lawyer in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi," he told the Business Daily. "Without standardisa-

tion, it will be hard to admit those lawyers because the process of them becoming an advocate is not standard with what the Kenyans are going through."

Mr Theuri's concern comes at a time Parliament has proposed changes to the Kenya School of Law (Amendment) Bill and the Council for Legal Education (Amendment) Bill which if adopted by the House would allow Rwandan and Burundian advocates to practise in Kenya.

The amendments if approved will change Section 12 of the Advocates Act, which currently only allows Ugandan and Tanzanian lawyers to practise in Kenya. Rwandan and Burundian advocates were in 2019 locked out from Kenya, a move that MPs say contravenes the spirit of the EAC.

The proposed changes come barely a month after the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee blocked Rwandan and Burundian lawyers from practising in Kenya until local advocates are allowed to work in the two countries on a reciprocal basis.

Kenyan lawyers, currently practising advocates in Rwanda, had petitioned MPs to fast-track the inclusion of Rwanda and Burundi in the Advocates Act to enable the Chief Justice to swear and enrol practitioners from the two countries to practice in Kenya.

This is the second attempt by MPs to open the doors for lawyers from Rwanda and Burundi, coming nearly two years after the Court of Appeal struck out similar changes, effectively locking out the two countries.

Green Resources expands plantations in East Africa targeting carbon credits

By Smart Money Reporter

GRL Tanzania (formerly known as Green Resources Limited) of Norway which has plantations in Iringa region of the country is receiving carbon credit revenue from its trees which sequester carbon dioxide.

GRL Tanzania CEO, Hans Lemm said recently that the company manages its plantations according to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) principles and criteria. All its Uganda plantations are FSC certified and a large part of the Tanzanian and Mozambican plantations.

"When it comes to value-adding, our product line-up includes sawn timber, veneer, pallets, briquettes, charcoal, treated timber, transmission poles and other wood products," Lemm said in an interview with South African based Woodbiz Africa.

He said currently the company sells most of its products into the rapidly growing East African markets, and exports lumber from Tanzania and Uganda and veneer from Mozambique. "We have sawmilling operations in Uganda and Tanzania and pole plants in all three countries. In addition, the company operates a briquetting plant in Tanzania and a veneer factory in Mozambique," he said.

The Norwegian company which was established in 1995 and has about 100 private shareholders backed by two European development finance institutions, employees around 900 people directly who include between 500 and 700 contractors in the three countries.

"Green Resources is one of the first companies globally to receive carbon revenue from its plantation forests," Lemm said adding that Sao Hill Indus-



GRL Tanzania CEO, Hans Lemm.

tries is East Africa's largest sawmill and transmission pole treatment plant.

While Sao Hill Industries is East Africa's largest sawmill and transmission pole treatment plant, Green Resources is East Africa's largest vertically integrated forestry and wood processing company with 38,000 hectares of plantations in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda.

"Initially built by Norwegian development aid in the mid-1970s and privatised in the late 90s, the operations have undergone several significant upgrades and capital investment projects. SHI supplies kiln-dried and treated structural timber, pallets, briquettes, and other products to local and international markets," he

added.

The Norwegian company also operates two wood preservation plants for poles and timber treatment and is one of Tanzania's largest transmission and fencing poles producers and is a significant supplier to Tanzania's Rural Electrification Programme. Currently, SHI is the only producer of kiln-dried poles in Tanzania.

GRL Tanzania manages the forestry operations in Tanzania, with approximately 15,300ha of pine and eucalyptus plantations. It sells logs to SHI and private saw millers and wood processors. It also has access to government plantations through long-term off-take agreements.

Emerging markets on course for massive mobile money growth

NAIROBI

Mobile payments in sub-Saharan Africa are predicted to grow by over 60% in the next five years, showcasing that Local Payment Methods (LPMs) like these are key for more expansive e-commerce opportunities.

The total value of mobile money transactions in emerging markets is predicted to exceed US\$870-billion in 2026. This is according to Frank Breuss, CEO of Fintech firm Nikulipe, who said the popularity of mobile payments is emphasizing the importance of LPMs, and could open up the African market to a number of global e-commerce opportunities.

Nikulipe added that mobile payments as an LPM appeared in the sub-Saharan region in the early 2000s with Safaricom, a Kenyan mobile network operator, offering one of the first mobile payment solutions. The importance of this LPM only grew with new players and more regional countries entering the space. While mo-

bile payments were not automatically available to each sub-Saharan country, as some still lacked technical solutions, it has become a widely spread trend that continues appearing in more African countries.

Breuss noted that this payment trend has grown popular due to the particular circumstances sub-Saharan Africa is in. "More than half of the African population remains without a traditional bank account even today, so solutions like mobile payments are most convenient for the region. Mobile phones are widely available across the region, making mobile money payments the primary way for Africans to pay for goods and services like groceries, food delivery or taxi rides, or even utility bills."

Breuss said that mobile phones in Africa are used in a very different way than they are in the US or Europe; they are often not based on monthly subscription models, but rather balances are topped up by purchasing prepaid airtime credits,

that can be purchased at thousands of shops or agent-kiosks even in the most rural areas.

"This allows people, even those without a bank account or a credit card, to buy phone credits not just to make calls, but also to top-up their phone to pay local merchants for goods and services—logistically, it's the simplest and most convenient LPM to use. Knowing all of this, understanding why mobile payments are popular in this region can, in turn, open up more global e-commerce opportunities for both international merchants and African shoppers, looking to shop more globally."

According to Nikulipe since much of Africa's population has limited access to financial services, the continent is regarded as one of the world's most attractive banking opportunities for developing the existing financial industry and introducing new products to improve financial accessibility.

After previously disregarding mobile money's target market in favour of Africans with higher income, Africa's traditional banks are, too, looking into entering telecommunications territory. This move by local banking institutions indicates that the mobile payments market will continue growing in the upcoming years.

The Fintech firm added that while mobile payment penetration varies from one sub-Saharan African country to another, at the end of 2020, 495 million people were using mobile services, which represents 46% of the region's population. It is predicted that by 2025 this number will reach 615 million—equivalent to 50% of the region's population.



Frank Breuss, CEO of Fintech firm Nikulipe.

SA Breweries mulls mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations for staff

JOHANNESBURG

South African Breweries (SAB), part of Anheuser-Busch InBev, said on Tuesday, 4 January that it was looking at making Covid-19 vaccinations mandatory for staff across its operations, the latest

company in South Africa to consider such a move.

South African firms including telecoms provider MTN Group, insurers Discovery and Old Mutual, and Dis-Chem Pharmacies have already said they would require employees to have Covid-19 shots,

potentially opening themselves up to legal challenges. President Cyril Ramaphosa also said in November the government was considering making Covid-19 shots compulsory for citizens to access certain places and activities.

South Africa had seen a surge

in coronavirus infections since November, driven by the new Omicron variant. While officials believe it has passed the peak of infections, they still strongly encourage vaccinations. SAB, which makes Carling Black Label and Castle Lager beer, said it would begin

a consultative process this month and a final decision on mandatory vaccines would be made in due course.

"As a pro-vaccination company, we aim to safeguard our employees in the workplace and aid the country in its drive to overcome

the pandemic and recover the economy," the brewer said in a statement. SAB has been forced to stop selling alcohol more than four times since the pandemic started as part of efforts to free up space in hospitals burdened with alcohol-related injuries for Covid-19 patients.

Samsung poised for best fourth quarter on strong semiconductor demand

SEOUL

South Korea's Samsung Electronics is poised to record its biggest fourth-quarter financial results, based on preliminary earnings guidance it provided on Friday, owing to strong demand for server memory chips.

The world's biggest mobile phone manufacturer is forecasting sales of 75-77 trillion Korean won (\$62.4-\$64 billion), about 25 per cent more than in the same period a year earlier, it said in a statement on Friday. The company is forecasting that operating profit surged more than 52 per cent to 3.7-13.9tn won (\$11.4-\$11.6bn) from the same period in 2020.

South Korean disclosure regulations "do not allow earnings estimates to be offered as a range", the company said. "To comply with such regulations, the figures represent the median of the estimate ranges provided." Samsung, the maker of the Apple iPhone's rival Galaxy series, did not provide a breakdown of its divisional earnings. The company will report its full fourth-quarter results on January 27.

Samsung's best three-month period ever was its fiscal 2021 third quarter, in which it reported sales of almost 74tn won and operating profit of 15.82tn won. The performance was fuelled by chips, OLED panels and its new-generation foldable smartphones.

During that quarter, its semiconductor business was an anchor, posting 26.4tn won in consolidated revenue and 10.06tn won in operating profit, or about 35 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively, of the overall figures. Samsung had previously warned challenges remain.

"In 2022, amid expectations of a recovery in global IT demand, the company's component business will focus on

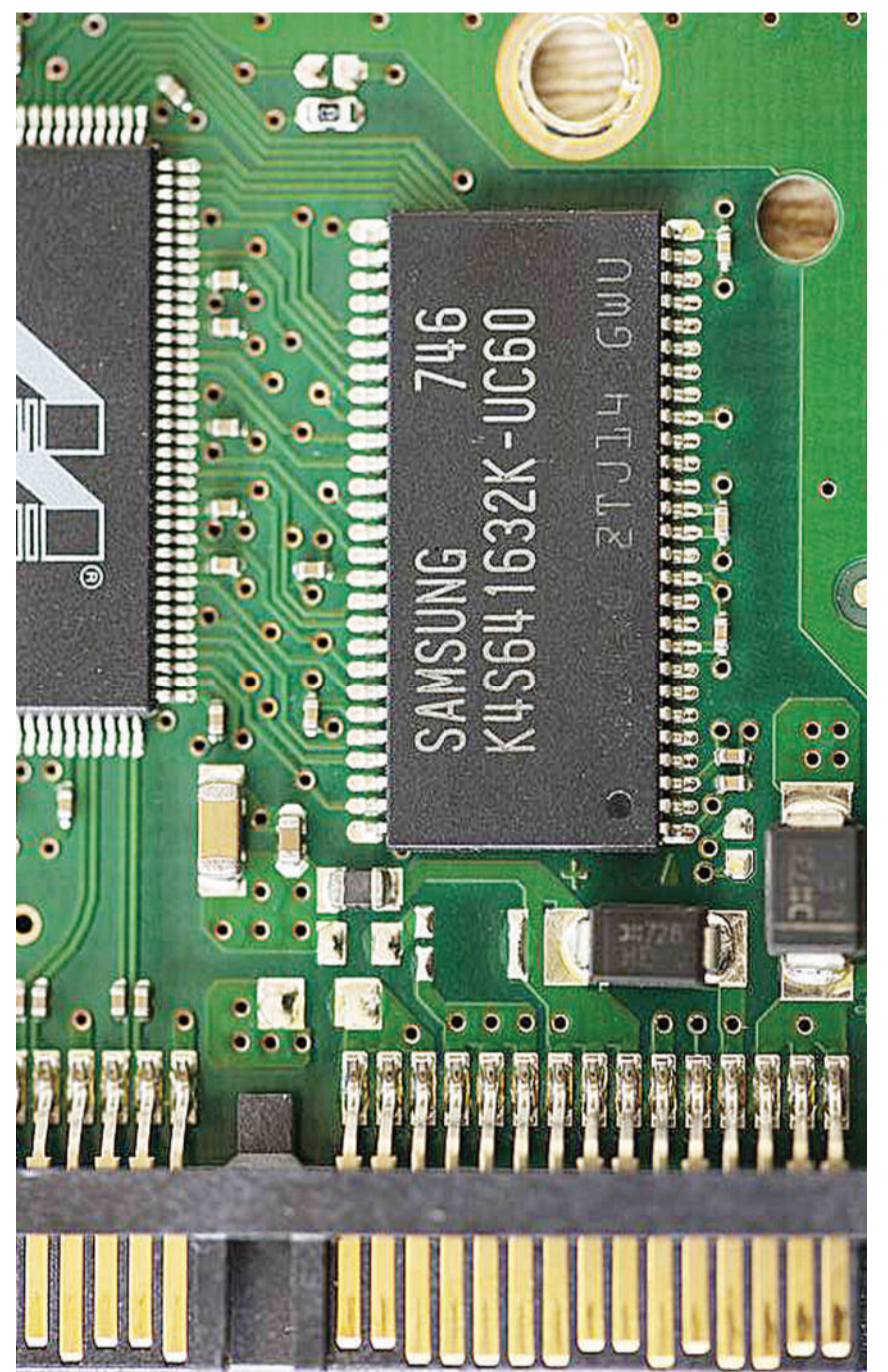
expanding advanced processes and enhancing product and technology leadership. In smartphones and consumer electronics, the company will prioritise solid profitability by strengthening the premium category leadership. However, uncertainties related to component supply disruptions and Covid-19 are likely to remain," it said. In November, Apple supplier Foxconn similarly said that the global chip shortage would run into the second half of 2022.

The global semiconductor industry, which was plagued by supply challenges in 2021 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, is poised for a big rebound this year, with sales expected to cross \$600bn for the first time driven by "unusually strong" demand for consumer electronics, Allianz subsidiary Euler Hermes said in a report this week.

Worldwide chip sales surged 26 per cent to hit an all-time high of \$553bn in 2021, making the wider electronic component industry one of the winners from the pandemic, it added. GlobalFoundries, the world's third-largest semiconductor manufacturer owned by Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Company, capitalised on the market conditions and listed on New York's Nasdaq in October, raising \$2.6bn.

Samsung's role as both a major electronics manufacturer and a component supplier to the Big Tech companies, including the likes of Apple and Japan's Sony, make it one of the key players in the semiconductor industry.

In 2022, amid expectations of a recovery in global IT demand, the company's component business will focus on expanding advanced processes and enhancing product and technology leadership ... however, uncertainties related to component supply disruptions and Covid-19 are likely to remain



Samsung's semiconductor business contributed 64 per cent of the company's fiscal third-quarter operating profit.

CURRENT NEWS

Brewer's agri-business programme boosting growth of smallholder cereal farmers revenue

By Smart Money Reporter

AGRICULTURE remains to be the backbone of Tanzania's economy with contribution of about 30 percent of the country's gross domestic product. It employs the majority of rural based population while assuring the country of food security.

Despite facing numerous challenges such as modern inputs, extension officers and inadequate mechanization, the sector continues to be one of the largest and most important in the country's economy. The government has always invited the private sector to invest in agriculture so as to speed up growth through support to smallholder farmers who constitute the bulk of the sector.

While addressing parliament in Dodoma during budget session last year, the then Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, said the government of President Samia Suluhu Hassan fully supports contract farming that assures smallholder farmers of a reliable market for their commodities.

"With contract farming, farmers can enjoy a ready market with reliable prices but also get access to vital agro-inputs from manufacturers or companies," Bashe who is currently Minister for Agriculture said.

Bashe, since promoted to full minister (Agriculture), further told lawmakers that the government fully backs contract farming because it will eventually help smallholder farmers graduate into large scale commercial farmers. "The government is collaborating with the private sector to encourage farmers work with manufacturers through contract farming," he noted.

Bashe's observation aligns well with Serengeti Breweries Limited which has been working with over 400 cereal farmers countrywide through contract farming. SBL which manufactures a variety of alcoholic beverages, has been sup-

porting the cereal cultivating smallholder farmers located in eight regions of the country get hybrid seeds, extension services but also access credit from financial institutions to improve their farming methods.

"Practically, Minister Bashe was actually saying what we have already been doing with farmers for many years now through contract farming," said SBL's Corporate Affairs Director, John Wanyancha who added that the farmers from Arusha, Dodoma, Manyara, Mara, Mwanza, Singida and Shinyanga sell their cereals to the brewer for the manufacturing of alcoholic drinks.

Wanyancha explained that SBL through its agribusiness programme has entered into win-win contractual agreements with the farmers to supply barley, maize and sorghum to the brewer which pays them premium prices.

"SBL also provides the farmers with inputs such as free quality seeds, fertilizer and technical advice to ensure that quality and standards are adhered to. But we also link them to financial institutions to access credit and in return purchase their commodities at premium market prices," he added.

According to Wanyancha, the brewer's agri-business programme has turned around the lives of hundreds of the smallholder farmers and their families as they earn more from the company. "In 2020 alone, SBL sourced 17,000 metric tons of these grains locally, equivalent to 70 per cent of our annual total raw materials requirement and we are poised to increase the amount of raw materials from local farmers to 85 percent by 2025," the SBL Corporate Director added. He pointed out that SBL which has modernised and expanded its factories in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Moshi cities is also increasing capacity of alcoholic beverages.

Thus through its agribusiness programme, SBL is investing substan-



Students of Saint Maria Goreti Agriculture College on a field visit to Silverlands farms located in Iringa Region to get first hand information on modern agriculture. Photo courtesy of SBL.

tially in farming communities by supporting the whole value chain including training of students from struggling families to become extension officers who will help their parents improve their farming models.

"Our 'Kilimo-Viwanda' Scholarship Programme targets children from farming communities we have contracted to produce raw materials for beer manufacturing," Wanyancha noted saying the students study for diplomas at four agro-training institutions located in various parts of the country.

"SBL's agribusiness programme complements government's relentless efforts to ensure that farmers have a reliable market but also get access to modern agro-inputs and extension services," the SBL Corporate Affairs chief stated.

In general, the beauty of contract farming is that it sustainably creates a win-win situation for smallholder farming communities which are struggling to undo several challenges in-

Kearney report: Africa emerges as the next big retail hotspot

ACCRA

The bi-annual Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), which is a study of the global retailing landscape, reveals that Africa is poised to move away from traditional retail models and become the fastest-growing, richest, and most sophisticated market in the world.

Prashaen Reddy, a partner at management consulting firm Kearney says that this is thanks to the explosive growth of young, urban, and digitally savvy consumers; increasing mobile phone penetration; the creation of digital payment and shopping networks; favourable governmental regulations and spending initiatives; and significant investment by both foreign and domestic companies.

In the most stable times, retailers expanding their global footprint face a series of difficult decisions. Yet in the wake of Covid-19, together, these forces are transforming the face of African retailing and providing a blueprint for the development of other emerging markets, seeing Morocco, Egypt and Ghana making the top 10.

Determining which markets are growing, attractive, and relatively risk-free is one of the goals of Kearney's GRDI which ranks 35 emerging countries based on a set of 26 factors, including four key variables: country risk, market attractiveness, market saturation, and sales growth.

Questions GRDI asked were, should retail enter new markets? Expand their operations in emerging nations that may or may not be yielding returns, or cut their losses? How to evaluate the comparative potential of modern retailing in nations still dominated by informal or traditional vendors?

Reddy adds, "The global population is expected to increase by 2 billion by 2050, and Africa will be home to the majority of these new lives. The population of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) alone is expected to double by 2050, with Nigeria expected to be the third-largest country in the world."

This is one of the reasons we will see the growth in Asia begin to slow down and Africa emerge as the next big retail hotspot. It's also predicted SSA will enjoy the highest rate of disposable income growth on Earth, about 9% CAGR.

There are four classes of SSA retail - informal, traditional, modern, and illicit - with modern retailing dominated by regional players, primarily South African operators, such as Shoprite, Mr Price, and Pick n Pay, and a few international players.

With South Africa not making the top 30, we need to look at the where and

why South Africa fits into the closing bracket within the GRDI property scale of window of opportunities. This means consumers are used to more modern retail, the discretionary spending is higher and there is a fierce competition from both local and foreign retailers. This closing segment is where investments are ripe for acquisitions.

Focus for African retailers In the face of increasing competition and margin pressures, Africa's retailers are focusing on ROI; adopting franchising and other new business models; and rationalising store footprints following the lead of Massmart, which recently announced it would be closing the 8% of its stores that were underperforming which includes plans to double down on African countries, focusing on price, private label, and building customer loyalty.

"The main challenges are corruption, widespread poverty, security concerns, supply chain issues, lack of infrastructure, active conflicts, archaic governmental retail policies and practices, and isolation, which are as real as the potential. At 18%, for example, SSA has the lowest rate of intra-regional trade on the planet," says Reddy.

Retailers and central banks in various countries are working toward developing and facilitating digital ecosystems by reducing transaction costs on electronic payments, but gaps in e-payment infrastructure supply, logistical inefficiencies, and trust issues are slowing down both existing and future growth opportunities, with Africa accounting for about 50% in mobile money transactions globally.

In crucial markets like Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa who are fossil fuel-dependent governments are increasingly turning to retail to diversify their economies and wean them away from oil dependency.

It's vital to remember that emerging nations can simultaneously occupy multiple positions on the window of opportunity chart (as seen in the report). There is a significant difference between urban and rural China and India, so much so that we are well-advised to think of them as not one market but two or three.

Understanding consumer attitudes, situations, and dynamics is the basis of all retail success and the world's consumer spending centre of gravity is slowly shifting from the US and developed European markets to emerging markets in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. This won't happen overnight but at least that seems to be where the arc of commercial history seems to be bending.

IRA fines nine insurers for late payment of claims

NAIROBI

Nine insurers have been fined Sh176 million for late payment of claims, failure to submit audited accounts and premium levy payment as the Insurance Regulatory Authority starts publishing names of companies it has punished. The IRA's annual report shows that insurance companies were notorious for failure to pay insurance claims with four out of the eight companies having been penalised for delayed payments.

Invesco Insurance was slapped with the highest fine of Sh7.9 million for delayed payment of claims followed by Metropolitan (Sh1.3 million), Kenindia (Sh1 million), Kuscco (Sh161,739) and Kenya Alliance Sh51,547.

Metropolitan Cannon was fined Sh1.3 million, Takaful Insurance (Sh330,000) and Trident Sh3 million for late audit submissions while Resolution (Sh3.2 million) and Explico Insurance (Sh510,000) were fined for failure to pay the premium levy.

The IRA's push to disclose fines on insurance companies that fail to pay customers comes at a time of increasing cases where patients are turned away from hospitals because their providers fail to settle medical bills.

According to the law, an insurer should admit or deny liability, determine amount, identify the claimant and pay within 90 days. A company can request a 30-day extension and failure to pay within the set deadlines attract a five percent penalty on the unpaid amount.

"Where the amount of claim which is due remains unpaid on expiry of the period prescribed, or any extension thereof, a penalty equal to five percent of the unpaid amount shall forthwith become due and payable," the Insurance Act reads.

Late payments have limited the capacity of the insurance sector to



grow beyond compulsory motor and health insurance as customers fear insurance companies will avoid payment when their risks occur. Resolution Insurance, for example, has been on focus after the insurer's cover was rejected by some hospitals for late settlements of bills.

The Insurer's acting managing director Bernard Githinji admitted it has been having trouble clearing its customers at Nairobi Hospital over an unsettled bill of Sh9 million. He said the company is seeking more than Sh2 billion from shareholders to bridge cash flow problems and was expecting an injection from shareholders in December.

Resolution Insurance has come under fire as clients post frustrations on social media over their inability to access medical attention as a result of their cards being rejected. The complaints have laid bare the cash flow constraints at the business

that has seen the company get the second-highest number of complaints at the Insurance Regulatory Authority.

The resolution had 30 complaints just behind Xplicco with 43 client complaints while Trident had 25 customer issues according to the IRA quarterly report released in June. The three insurers recorded a quarter of the 459 insurance complaints filed at the regulator in the six months under review.

There have also been increased complaints against insurance companies from motor vehicles garages and loss assessors for delayed payments. The Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) recently revealed it forced Trident, Kenya Orient and Invesco to pay Sh5.5 million to 16 motor vehicle garages for delays after fixing their clients' cars.

CAK compelled Kenya Orient Insurance to pay Sh1.2 million, Invesco Sh2.3 million and Tri-

dent Sh2 million for delays in payments for repairs, some of which were done eight years ago. Invesco and Trident are still delaying in settling the late payments even after the CAK intervention, the anti-trust agency said.

Garages lobby Kenya Motor Repairers Association (KEMRA) which has 168 members says, unlike hospitals, they cannot turn away insurance cars since the industry controls a huge chunk of the market.

Up to 80 percent of the business conducted by garages emanates from insurance companies, further entrenching their economic dependency on 38 listed motor insurers. The garages' only option has been to file cases at the CAK for abuse of buyer power and hope they get paid.

However, the regulator found the insurance companies had abused buyer power unilaterally drawing lopsided contracts, delay of payments without justifiable reasons as well as constructive termination of contracts by the three companies.

"The insurance companies had stopped allocating work to the complainants without any communication to them or giving reasons. The Authority concluded that the insurance companies had buyer power with regard to the 16 members of KEMRA and that they abused this position by delaying payments without any justifiable reason and delisting the complainants," CAK director-general Wang'ombe Kariuki said.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Africa's 10m virus cases show need to boost global solidarity

NAIROBI

THE total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa has exceeded the 10 million mark with the rapid transmission of the Omicron variant, which has surfaced in at least 33 African nations.

Data from the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released on Sunday showed that as of Saturday evening, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa has reached 10,028,508 while the death toll stands at 231,157.

The surge is alarming. It only took less than one month for Africa to record an increase of 1 million new cases since Dec 15, before which it took more than three months to record an additional 1 million new cases on the continent.

Dr. Angeliqe Coetzee, chairperson of the

South African Medical Association, said the highly contagious Omicron, which is more prone to mutation compared to previous variants, should be the one contributing to the rapidly increasing cases.

"The region has low vaccination rates compared to the US or the EU and the issue is concerning. We know that with unvaccinated people, immunocompromised people, and people with underlying conditions, the virus is likely to mutate and result in more variants," she said.

In general, Africa remains the least vaccinated region in the world with only 9.6 percent of its population fully vaccinated by early December. This is compared to the WHO's 40 percent vaccination rate target for the end of 2021.

In contrast, the vaccination rate in developed economies has been far above 60 per-



A healthcare worker prepares a dose of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, during a mass vaccination in Nairobi, on Dec 16, 2021. File photo

cent. With the huge vaccination gap, the term "vaccine apartheid" describes the divide between the world's richest and the least developed countries, especially African countries, in vaccine access.

At the current pace, the WHO estimates that it will take until May 2022 before Africa reaches 40 percent coverage and August 2024 before it reaches 70 percent vaccination.

According to the WHO, the continent faces a shortfall of \$1.3

billion for operational costs, including cold-chain logistics and travel costs and payment for vaccinators and supervisors, as well as a looming shortage of syringes and other crucial commodities.

"We're at a pivotal moment in this pandemic where complacency is the enemy," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa.

"With supplies starting to increase, we now must intensify our focus on other barriers to vaccination."

Agencies

Kazakh president says he has weathered attempted coup d'etat

NUR-SULTAN

KAZAKHSTAN'S President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said yesterday that his country had weathered an attempted coup d'etat coordinated by what he called "a single center" after the most violent unrest since the Soviet collapse.

In a speech to an online meeting of the Russian-led CSTO military alliance by video link, Tokayev (pictured) said that order had now been restored in Kazakhstan, but that the hunt for "terrorists" was ongoing.

"Under the guise of spontaneous protests, a wave of unrest broke out... It became clear that the main goal was to undermine the constitutional order and to seize power. We are talking about an attempted coup d'etat," he said.

Demonstrations against a fuel price rise began just over a week ago before erupting into a wider protest against Tokayev's government and the man he replaced as president, 81-year-old Nursultan Nazarbayev.

"The main blow was directed against (the city of) Almaty. The fall of this city would have paved the way for a takeover of the densely populated south and then the whole country," he said. "Then they planned to seize the capital."

Tokayev said that a large-scale "counter-terrorism" operation would soon end along with a CSTO mission that he said numbered 2,030 troops and 250 pieces of military hardware.

Tokayev defended his decision to invite Russian-led troops into the country and said that doubts over the legitimacy of that mission stemmed from a lack of information.

Kazakhstan would soon provide proof to the international community about what had happened, he said. Sixteen members of the security forces were killed, while the number of civilian casualties is still being checked, he said.

Agencies



China, Gulf states to seek broader ties

SEEKING common development and jointly promoting regional peace will be among the key issues discussed at upcoming meetings between State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and officials from the Gulf states, an expert said.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain as well as the secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, will visit China from Monday to Friday. "The visits show that China's diplomacy is very proactive and China, as a major country, is ready to play a bigger role by cooperating with countries from the region," said Yu Guoqing, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of West Asia and African Studies.

Wang visited six Middle East

countries in seven days early last year, the most visits by a Chinese foreign minister to the region in a short period of time, Yu said. This year's visits demonstrate the great importance China attaches to Middle East countries, he said.

In the face of the pandemic, mutual assistance between China and Arab states has set a fine example of solidarity and cooperation in difficult times, he added.

China has cooperated with all Arab states on vaccines and fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Bahrain is one of the first countries to participate in the Phase III international clinical trials of China's COVID-19 vaccines.

Given that COVID-19 is still spreading around the world, China and Arab states, including the Gulf countries, can



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

further bolster anti-pandemic responses to contribute to the building of a global community of health for all, Yu said.

Greater economic cooperation is also expected. As the four Gulf states are all involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, China could deepen the synergy between the BRI and the national development strategies of these countries,

Yu said.

The two sides could promote cooperation in traditional areas such as trade, investment, energy and infrastructure, as well as emerging fields including new energy and the digital economy.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman are four major oil-producing members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which is China's largest source of oil imports.

In 2020, China became the largest trading partner of the council, and the two sides are in the final stage of free trade zone negotiations. At the upcoming meetings, China and the council could discuss ways to create a China-GCC free trade zone as soon as possible.

As the visits are taking place at a time when talks about re-

vising the Iran nuclear deal are underway in Vienna, the Iran nuclear issue will be on the agenda.

"The GCC countries are very concerned about Iran developing nuclear energy and the current situation," Yu said, adding that China, as one of the participants in the Iran nuclear talks, is also ready to hear views from these countries if it wants to play its part in the talks.

Hua Liming, China's former ambassador to Iran, said that China can play a constructive role in promoting security and stability in the Middle East by encouraging equal dialogue, consultation and mutual understanding.

"China is pleased to see relations among Gulf states improve, which is conducive to peace and stability in the region," Hua said. Agencies

Ethiopia's Tigray rebels accuse Eritrea of launching attacks

ADDIS ABABA

THE Tigray People's Liberation Front, the party that controls most of the northern Ethiopia region of Tigray, on Sunday accused Eritrea of attacking its troops.

In another development in the conflict, aid organizations suspended their operations in an area of northwest Tigray where 56 civilians were killed by an air strike over the weekend, the UN agency for humanitarian affairs (UNOCHA) said.

"The Eritrean military

launched fresh attacks against our forces yesterday in Sigem Kofolo... located in Northwestern Tigray close to Sheraro town," TPLF spokesman Getachew Reda wrote on Twitter.

Reuters could not verify the alleged attack as the communication network is down in the area.

Eritrean Information Minister Yemane Gebremeskel did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Ethiopia's military spokesman Colonel Getnet Adane and government spokesman

Legesse Tulu did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's spokeswoman Billene Seyoum also did not respond to a request for comment.

A lack of medicines, fuel and other essential commodities was "disrupting the response to the injured," UNOCHA said in a statement announcing suspension of operations following the air strike that hit a camp for internally displaced people late on Friday.

"Humanitarian partners

suspended activities in the area due to the ongoing threats of drone strikes," the agency told Reuters, without giving further details.

War broke out in the mountainous region of 5 million people 14 months ago, pitting Tigrayan rebels against federal troops backed by their Eritrean counterparts.

Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki told the state-run Eri-TV on Saturday that his troops would strive to prevent Tigrayan forces from attacking his country, or threatening the stability of Ethiopia.

Eritrean forces have fought against Tigrayan forces since the start of the war in support of Abiy's troops, but both nations spent the first five months of the conflict denying the Eritrean presence.

The Eritrean troops withdrew from most of the region in June, the same month that Ethiopian federal troops also withdrew.

Last month, Tigrayan forces withdrew from neighboring regions they had invaded in July, in a step toward a potential ceasefire.

Agencies

US should be ready to make compromises at Geneva talks – senior Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW'S position in the security guarantees talks with Washington is adamant and the United States needs to be prepared to make compromises, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told Channel One.

"The United States needs to be prepared to make compromises. Russia has come here with a clear position, which contains a number of aspects that, in my view, are easy to understand and are formulated so clearly, particularly at the top level, that it is impossible to deviate from our approaches," he pointed out.

Russian-US talks on Moscow's draft agreements on security guarantees with Washington and measures to ensure the security of Russia and NATO countries kicked off in Geneva yesterday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov and Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Alexander Fomin will lead Russia's inter-agency commission comprising officials from the Foreign and Defense Ministries.



West African bloc imposes harsher sanctions on Mali

ACCRA

THE leadership of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on Sunday here announced a flurry of harsher sanctions on Mali.

Leaders of ECOWAS gathered in an extraordinary summit to deliberate on the situation in Mali. In the communique after the summit, the regional body said the proposed timetable by the Malian transitional authorities which set the duration of the transition for a total of five and a half years is "totally unacceptable."

The communique said all ECOWAS member states would immediately withdraw their ambassadors from Mali.

"The other sanctions include the closure of land and air borders between ECOWAS countries and Mali, the suspension of all financial and economic transactions between ECOWAS member states and Mali,

with the exception of essential consumer goods," said the communique.

The sanctions specifically excluded the supply of pharmaceutical and medical supplies, including materials needed for the control of COVID-19, petroleum products, and electricity.

ECOWAS instructed the freeze of all assets of Mali in the ECOWAS central bank, a freeze of assets of the Malian state, state enterprises, and parastatals in commercial banks, and the suspension of Mali from all financial assistance and transactions from all financial institutions.

The ECOWAS authority instructed all community institutions to take steps to implement the sanctions with immediate effect.

"The sanctions will be gradually lifted only after an acceptable and agreed chronogram is finalized and monitored satisfactory progress is realized in the implementa-

tion of the chronogram for the elections," the communique added.

ECOWAS explained that the sanctions were necessary to facilitate the process of the return to constitutional rule in Mali, which is necessary for peace, stability, and growth as well as to protect the populations.

Last November, ECOWAS imposed sanctions on the Malian transitional authorities in response to their claim of inability to meet the transition deadline of February 2022 for holding elections, including a travel ban and a freeze on financial assets.



The other sanctions include the closure of land and air borders between ECOWAS countries and Mali



New interim Malian President, Colonel Assimi Goita (left), salutes members of the Malian Armed Forces after his swearing in ceremony in Bamako on June 7, 2021. File photo

Iraq's parliament elects speaker in first step towards new govt

BAGHDAD

IRAQ'S new parliament elected Sunni lawmaker Mohammed al-Halbousi as speaker on Sunday, marking an important step towards establishing a new government three months after a national election.

The first session of parliament since the Oct 10 election, however, was disrupted earlier in the day as competing political Shi'ite blocs each claimed to hold a parliamentary majority and as the acting speaker, Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, suddenly fell ill and was taken to hospital, forcing the session to be briefly adjourned.

When the session resumed Halbousi was elected for a second term as speaker, defeating Mashhadani, a former speaker of the first parliament set in 2006. Halbousi won with 200 votes, according to a statement from 329-seat parliament.

Mashhadani was in hospital under surveillance for fatigue but was discharged after a couple of hours, parliament's office said in a statement.

Parliament now has 30 days from the first session to elect the country's new president, who will then ask the largest bloc in parliament to form a government.

There were heated debates and shouting among lawmakers over which party had the most number of seats.

Iran-backed Shi'ite political coalition Fatah and the State of Law coalition, which is led by former Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, submitted a document to the acting speaker requesting that their coalition be the largest bloc in parliament.

Lawmakers from Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's party, which came first in the October election, strongly objected to the request, defending their position as the largest bloc.

"The debate between Shi'ite parties over which bloc is the largest in parliament has disrupted the session and forced



Mahmoud al-Mashhadani (left) the longest serving representative, opens the first parliament session, in Baghdad, Iraq on Sunday. AP

a brief delay," said Jamal Kojar, a Kurdish lawmaker.

Sadr is a populist who has positioned himself as a staunch opponent of both Iran and the United States. His bloc, already the biggest in parliament before the October election, will expand to 73 seats from 54. Its main rival for years, the Fatah bloc of factions linked to pro-Tehran militia, saw its parliamentary representation collapse in the election to just 17 seats from 48.

However, some lawmakers could yet switch factions and parliament's presidency will ultimately decide which is the biggest faction.

Hakim al-Zamili, who ran for Sadr's party, was elected as Halbousi's first deputy speaker. Shakhwan Abdulla from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), was voted for as

a second deputy.

Iran-backed Shi'ite Muslim parties rejected the elections of the parliament speaker and deputies on Sunday, pledging to resort to the supreme court to contest the legality of the appointments.

"What happened today inside the parliament is illegal and will have dire consequences on the

state level," said Fatah lawmaker Humam al-Tamimi.

Under Iraq's governing system in place since the post-Saddam Hussein constitution was adopted in 2005, the prime minister is a member of the Shi'ite majority, the speaker is a Sunni and the largely ceremonial role of president is held by a Kurd.

Russia supports Saudi Arabia's efforts toward settling Yemeni crisis

MOSCOW

Russia supports United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg's and Saudi Arabia's mediatory efforts toward finding a solution to the crisis in Yemen and is ready to help resolve this problem within the frames of the Russian Concept on Collective Security in the Gulf, a Russian lawmaker told TASS on Friday.

"We support the United Nation's mediatory efforts, in particular of Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg, who has recently visited Moscow," said Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the international committee of the Russian State Duma, or lower parliament house.

"We also support Saudi Arabia's initiative on the crisis resolution, which is geared toward stabilizing the situation in the region and ensuring free navigation in the Bab El-Mandeb Strait, which has great importance for global trade.

"We are closely following the constructive steps in this direction taken by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, who has had several contacts on the Yemeni problem with his foreign counterparts in the recent days."

"Under the Russian Concept of Collective Security in the Gulf, Russia is ready to help resolve this problem," Slutsky stressed. "Fore these ends, we stress the importance of dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which will help remove protracted contradictions and improve the situation in the region in general."

China pushes ahead with carbon peak, neutrality in orderly manner

WITH its heat exchanger units in efficient operation, a newly built energy relay station of a thermal power plant in Shijiazhuang city, north China's Hebei province, is transferring clean heat source to a huge number of households across the city.

"Since it was put into operation in October 2021, the new project has provided heating service for more than 600,000 residents from 220,000 households. It can help save 1.4 million tons of standard coal per year, thus significantly reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide," said Liu Wendong, deputy director of the urban management bureau of Shijiazhuang and director of the city's heating supply center.

In response to climate change, a common challenge facing humanity, China pledges to peak carbon emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. While representing China's solemn commitment to the world, the goals also signal extensive and profound economic and social transformations.

Since the announcement of the goals, relevant departments in various areas of the country have coordinated efforts to peak carbon dioxide emissions and achieve carbon neutrality and progressed in an orderly manner toward the goals.

By adopting more vigorous policies and measures, they have pushed economic and social development based on efficient use of resources and green and low-carbon growth.



Photo shows wind turbines at a wind farm in Weiji township, Suining county, Xuzhou city, east China's Jiangsu province, Oct. 11, 2021. File photo

Deep in Kubuqi Desert in Ordos, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, row upon row of blue solar panels of a leading photovoltaic power base stretch out as far as one can see. Located in Dalad Banner of Ordos city, the base, with solar panels covering an area of nearly 50,000 mu (about 3,333 hectares), has continuously transferred clean energy to users.

In June 2021, five individual projects of the base were all successfully connected to power grid and started supplying electricity to consumers. With an annual power generation capacity of two billion kWh, the base can save 680,000 tons of standard coal, which is equivalent to a reduction of 1.77 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Adopting a model that combines photovoltaic power generation and ecological restoration, the base has helped improve the ecological environment of 60,000 mu of areas in the Kubuqi Desert, according to Sun Guodong, a man in charge of the operation and maintenance of the base.

China's clean energy development has accelerated constantly. By the end of November 2021, the country's installed wind power capacity and solar power capacity had reached about 300 million kWh and 290 million kWh respectively, rising 29 percent and 24.1 percent respectively year on year.

Data released by China's national new energy consumption monitoring and early warning center showed that the country's national utilization rates of wind power and photovoltaic power generation in the first 10 months of 2021 were 97 percent and 98 percent, respectively.

On July 16, 2021, China's national carbon market started online trading. The first batch of trading among over 2,000 power companies involved about 4.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions, making the carbon market the world's largest one in terms of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions covered.

People's Daily

Virus-hit party: HK suspends govt officials, launches probe

HONG KONG

HONG KONG Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor suspended 13 government officials from duties and ordered investigations into the conduct of these officials who attended a COVID-19-hit birthday party yesterday.

All 170 guests of the party were ordered into quarantine Friday after two guests later tested positive to COVID-19.

In a statement issued late Friday, Lam said the officials who are subject to quarantine "should not continue to discharge their duties" and must use their vacation days while they are isolated for 21 days.

The party, held at Spanish restaurant Reserva Iberica in Wan Chai, was thrown for Witman Hung Wai-man, a representative for Hong Kong at the Shenzhen Qianhai Authority.

Those ordered into quarantine included the city's police, immigration and anti-graft chiefs along with at least 20 lawmakers.

Lam said investigations will be conducted to assess whether the officials had breached conduct by attending the event.

"I have to reiterate that concerted efforts of the whole society are needed to fight the virus and that government officials should lead by example, abide by the rules, stay vigilant and refrain from taking part in high-risk activities," Lam said, adding that she would take "appropriate actions" against the relevant officials after the investigation.

Chief Executive's Office director Eric Chan Kwok-ki will investigate the 10 politically appointed officials and Independent Commission Against Corruption chief Simon Peh Yun-lu. Secretary for the Civil Service Patrick Nip Tak-kuen will oversee the probe into two heads of department who are civil servants.

Nip will also double as the head of the Home Affairs Bureau while Caspar Tsui Ying-wai is in quarantine. Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Edward Yau Tang-wah will take over the duties of Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu.

Commissioner of Police Siu Chak-ye apologized in a statement issued late Friday, adding that he would fully cooperate with the arrangements made by the health authorities.

During his leave, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Management) Kwok Yam-shu will be the Acting Commissioner of Police.

Several other officials including Tsui and Hui have since issued apologies.

In a separate statement late Friday, a spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department said it is conducting a full investigation into the banquet after preliminary information suggested someone might have violated anti-epidemic rules.

The investigation, covering the restaurant operator and staff as well as banquet guests, aims to ascertain if anyone has breached relevant regulations, including the use of contact tracing app LeaveHomeSafe and wearing of masks.



I have to reiterate that concerted efforts of the whole society are needed to fight the virus and that government officials should lead by example, abide by the rules, stay vigilant and refrain from taking part in high-risk activities

Australia COVID-19 cases hit 1m, Omicron drives record surge

SYDNEY / MANILA / NEW DELHI

AUSTRALIA yesterday surpassed 1 million COVID-19 cases, with more than half of them recorded in the past week, as the Omicron variant ripped through most of the country driving up hospitalisation numbers and putting a strain on supply chains.

Having successfully kept a lid on its virus caseload through aggressive lockdowns and tough border controls earlier in the pandemic, Australia is now suffering record infections as the country begins to live with the virus after higher vaccinations.

With New South Wales and Victoria yesterday reporting about 55,000 new cases between them, total COVID-19 infections in Australia touched 1.03 million since the first case was recorded nearly two years ago. Other states and territories will report their numbers later in the day.

A total of 2,387 deaths have been registered so far, though the death rate during the Omicron wave has been lower than during previous virus outbreaks, with 92 percent of people over 16 double dosed and the booster programme picking pace.

The rising hospitalization numbers forced officials to reinstate some restrictions in states, meanwhile staff shortages due to isolation rules or people out sick have hit businesses.

Authorities have cut mandatory isolation times for close contacts and narrowed the definition of close contacts but were still reviewing the rules for furloughing workers that have widened supply chain gaps.

From yesterday, Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines will be offered to 2.3 million children aged five to 11 years old, amid reports of stock shortage of shots, which authorities ruled out.

Cambodia

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen yesterday urged high-risk groups in capital Phnom Penh to receive the fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine starting from Jan 14.

The fourth-dose campaign will begin with frontliners including leaders of the government, the senate, the National Assembly, frontline doctors, government officials, the army and police, local authorities and the elderly, according to the health ministry.

Staff of embassies and both national and international organizations as well as journalists and celebrities are also invited to join the campaign, the ministry added.

The kingdom has reported three more local cases of the Omicron COVID-19 variant, bringing the total number of the variant to 183, Hun Sen said during the inauguration of a stretch of National Road 5 in northwestern Battambang province and his speech was live broadcast on the state-run National Television of Cambodia

(TVK).

Fiji

Fiji announced on Sunday tightened measures to contain spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the South Pacific island country.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Fiji's health ministry and police, Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya said that with a rapid spread of the Omicron variant confirmed in the country, the key measures against COVID-19 should be tightened to contain the variant's transmission.

According to the minister, people who fail to comply with the health protocols over COVID-19 will face fines from Monday.

The minister said those who fail to wear a mask in the required settings will be fined 250 Fijian dollars (\$117). For the failure to conduct temperature checks, the fine for individuals will be 250 Fijian dollars (\$117), and 1,000 Fijian

dollars (\$468.6) for businesses.

High-risk businesses failing to verify vaccination status will face 1,000 Fijian dollars (\$468.6) in fine.

Among other measures to be strengthened from yesterday, group sizes for gatherings in homes, communities, and community halls will be limited to 20 persons.

India

India began administering booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine to frontline workers and vulnerable elderly people yesterday, with the fast-spreading Omicron variant fuelling an almost eight-fold rise in daily infections since the start of the year.

India reported 179,723 new cases on Monday, most of them in the country's biggest cities - Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata - where Omicron has overtaken Delta as the most prevalent strain of the virus.

Agencies



Yanga winger, Farid Mussa (L), dribbles past Zanzibar's KMKM defender during the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup tournament clash which took place in Zanzibar last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Mapinduzi Cup tournament gathers steam

By Correspondent Lloyd Ellipokea

AS the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup continues to gather momentum, the aristocratic bigwigs of domestic football have naturally assumed center-stage in the invitational tournament, which could arguably be termed as the pride and joy of Isles' football.

Indeed, with the likes of Yanga, Azam FC, and Simba SC all taking part in the championship, football fans on the Isles and Mainland have been treated to veritable edge-of-the-seat, pulsating football excitement.

Naturally, many fans are already looking forward to the final, which we now know is featuring two great clubs who will battle it out in a bare-knuckle fight.

Whichever way the script unfolds, one hopes that the final will add another unforgettably exhilarating chapter to the rich history of the Mapinduzi Cup, which continues to grow in stature.

Let us now discuss matters of African football. Indeed, last Sunday, the continent's exclusive and most elite football competition kicked off in the football-mad city of Yaounde, which of course is the dynamic capital of the redoubtable football juggernaut Cameroon.

One team, which is likely to be the cynosure of attention, is Ghana, which will be out to rekindle the classy exploits of their glorious past when they were indisputably the kings of continental football.

Nicknamed the 'Black Stars', Ghana can count themselves fortunate to be able to call upon the outstanding services of midfielder Thomas Partey and the Ayew brothers, Jordan and Andre, who will be spearheading the Ghanaian attack.

Another team that ought to grab the spotlight at the tournament is the 'Super Eagles' of Nigeria.

With the former Nigerian football ace, Austin Eguavoen, now in the driving seat, the Super Eagles will be intently

seeking to make a remarkable impact on the football showpiece event.

Key to Nigeria's assault on the title will be the likes of midfielder, Wilfred Ndidi, and the eagle-eyed goal poacher, Kelechi Iheanacho, who both ply their trade at the English Premier League (EPL) side Leicester City FC.

Apart from Nigeria and Ghana though, we should expect other usual suspects like Algeria, Egypt, Senegal, and Cameroon to each mount formidable assaults on the title.

Thus, with the wealth of talent that will be on display, it is hoped that this year's AFCON finals will more than live up to its top billing.

Switching gears, the Commonwealth Games are set to take place in the Midlands English city of Birmingham this year, which brings the needlessly contentious issue of our preparations for the games to the fore.

Indeed, in the run-up to big and global sporting events, we usually dilly-dally where our preparations are concerned and instead opt to engage in last-gasp, eleventh-hour preparations, which as history shows, has rarely served us well.

So, in light of our seemingly incurable phobia where preparations are concerned, I would like to propose a remedy.

We should pinpoint one sporting body, only one association that will be charged with the hefty task of preparing our sportsmen for the games.

But that's not all. If our participation at the Commonwealth Games turns out to be a debacle, the sporting association in question will be held culpable for our abysmal display.

Perhaps, if we singled out just one sporting body that will be tasked with our preps for the Commonwealth Games, the end product would be much better than the results that we have obtained in our sorry past because we have never clearly identified which sports association, in particular, bore the ultimate responsibility for our woeful showings.

Karia should look for more effective solutions for referees' incompetence

By Correspondent John Kimbute

INCIDENTS of referees' incompetence appear to have been somewhat numerous in the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup tourney, and, looking at the situation, one gets a distinct impression that it is merely a continuation of what is happening in the NBC Premier League.

There is a way in which leading Premier League sides are targeted so that lower-ranking sides win by fair or foul means, and in the current situation the Jangwani Street outfit, one side of the city rivals is feeling well in the shelter, while this misconduct is being directed at the Msimbazi Street club's side.

The idea of a 'people's team' while falsely directed at the Jangwani Street side, is rampant with refs.

There is something like deliberate misconduct which can also be cash induced, as the mercenary spirit has taken hold of the game, in a situation where the vast majority of sports administrators - and not so long ago even the incumbent minister - were passionately opposed to soccer professionalism.

They wanted the number of foreign players limited to three, and investment in big clubs take a cooperative form instead of a single individual contracting with the club for a decade or two to come.

This malaise makes it easy for crafty individuals to look around for ways to undermine the Msimbazi Street club side if dislike is broad.

The point is that referees feel the two or three professional bodies involved in the game will take no action for clear cases of misconduct, that is the referees' association (as they all have a



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia.

wish to gain in the work, not just federation allowances).

Then there is the Premier League board, whose function would be to offer excuses to the performance of referees in this or that match, and their forms of reasoning appear to have now penetrated the federation itself, in the person of the president, Wallace Karia.

He was quoted in FM radio talks shows on the series of mishaps in their conduct, emphasizing the need for 'capacity building.'

It is hard to see how this is a professionally valid view of the issue, for it suggests that referees are not capable of recognizing foul play when it occurs, and at times they repeatedly fail to notice until it becomes somewhat tantalizing.

At that point, the ref might feel obliged to award a free-kick and even flash a yellow card, but that would be the third or fourth foul on a Simba SC player, and the other fouls went unnoticed.

That is basically what pundits were making an effort to explain, and even phone Karia on this, and he replies on a long-term solution instead of identifying crying gaps of discipline or professionalism.

With the federation having demonstrated clear antipathy with the Msimbazi Street club in finding ways of interpreting the rules such that it could lock out club chief executive officer, Barbara Gonzales, and leading adviser, Crescentius Magori, chances that they will labour to correct referees' misconduct are negligible.

This leaves the referees to do more or less as they please, mindful of their professional standing - as this omission ought to be cleverly done, that it is debatable if there was a foul, etc.

To an extent, there is also the distant worry of match disruption in case the other side loses temper on such affront, repeatedly so.

It means there is a dearth of professionalism on the part of referees in the Premier

League because widespread antipathy at the federation and ministerial level against the Msimbazi Street club side enables Jangwani Street club networks to undermine their next-door neighbours with vim and vigour.

The 4-1 results that the 'people's club' received in the ladies' game lately was a sort of a letdown, a reminder that influence peddling by cash or otherwise does not always work, as when a goal is scored it will be so registered.

And a willingness to trade their professionalism for a pittance excludes local referees from continental football.

It is complicated to say on whose door the blame should be laid, as antipathy to a club of rich people or that has the favour of a single person whose pocket depth can't be equaled even if a consortium turns up and tries to beef up their next-door rivals.

Experience shows that cooperative efforts do not work but the faith a single individual shows in a club and its future so that it becomes an aspect of his legacy in life, which is yet to succeed for other clubs, with the slight exception of Azam FC.

The group has all the same diminished the standing of the club in activities of that industrial concern, Azam TV carries its image countrywide and regionally, sponsoring one or two Premier Leagues, thus downsizing the club.

Jangwani Street outfit had a similar investor but fell foul of the fifth phase as he was too entrenched in what can be described as speculative activities, not a bonafide investor standing his ground in a series of shocks.

Australian judge reinstates tennis star Djokovic's visa

MELBOURNE, Australia

TENNIS star Novak Djokovic won a court battle Monday to stay in Australia to contest the Australian Open despite being unvaccinated against COVID-19, but the government threatened to cancel his visa a second time.

Federal Circuit Court Judge Anthony Kelly reinstated Djokovic's visa, which was canceled after his arrival last week because officials decided he didn't meet the criteria for an exemption to an entry requirement that all non-citizens be fully vaccinated.

The judge also ordered the government to release Djokovic within 30 minutes from a Melbourne quarantine hotel where he has spent the last four nights.

Government lawyer Christopher Tran told the judge after the ruling that the minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, Alex Hawke, "will consider whether to exercise a personal power of cancellation."

That would mean Djokovic could again face deportation and could miss the Australian Open, which starts on Jan. 17.

Speaking with television network Prva in Belgrade, Serbia, the tennis star's brother, Djordje Djokovic, described the



Fans of Serbia's Novak Djokovic react to news of his overturned ruling outside Federal Court ahead of the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 10, 2022. An Australian judge has reinstated Djokovic's visa, which was canceled after his arrival last week because he is unvaccinated. (AP Photo)

judge's ruling as a "great defeat for Australian authorities."

He also alleged that "the latest information is that they want to arrest him," in an apparent reference to Australian authorities. He did not immediately provide further details on the claim.

"This is definitely politics, all this was politics," he added.

The office of Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews confirmed that Novak Djokovic has not been arrested.

Kelly said the threat of a further visa cancellation meant the "stakes have now risen rather than receded."

"If this man is to be summarily removed upon a personal exercise

of cancellation power, he cannot return to this country for three years, am I right about that?" Kelly asked lawyers for Home Affairs Minister Andrews, under whose authority Djokovic's visa was earlier canceled.

Tran and colleague Naomi Wootten confirmed that Djokovic would be banned from Australia for three years.

The government canceled 34-year-old Djokovic's visa shortly after he arrived in Melbourne late Wednesday to play in the Australian Open.

There was a public backlash at news that Djokovic, who has previously declined to reveal his vaccination status, would compete in Mel-

bourne because Australians who aren't vaccinated, or are inoculated with vaccines that aren't recognized by Australian medical authorities, face tough travel and quarantine restrictions. Court documents say he is unvaccinated.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative government is seeking re-election for a fourth three-year term at polls due by May.

While his government was widely praised for containing the nation's COVID-19 death toll at the start of the pandemic, omicron cases have been rapidly surging. He has been criticized for shortages of rapid antigen tests and for refusing to make the tests avail-

able to all for free.

He has sought to place the blame for the controversy on Tennis Australia, which is organizing the Australian Open.

Djokovic has been under guard in hotel quarantine since Thursday, when his visa was canceled.

He appealed the cancellation at the virtual court hearing Monday amid a growing public debate over the positive coronavirus test that his lawyers used as grounds in applying for a medical exemption to Australia's strict vaccination rules.

Djokovic argued he did not need proof of vaccination because he had evidence that he had been infected with the coronavirus last month.

Australian medical authorities have ruled that a temporary exemption for the vaccination rule can be provided to people who have been infected with COVID-19 within six months.

Judge Kelly noted that Djokovic had provided officials at Melbourne's airport with a medical exemption given him by Tennis Australia and two medical panels.

"The point I'm somewhat agitated about is what more could this man have done?" Kelly asked Djokovic's lawyer, Nick Wood.

Wood agreed with the judge that Djokovic could not have done more. AP

Nigeria's Simon defying father's expectations at Cup of Nations

YAOUNDE

HIS father wanted him to give up on football as a teenager and join the military, but Moses Simon is now preparing to help lead Nigeria's tilt at the Africa Cup of Nations title in Cameroon.

The 26-year-old winger has enjoyed plenty of success during a nomadic start to his career and is currently impressing at French Ligue 1 club Nantes.

The versatile Simon has scored 13 league goals since joining Nantes, initially on loan, from La Liga club Levante in 2019 and has become a key member of the Nigeria side.

But he had to push to be given the chance of becoming a professional footballer, going against the wishes of his father.

"My dad loves football but he didn't want me to play," Simon told AFP. "He wanted me to be as him, in the military, because most football players in my areas didn't make it in football."

"But my mum, like every mum, wants the best for her child. If you are happy, for them of course they are happy."

"But he said 'No, you have to join the military'. So I had to push, so that was when I went to a school where they played football. He asked: 'Which school do you want to go, I will pay'. So I had to choose a school that plays football but he didn't know."

Simon first moved to Europe in 2013 after being scouted by Dutch giants Ajax, but soon returned to Nigeria.

His first big break arrived in the unlikely surroundings of Slovakian club Trencin, though, where he played for two seasons.

"It didn't work out (at Ajax). I believe it was the two parties, the agent and the club," said Simon.

"So that was when I went back to Nigeria, I stayed there for four months before I moved to Slovakia."

"I was 18 when I moved to Slovakia. It was OK because I went there with a friend of mine. We played the under-20s together, so we were used to each other."

"That same day, him and me went to Slovakia to sign there. Of course in January, it was really cold. But we had no choice but to stick together and try to encourage ourselves if we wanted to succeed."

- 'Winning' the goal for Nigeria -

Three-time African champions Nigeria are among the favourites for the title at the Cup of Nations, which got underway on Sunday, although their build-up to the tournament was somewhat clouded by the sacking of German coach Gernot Rohr in December.

He had come under pressure during an up-and-down World Cup qualifying campaign and was replaced by Portugal's Jose Peseiro.

The Super Eagles open their tournament with a mouthwatering clash against seven-time winners Egypt on Tuesday.

AFP

Brazil's cautionary tale for Arsenal target Danilo

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

HAVING lost Thomas Partey and Mohamed Elneny to the Africa Cup of Nations, Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta has acknowledged that the club is short of cover in midfield. There are also rumours that the Gunners are interested in signing Danilo from current South American champions Palmeiras.

It would, however, surely be an error to link the two. The 20-year-old Brazilian would not be a short-term fix -- Danilo would be a long term investment. It is hard to imagine making him an immediate impact, which should not be interpreted as a criticism of a very promising player.

Many have wondered why Fred of Manchester United gets a regular game for Brazil. The attacks he receives in England are surely excessive -- his absence only seemed to worsen the United side in the recent 1-0 defeat at home to Wolves. And his displays for his country have been solid and satisfactory. It is a position, though, where Brazil coach Tite would like to have a little more at his disposal. But who are the options?

It is striking that almost all the Brazilian central midfielders who have come to Europe in the last few years have been disappointments. Some of them have been alarmingly so. Lucas Silva, for example, crossed the Atlantic after playing a key role in Cruzeiro's Brazilian league title.

There were hopes that he might be a Brazilian Xabi Alonso. But he made no impact at Real Madrid or Marseille. The busy Elias won a number of international caps, but could not thrive in Spain or Portugal. Gerson's move did not come off with AS Roma, and has made a frustrating start to his second European adventure with Marseille.

The big hope was Arthur, who looked a sure thing when he joined Barcelona, but the 25-year-old now spends much of his time on the bench at Juventus. Even Olympic gold medalist Bruno Guimaraes has not convinced, though he has settled in well enough at Lyon.

All this is not a coincidence. Right in the thick of the action, the central midfielders are at the heart of the way that the game in Europe and South America has diverged in recent times.

African tales of highs and lows for Morocco boss Halilhodzic

YAOUNDE

FROM the joy of leading Raja Casablanca to African glory, giving Germany a run for their money at the 2014 World Cup, to the anguish over his bitter departure as Ivory Coast boss, it's been a wild ride for Morocco's Bosnian-born coach Vahid Halilhodzic.

The 69-year-old former Nantes star and Paris Saint-Germain player arrives at his third Africa Cup of Nations hoping Morocco can shed their underachievers tag and end a 46-year wait for a second title.

The straight-talking Halilhodzic omitted Chelsea midfielder Hakim Ziyech from his squad in Cameroon, calling him a "disruptive influence", and hopes to fare much better than in past appearances with Ivory Coast and Algeria.

Twelve years ago, a fancied Ivorian side exited after losing 3-2 to Algeria following extra time in the quarter-finals of a tournament rocked by a militant attack on the Togo team bus that killed three people.



Vahid Halilhodzic

"It was a very difficult situation at the 2010 Cup of Nations. Togo, in our group, were attacked by rebels. My players were doing everything to leave the tournament," Halilhodzic told AFP.

"Didier Drogba, Yaya Toure were telling me: 'Vahid, we can't, we're under threat.' I think they were almost relieved to be eliminated. They were partly right, I understand them, but that cost me my place for the World Cup after we'd had an exceptional run."

Halilhodzic was replaced by Sven-Goran Eriksson for the 2010 World Cup, and the nature of his dismissal still rankles to this day.

"Algeria was our first defeat. It was more than a lack of respect, it was disgusting. I didn't cope well with it, I received a fax, neither the president or even the secretary met with me to explain it," he recalled.

"You didn't win the Cup of Nations, it's over." They told me in a cruel way without any class. The players called me during the World Cup

and were sorry for me."

More disappointment followed for Halilhodzic with a group stage exit as coach of Algeria at the 2013 edition, but his side grabbed the world's attention a year later by giving Germany a huge fright in Brazil.

- Germany 'regret' -

"The 2014 World Cup is one of my best memories. I completely rebuilt the team after arriving (in 2011) and it wasn't easy," said Halilhodzic.

"I remember the criticism when I played guys like (Islam) Slimani, Ri-

yad Mahrez... Today they understand I was right." Algeria reached the World Cup knockout phase for the first time and took Germany to extra time in the last 16, ultimately losing 2-1 to the eventual champions.

"The welcome on our return home was phenomenal," said Halilhodzic.

"I don't know how many people were out in the streets. We nearly pulled off one of the biggest shocks. We were so close in the match against Germany."

"I've never watched the game back, it's a great memory but one of my biggest regrets as coach."

Halilhodzic came full circle when he accepted the Morocco job in 2019, succeeding Frenchman Herve Renard -- the only man to win the Cup of Nations with two different countries.

It was in Morocco where Halilhodzic's coaching career took off after he led Raja Casablanca to the 1997 CAF Champions League title, the biggest prize in African club football.

Out of work after a stint with second-tier

Beauvais in France was cut short over a coaching licence dispute, Halilhodzic was approached by former France manager Henri Michel and Michel Hidalgo, the man who led Les Bleus to victory at the 1984 European Championship.

"I had no job, I had lost everything during the war in Yugoslavia. I needed to work," Halilhodzic recounted.

"Henri Michel and Michel Hidalgo called me, saying: 'A big club in Morocco wants you to come.'"

"I didn't know much over there, but I discovered an extraordinary club. I didn't know Raja was so popular."

"We were almost knocked out of the African Champions League, then we won almost everything and four months later we were champions of Africa."

"On the corniche there were millions of people, an event etched in my memory. And I was living in the Wydad neighbourhood, the other big club in the city!"

AFP

Tough questions for Arteta, Arsenal after early FA Cup exit

NOTTINGHAM, England

THE FA Cup was Mikel Arteta's making as a manager. Now he has to prove it doesn't matter.

Arsenal's abject 1-0 third-round exit to Nottingham Forest on Sunday was precisely the sort of performance he had hoped to consign to history, riddled with indifference and lacking the focus their hosts had in abundance throughout.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has gone from talisman to outcast because, according to Arteta, he failed to show the "commitment and passion" required. But if that is the benchmark, then several of the line-up here are in danger of their own spell in the wilderness after this.

Even accounting for the missing personnel -- which almost ran into double digits through a mixture of COVID-19, injury and absentees at the Africa Cup of Nations -- this felt like a real step backwards in Arteta's mission of establishing a high base-level of performance from which Arsenal can rediscover former glories.

Arteta won this competition in 2020 through a series of resolutely determined and clinical performances, validating the methods of a first-time manager. Arsenal have subsequently underscored that verdict by climbing into the Premier League's top four with half of the current season played. This progress has created genuine optimism they can soon return to the Champions League, elevating themselves to the status that renders the FA Cup a trivial pursuit rather than a defining event.

But this is the kind of fundamentally flawed outing that poses awkward questions about the strength of that progress. They failed to register a single shot on target and their all-white kit, a one-off as part of an

initiative to tackle knife crime, was the best thing about them at the City Ground.

"I'm really disappointed with the performance, first of all," Arteta said afterward. "Not with the attitude, but how much purpose we have and what determination we showed to change the game when it's difficult to play against and the way they play. But [we needed] more drive, more hunger to win at any cost in every single action, much more. We were not there at our level today."

Based on what we saw on the pitch, it is difficult to agree with the assessment that Arsenal's attitude was on point but, regardless, Arteta appeared most irritated by his team's use of the ball in possession. He berated his centre-backs Ben White and Rob Holding for almost the entirety of the first half for playing the ball too slowly or opting for a simple square pass as opposed to sparking a more dynamic attack.

The most fearsome reprimand was saved for Nuno Tavares, however. Given a torrid time by Djed Spence -- the Forest right-back on loan from Middlesbrough and surely destined for the Premier League if he maintains this level -- Tavares was substituted after just 35 minutes.

The Portuguese threw his gloves to the floor and slumped in the dug-out after high-fiving everyone housed within it except Arteta. Asked afterward what Tavares was doing wrong, Arteta simply replied: "I don't want to talk about individuals."

Kieran Tierney replaced Tavares but Arsenal barely improved. Eddie Nketiah headed Arsenal's best chance wide when missing the target from Bukayo Saka's clever 58th-minute cross but Forest got their reward for showing



Mikel Arteta

greater endeavour with the only goal seven minutes from time.

Albert Sambi Lokonga lost the ball cheaply in midfield, allowing Ryan Yates to break down the Forest right. He delivered a pinpoint cross for substitute Lewis Grabban to steer a low

finish past Bernd Leno. Lokonga has shown promise since his summer arrival from Anderlecht, but the Belgian and teenager Charlie Patino, making his first start for the club, were unable to get a foothold in the game for long periods. Lokonga's neglectful

surrender of possession for the defining moment encapsulated Arsenal's already-identified need for a midfielder this month.

Granit Khaka's absence due to the coronavirus is unfortunate. Thomas Partey and Mohamed Elneny's engagements at

AFCON are untimely. The decision to allow Ainsley Maitland-Niles to join Roma is understandable as an isolated case. But the combination of all four left Arsenal light in the most combative area of the field in a typically hostile FA Cup encounter, the likes of which Arteta knows well.

"I know because I have played in games like that for the last 18 years, and I know how complicated it is to come here, and it's no surprise the difficulties that you are going to face," Arteta said. "But when we do that, we have to face it in a different way. I want to try to get the best out of the players that we have. I think it is clear where we need to strengthen [in January], but at the moment it is what we have. And with what we have, we have to play."

No club has won the FA Cup more than Arsenal's 14. Yet here they created some unwanted history: This was only the second time in 26 seasons the Gunners have lost at the third-round stage.

The last time was on this same ground in 2018 and what turned out to be Arsene Wenger's final season in charge, unable to arrest a decline into mediocrity. It was the same slide that Arteta is still trying to arrest. The task will feel a little tougher tonight.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

African tales of highs and lows for Morocco boss Halilhodzic

PAGE 19

Azam FC midfielder eyes Taifa Stars' call-up



Ibrahim Ajibu

for Azam FC fans, I believe it is possible," Ajibu added.

He added: "These are just like other team results, there are big and rich teams in Europe but they don't have good results in matches, you can't have a good continuity throughout... there are times you will fall and go back to the drawing board."

"I believe the league is still in the early stages for us and I, in collaboration with my teammates, will be committed to fighting for the team to start to get good results and restore confidence and hope for Azam FC fans. I still believe it is possible and there is time," Ajibu noted.

Ajibu added he enjoys the stability at Azam FC, which is different from the two teams he played previously, Simba SC and Yanga, which are under a lot of pressure.

"I think no one is unaware of the pressure existing in these teams. They have a lot of pressure from both within and among the fans, if you are a desperate player, then you can't excel in those clubs, we don't have that kind of pressure at Azam FC."

"I have never been disappointed by the pressure from either fans or the leaders of those teams because I always stand by what I believe as long as it is the right thing and not a violation of ethics."

The 25-year-old-midfielder has found peace and comfort at Azam FC due to the reception he received from his teammates.

"I feel at peace at Azam FC as they have received me well and that is why I have said that if we join forces then the team will move from its position and scale to a higher spot."

By Correspondent Nassir

Nchimbi

AZAM FC attacking midfielder, Ibrahim Ajibu, has expressed his desire to return to the senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' after losing his place in the team due to lack of club football game time.

The midfielder's statement comes two weeks since he joined Azam FC from Simba SC where he played 35 games in two and a half seasons.

Ajibu has missed major continental tournaments, which include the 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) and the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

The midfielder now shows the desire to return to the

Kim Poulsen-coached squad.

The player revealed: "I want to return to the national team and I believe I will return because my club is the right place for me to get me back there. The bottom line is that I will have the opportunity to play and show my quality."

"If I do well at my club, I will return to the national team, I believe it is not late for Azam FC to change the status quo."

"I, in cooperation with my teammates, will be committed to fighting for the team to start to get good results and restore hope and faith

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msofi Kilaani (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 SSPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

NIRVANA
Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Simba SC Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Simba SC requests for fans' calmness during mini transfer window

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC leadership has allayed the club's members' and fans' fears about its ongoing registration during the mini transfer window.

The side has remained silent during the period, with other NBC Premier League clubs keeping on signing players and announcing them to their followers.

Simba SC Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, said the outfit's members and fans should be calm during this period, as the leadership continues to finalize the registration plans for some of the players who will add strength to the squad.

She said the outfit's main goal is to have the best players who will help the squad in the run-up to this season's CAF Confederation Cup and the NBC Premier League.

The official revealed: "Given the strategy we had, the leaders in cooperation with head coach need players who are in good form so they can support the team at the moment."

"Let me inform the supporters that we will register quality players before the window closes."

Some of the players, who could be signed by Simba SC during the window, have joined the side in this year's Mapinduzi Cup which is taking place in Zanzibar.

Simba SC was expected to confront Namungo FC in the competition's last four's clash yesterday evening. Zambian midfielder, Clatous Chama, that is now turning out for Morocco's RS Berkane is reportedly expected to make his way back to Simba SC.

The midfielder was featuring for the Msimbazi Street club before moving to the Morocco outfit after the completion of the 2020/21 season.

Seif awards Mtambile Cup tournament winners

By Guardian Correspondent

PEMBA's Mtambile Constituency's Member of Parliament, Seif Salim Seif, has presented awards to winners of the Jimbo Cup tournament that reached a climax at the Kengeja ground in Pemba on Sunday.

The tournament featured a total of 20 teams and ended with Juhudi FC clinching the trophy after beating Mizingani 2-0 in the final.

Juhudi FC was awarded a trophy, gold medals, and 1m/-, and 10 footballs from Seif, a Member of Parliament through the Civic United Front (CUF).

Apart from winning the trophy, Juhudi FC player Hafidh Ali Maalim was voted as the tournament's best player and was awarded football boots worth 100,000/-.

Seif also presented the Mizingani team 500,000/-, five balls and a set of jerseys while the third-placed side, Maendeleo FC, was awarded 300,000/-, a set of jerseys and three footballs.

Warriors FC finished fourth, the side was presented with 200,000/-, a set of jerseys and two footballs while Mtadoda FC was presented with 250,000/- and two footballs for emerging as the most disciplined team.

Speaking during the closing ceremony, Seif said apart



Mtambile Constituency's Member of Parliament, Seif Salim Seif (in suit), hands over the trophy to Juhudi FC captain Ali Mohamed Seif after the outfit lifted the Jimbo Cup tournament, which took place in the area. The team was also awarded 1m/- . PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

from developing football, the tournament targets to maintain unity and find players to form the Jimbo Combine team that will participate in various competitions.

He said that so far he has been impressed with many talented players that featured in the event.

According to the MP, the footballers need to be devel-

oped and ultimately turn out for the national football team 'Taifa Stars'.

"The goals have been achieved because through this competition, we have

been able to stay together and compete through our teams, I congratulate the participating teams, fans, and leaders for making this competition a success," Seif concluded.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

