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ERB disciplines unprofessional engineers



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377 university students benefit from TASAF



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WVT hands over 24 pit latrines to schools



# Let me complete my projects, JPM asks voters in first rallies



Dr John Magufuli, who is seeking re-election for the Tanzanian Presidency in late October's General Election as the ruling CCM's candidate, addresses a campaign rally in Singida municipality yesterday. Photo: State House

By Henry Mwangonde, Bahi

CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli yesterday began the first leg of his campaign tour by highlighting a number of development projects he has initiated, asking voters for five more years to complete the same and implement more.

Addressing rallies in Bahi District, Dodoma Region, and later in Singida Region, the incumbent took his audiences through his initiatives while also introducing new ones he plans to embark upon.

Speaking at Sokoni Primary School in Bahi, Dr Magufuli said a lot has happened in the last five years under his presidency, and he needed another five years to finish current projects.

The CCM candidate said that when he visited Bahi in 2015 there were only four villages with electricity and now they are 43 with 16 others waiting to be connected.

He however said water was still a challenge, and his tour in the area was to request votes for him to finish the part of the job remaining. "I came here five years ago and there was a lot to do. After five years we have seen changes, vote for me so that we finish the few remaining projects," he said.

He said already the 1.8bn/- Bahi Health Centre is 95-percent complete, where the aim is to see people in the area get complete and



**We in Singida have no other way to thank you for all the developments in our region but to give you all the votes so that you continue as president for another five years**

## China to set up fund for helping Tanzanian graduates create jobs

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CHINA'S Embassy in Tanzania has begun engaging stakeholders towards the founding of a venture fund to help Tanzanians graduating from Chinese universities in starting businesses, mainly with a view to creating jobs.

Wang Ke, the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that

the initiative is set to get going sometime next year and will also involve the participation of "friendly institutions" such as the Tanzania-China Friendship Association and Chinese companies doing business in Tanzania.

The ambassador made remarks to that effect during roundtable discussions involving Tanzanian nationals who have studied - or are studying - in China.

The idea was to have the participants share their experiences on their life in China, including as relates to China's efforts to combat the spread of Covid-19 efforts and relations between the two countries.

The envisaged fund will enable the graduates to get entrepreneurial practical skills within Chinese companies in Tanzania and later decide whether to be employed there or to

start their own businesses.

Ambassador Ke explained that the idea of starting the fund came after it emerged that many Tanzanians graduating from Chinese universities after having pursued various scholarship programmes end up as job seekers and not job creators.

"From next year, the (Chinese) embassy will

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## EU, Germany donate to AU's Covid-19 response

ADDIS ABABA

THE European Union (EU) and Germany yesterday handed out 500,000 additional coronavirus testing kits to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The test kits were delivered by an EU Humanitarian Air Bridge flight and are part of a €10 million immediate support package to the African Union (AU) by German authorities in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. In total, close to 1.4m tests for the extraction and the detection of the virus will be made available to African Union member states.

"Through the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge, the European Commission continues to work hand in hand with EU member states to support vulnerable countries. It is in our common interest to tackle the pandemic worldwide. We are committed to ensuring effective delivery of essential medical

## Govt uplifts improved seed investment drive

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE minister Japhet Hasunga has called for increased investment in the production of certified improved seeds to support mass cultivation of strategic crops countrywide.

Currently the country's agricultural sector is crippled by insufficient supply of certified and improved seeds, the minister observed at a ceremony to send into operation seven recently delivered tractors, procured by the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI).

The institution intends to increase the rate of seed production from 1,000 tons currently to at least 10,000 tonnes by 2025. The farm implements are also geared to enhance

TARI's capacity for research, innovation and production of improved seed varieties for a number of key crops.

The vital machines, purchased from a 3.06bn/- fund injected into the institute by the ministry during the 2019/2020 fiscal year, will be distributed to agro research centers working on seed varieties for strategic crops, including oil palm, sunflower, sisal, wheat and maize.

The minister underlined the need for collective intervention from the public and the private sector in that pursuit.

"For instance, the current demand for improved seeds in the country stands at 186,500 tonnes annually, but unfortunately the

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China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke (L), shares a light moment with some of the Tanzanian students who have completed studies in her country who attended a get-together at the Chinese Embassy in Dar es Salaam on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## China to set up fund for helping Tanzanian graduates create jobs

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join hands with Chinese companies in Tanzania in organising job fairs for Tanzanian students who graduated from Chinese universities and provide employment option agreed by both the graduates and the respective Chinese companies," she said.

She noted that both President John Magufuli and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa have repeatedly encouraged Tanzanian youths to seek to start their own businesses instead of always waiting for the government to float job opportunities to them.

The ambassador also announced that the Chinese government will "soon" reopen its doors to Tanzanians and other non-Chinese to pursue studies in China, noting that details would come in good time.

She elaborated: "My government is still working hard to ensure that there are safe enough conditions for this, including putting in place appropriate systems and facilities. When everything is ready, you will be notified."

Commuting on the headway her country has made in the fight against Covid-19, Ambassador Ke said Communist Party of China and the Chinese government have as always put the people's safety and health first, this including the Chinese themselves as well as foreign students and other non-Chinese.

"The Chinese Embassy in Tanzania has paid close attention to the safety of Tanzanian students in China and maintained active communication with the Tanzanian Education, Science, and Technology ministry on this matter," she noted.

Abdulmalik Mollel, Managing Director of Global Link Education Ltd, meanwhile underlined the need for the Chinese government to consider

reopening its universities to Tanzanian and other foreign.

"Upon returning to China, Tanzanian students now on leave owing to the lockdown induced by the Covid-19 outbreak will be more than ready to undergo the mandatory 14-day mandatory quarantine during which they will undergo routine screening for the pandemic before allowed to start the academic year," he said.

Mollel's GLE is one of several agencies helping out Tanzanians seeking opportunities for college and university studies outside the country.

He said a steadily rising number of Tanzanian youths are yearning to study in China, "largely because it is generally more economical than studying in Europe, the US and various other countries".

"Additionally, the environment in Chinese universities is very good, suitable for studying, and most students end up with much more practical knowledge in China than elsewhere," he said.

According to a former ambassador of Tanzania to China, Major General (rt) Abdulrahman Shimbo, roundabout half of the Tanzanians studying in China are sponsored by the Chinese government.



**Additionally, the environment in Chinese universities is very good, suitable for studying, and most students end up with much more practical knowledge in China than elsewhere**

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new ways to ensure that the region benefited from the crops that are chiefly grown in the region, namely sunflower and onions.

On rural electrification, Dr Magufuli said since he came to office late 2015 the government has managed to take electricity to 9,670 villages out of 12,280 villages on the list, with connection plans for the remaining villages being finalized.

## Let me complete my projects, JPM asks voters in first rallies

The CCM presidential candidate said upon re-election he will scrap some nuisance taxes so that farmers can transport their harvests freely to improve their wellbeing.

Dr Magufuli had earlier during the day held whistle stop tours at Bahi in Dodoma and Manyoni in Singida.

Iramba West parliamentary candidate on the CCM ticket, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said since independence it has never happened that such a number of health centres are constructed.

Dr Magufuli has Tanzanians at heart, he said, noting that the region had

spent over 30bn/- in addressing water challenges.

"We in Singida have no other way to thank you for all the developments in our region but to give you all the votes so that you continue as president for another five years," the former minister underlined.

## EU, Germany donate to AU's Covid-19 response

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equipment to countries that need it most. This specific consignment will be able to reach a large number of countries as it will support the African Union continental response," said Janez Lenar i, the EU Commissioner for Crisis Management.

Gerd Müller, the German minister for Development Cooperation, said on the occasion that the world will either beat the coronavirus together worldwide - or not at all. "This is why we support the African Union through the German Epidemic Preparedness Team in cooperation with the EU, where the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention coordinate the procurement of life-saving testing equipment for AU member states.

"They also play an important role in educating African health workers. With our support to the partnership to accelerate coronavirus testing, we make sure that testing is made widely available. We stand by our friends in Africa in the fight against the

coronavirus."

Dr John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC said that partnership is key to winning the battle against COVID-19 locally and globally as no country can manage the pandemic alone. "That is why as a continental body Africa CDC is working with several partners and exploring all markets to unlock the supply chain system for diagnostics and medical supplies for African Union member states. We are delighted to see the German government and the European Union coming out strongly to support our initiatives."

The kits delivery is part of the larger Team Europe support to the African continental response to the coronavirus. In June, Team Europe provided €10m facilitate the implementation of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for the coronavirus outbreak, supporting in-country health care workers, rapid responders for surveillance, laboratory and case management and the strengthening of the Africa Continental Taskforce for Coronavirus, the director underlined.

## Govt uplifts improved seed investment drive

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production capacity until last year was only 71,000, tones," he specified.

He challenged the institute to make gainful use of the new facilities to elevate seed production for strategic crops.

The minister similarly hailed TARI for its impressive performance in coordinating, monitoring and conducting key agricultural research, as well as producing improved seed varieties for key crops.

TARI must work round the clock to increase the pace of production of oil palm seedlings in particular, the minister emphasized. "You have so far worked hard. Last year you managed to produce at least 2m oil palm seedlings, but make sure you meet the target of increasing the production to 4.1m seedlings by 2025," he urged.

Adequate availability of certified seed is vital in fostering change in the agriculture sector, in which case the government found it necessary to continue supporting TARI to ensure rapid development of the sector from the village level, the minister intoned.

TARI General Director Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said that the institute was implementing a helpful strategy to ensure mass production of seed varieties for all crops flourishing in the country.

TARI was also in the forefront in imparting skills to farmers and extension officers as to the best agronomic practices for strategic crops.

"For instance, we have established centers in various zones for the dissemination of agro-sector technology to farmers and extension officers," he added.



Education, Science and Technology ministry permanent secretary Dr Leonard Akwilapo (L) bids farewell to the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier, at the ministry's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after Tanzania and France entered into an agreement under which 100 Tanzanian teachers will undergo training in the teaching of French. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Ministry of Works launches two communication towers at Nyabilezi and Igando villages in Chato

By Guardian Correspondent, Chato

THE Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Works, Transport and Communications, Dr Zainab Chaula, has launched two communication towers at the Nyabilezi and Igando villages in Chato District in Geita Region so as to facilitate smooth communication services to the residents.

Dr Chaula said that the towers worth 5m/- have been constructed by the government under the Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF). "The government's aim is to

ensure that we send communication services in every corner of the country supplying residents with reliable communication services and thus contribute to the country's economic development, the government has invested a lot of funds to bring changes in the telecommunication sector," she said.

For his part, Geita Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Denis Badesi said that the communication infrastructures installed in various parts of the country among other things, aims to fuel economic activities by attracting people to engage in

income generating activities.

For his part, executive director of the Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited (TTCL) Waziri Kindamba urged the public to utilise potential opportunities available in the telecommunication sector which include requesting to become agents of the company's mobile money, voucher and other services. He urged the public to protect the infrastructures as the government spent millions of shillings to implement them.

Geita District Commissioner Eng Charles Kabeho vowed to supervise to ensure that all the infrastructures are

well protected so as to last long and benefit the further needs.

Earlier, USCAF managing director Justina Mashiba said that the Fund has a responsibility for enabling accessibility and participation by communication operators in the provision of communication service, with view of promoting social-economic development of the rural and urban under-served areas and to provide for availability of communication services.

"So far, we have facilitated the construction of 998 projects in various areas benefiting over five million of people," she said.





Shekilindi Bosnia herbal firm representative Bashiru Iddi (R, in cap) briefs Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry permanent secretary Prof Mabula Mchembe (in glasses) in Dodoma yesterday at the ongoing exhibition held in marking African Traditional Medicine Day. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavilia

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

## Over 200 engineers 'disciplined' in last 5 years over professional lapses

AT LEAST 264 engineers in the country have faced disciplinary measures from the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) in the last five years for failing to comply with the professional standards.

Speaking here yesterday a head of the 17th Annual Engineer's Day (AED) to be held on 3rd and 4th September this year, the ERB Registrar, Patrick Barozi said some engineers have been suspended; some had their certificate annulled while others still have their cases under discussion.

He said the board as a professional body is working to regulate engineers and cannot tolerate those who violate the set standards and code of ethics. "ERB has the mandate to inspect all projects in the country and take action on engineers found to have contravened the norms," he said.

The registrar argued that the board has responsibilities of regulating

engineering activities and the conduct of engineers, engineering technicians and engineering consulting firms in Tanzania as well as promoting and providing opportunities and facilities for the study of and professional training in engineering.

Addressing a press conference on the annual celebrations, Prof Bakari Mwinyimima said the event will bring together at least 3000 engineers from all fields at the Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre in Dodoma while some other 2000 others will meet virtually.

He said the annual meetings of engineers are traditionally organised by the ERB, a special statutory body established to monitor and regulate all engineering-relating activities

in Tanzania. "This forum gives all Tanzanian engineers an opportunity to share their ideas and experience in the engineering practice," he said.

Prof Mwinyimima added that the traditional major activities of the meeting include presentation, discussions, technological exhibitions, and award winning ceremony of the most distinguished engineers and the best graduating students from engineering higher institutions.

The programme is organized under a special theme of "4th Industrial Revolution towards achieving SDGs: Challenges and Opportunities for Engineers".

He appealed all Tanzanian engineers are encouraged to participate in this event, however, they don't have to

forget, that it's not free of charge. The participants of the event have to pay the registration fee.

According to the professor, the annual meeting is a forum where engineers, government officials and other stakeholders in engineering from both public and private sector meet and hold a learned discourse on a theme of topical interest to the nation.

The event also provides an opportunity for engineers to share and exchange ideas and experiences in the engineering practice.

Recommendations emanating from the discussions are forwarded to relevant authorities for necessary action. The major activities of this year's event shall include paper presentations and discussions.

## NARCO out for growth, to lure farmers into ranching

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE state-run National Ranching Company (NARCO) has embarked on expansion plan that comes with programmes aimed at attracting more livestock keepers into ranching.

NARCO Acting Managing Director Masele Mipawa said in an interview that the strategy includes revival of the company's disused farms and welcoming nearby residents to learn and embrace modern ways of livestock keeping.

To kick of implementation of the strategy, the firm is already reviving its farm located in Muleba District, Kagera Region, he said. The 67 hectares farmstead to be known as Mwisu II is set to involve 89 blocks of different sizes.

Mipawa said more than 200mn/- has been set aside for the project, out of which 140m/- has been spent on developing the area including surveying of the 89 blocks.

"Also, we have freely distributed at least 1,000 plots to residents that have been residing inside the ranching areas," he added.

He said the new development will bring the number of ranches owned by NARCO to 16 and more projects were in the pipeline.

He said establishment of the ranch is part of strategies by NARCO to improve performance of the livestock sector in the country, as well as lessening frequent fracas between livestock keepers and farmers due to shortage of grazing areas.

Mipawa observed that establishment of the major farmhouse was a vital opportunity for locals to investing largely and professionally, added: "Our focus is to set conducive environment to enable Tanzanians to invest professionally in the livestock keeping."

He added that NARCO has so far developed a crucial roadmap for the implementation of a strategic

programme for the overhauling and improvement of the livestock keeping sector in Tanzania in order to ensure the sector plays a vital role in fast-tracking a pace of industrial economy within the country.

"The livestock sector is crucial in fast-tracking the country's industrial economy, and thus, we have well prepared to ensure farmers are keeping their livestock in more professional and suitable areas, with an eye to increase production and productivity," he observed.

Detailing over other plans, he said the plans are also afoot to start training livestock keepers over best animal breeds, as well as imparting them with key knowledge over how best to keep their animal more professional.

"We're also planning to train our staff so that they can copy with modern livestock keeping technologies, and we are planning also to recruit more staff in order to capacitate the company's delivering ability," he expressed.

Recently, the company implemented a useful exercise of demarcating and fencing all of its ranching blocks. Mipawa said the exercise was gearing to curtail a spate of illegal invasion to ranch areas.

In his remarks during the climax of this year's Nanenane farmers exhibitions, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the fifth phase government, through NARCO, will set aside enough grazing areas in all districts within the country.

At least two potential investors from Egypt and Namibia have already lodged applications to invest into meat processing industries.

A total of 120 giant and 200 small scale investors are currently with diverse contracts with the state-owned company in different regions in Tanzania.

With 15 well established ranches that are scattered in different regions, NARCO has a key role to produce improved livestock species, as well as other vital animal's related products.



Jhpiego is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University. For more than 46 years now, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego, implementing a number of projects in Tanzania, wishes to recruit the following positions, available for immediate filling.

**Position: Finance Manager [One position based in Dar es salaam]**

**Position Overview:** The Finance Manager is responsible for providing financial and management support to Jhpiego Tanzania Office and related programs to ensure the smooth running of the office in Dar es Salaam. This includes supervising day-to-day financial operations of the country office, budgeting and review of internal control systems. Review of on-site financial accounting and bookkeeping system required to assure the integrity and effective performance of Jhpiego's financial operations.

**Required Qualifications:**

- Undergraduate degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field
- CPA/ACCA Finalist or equivalent
- Master's degree in business or related field an added advantage
- Minimum of Seven (7) years relevant experience in finance or accounting
- Past audit experience, will added advantage.
- Communication and interpersonal skills - Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to deal with staff at all levels
- Tax Knowledge - In depth knowledge of Tanzania income tax regulations
- Understanding of USAID rules and regulations
- Supervisory skills- Ability to Mentor and train other Finance staff
- Knowledge of the Microsoft office suite

**Position: Program Finance Officer [Two positions based in Dar es salaam]**

**Position Overview:**

The Program Finance Officer is responsible for providing financial and management support to Jhpiego Tanzania Office and related programs to ensure the smooth running of the offices in Dar es Salaam and in the regions. This includes providing day-to-day financial and operations support, budgeting and review of internal control systems accounts receivable and payable.

**Required Qualifications:**

- Undergraduate degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field
- CPA/ACCA Finalist or equivalent
- Master's degree in business or related field an added advantage
- Minimum of five (5) years relevant experience in finance or accounting
- Communication and interpersonal skills - Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to deal with staff at all levels
- Tax Knowledge - In depth knowledge of Tanzania income tax regulations
- Understanding of USAID rules and regulations
- Supervisory skills- Ability to Mentor and train other Finance staff
- Knowledge of the Microsoft office suite

Jhpiego offers a competitive package selected candidates in line with salary history, academic qualifications and relevant experience. To apply please indicate the position title of the position you are applying for on the subject line of your e-mail. Applications should also include an up-to-date CV with three contactable professional references, a cover letter and your salary history. Applications, which do NOT include ALL of these elements, will NOT be considered.

Send the application through email: [HRTZ@jhpiego.org](mailto:HRTZ@jhpiego.org) Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The closing date for applications is **15th September, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Caution to the applicants:**

There have been some bogus adverts online that require candidates to apply through some email addresses of public domains e.g. Yahoo, Gmail, Hotmail, etc. Kindly note: [HRTZ@jhpiego.org](mailto:HRTZ@jhpiego.org) is the address to use all the time. Please ignore any of those adverts. We also do not charge any application fee nor entertain any meetings or telephone calls. If shortlisted, you will get an official call from our office and receive required steps. If you suspect any wrong - doing kindly write to the Director of Human Resource, through [inquiries.tz@jhpiego.org](mailto:inquiries.tz@jhpiego.org)



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## DIVIDEND DECLARATION

The Board of Directors of TOL Gases Limited is delighted to announce that the Annual General Meeting of shareholders held on 28th August, 2020, approved the declaration of dividend of TZS 17.37 per issued and fully paid up shares for the year ended 31st December 2019.

Pursuant to the Dividend Payment Declaration, the timetable for dividend payment shall be as follows:

Announcement of Dividend Payment	: 28th August, 2020
Trading of Shares cum Dividend	: 28th August 2020 - 18th September 2020
Trading of Shares Ex-Dividend	: 21st September 2020
Closure of the Members Register	: 23rd September 2020
Re-Opening of the Register	: 24th September 2020
Dividend Payment on/or about	: 15th October 2020

**Dividend will be paid directly to shareholders bank accounts.**

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD**





Babati district commissioner Lazaro Twange (L) symbolically receives corrugated iron roofing sheets from NMB Bank Plc Central Zone manager Nsolo Mozi (C) donated by the bank to support three schools in the district. The bank also donated school equipment and supplies worth 51m/- to Geita, Manyara and Tanga regions. Looking on is the bank's Manyara regional manager, Daniel Rauya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Z'bar govt, Zanlink agree to boost internet service delivery

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S ministry of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation has signed an agreement with Zanlink-Isles leading Internet Service Providers to ensure that islanders get the service at an affordable price.

The signing ceremonies were held at the ministry's head office located at Kisauni in the Stone Town of Zanzibar and was witnessed by the ministry's Permanent Secretary Mustafa Aboud Jumbe, Zanlink Managing Director, Sanjay Raja and executive director for the Zanzibar Information and communications technology (ICT) Infrastructure Agency, Eng Shukuru

Awadhi Suleiman.

Speaking soon after sealing the pact, Jumbe said that internet services have been simplifying different social and economic activities.

"At this time when the world grapples with Covid-19, Zanzibar business community need reliable and affordable internet services to import and export goods, so, what we're doing today is to ensure that Zanzibaris have a close link with the rest of the world."

He said in the contemporary world internet access has become such an important fixture in people's lives as it save time and simplify socio-economic activities.

For his part, Eng Suleiman described Zanlink as key partner in ICT

infrastructure since the kick-start of the national fibre optical transmission network (the national ICT backbone), which has improved internet services in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The official asked the internet service providers to be people-centered by ensuring that all people are connected with internet services.

Sanjay Raja, Zanlink Managing Director commended Zanzibar government for giving the firm an opportunity to use the national ICT backbone in scaling up internet services in Isles, saying the move will make many people get access to internet services.

The application of the National ICT Backbone in Zanzibar has started

bearing fruit, whereby last year, Isles' government received a 25bn/- dividend from Zanzibar's main telephone services provider (Zantel). The dividend covered the period between 2013 and 2014, further explaining that the government was happy with increased use of ICT in providing services to the public.

He reported that since the Zanzibar President, Dr Mohamed Shein, called for increased use of ICT in serving the public in 2011, virtually all government offices had been connected to the National ICT Backbone and sequel to that, provision of public services have been modernised, efficiency has increased, government revenue has gone up and collection modernised.

## PCCB helps a retiree claim back over 5m/- paid to microfinance company by mistake

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Dodoma Region has managed to help a refund of 5,500,000/- to a retiree who mistakenly paid 21,500,000/- to a microfinance company.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, the Deputy Regional Commander, Manyama Tungaraza said the retiree, Jumanne Muryery, a former employee of the Tanzania Peoples Defense Force (TPDF) had borrowed 800,000/- from Kihega Investment Company Limited and later paid a total of 21,000,000/- together with interest.

He said the retired soldier had borrowed the money in September, 2017 but upon realising that he was unfairly charged the staggering 20,000,000/-, he launched complain at the PCCB office on 1st July, 2020.

The deputy commander explained that upon investigations, his team learnt that the company, Kihega Investment was registered at the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) in 2018 and is providing microfinance services using own capital.

He said in 2017, the company was using sponsored certificate and was providing loan services to public servants who were about to retire from public service.

In the loan application forms, he explained that there was no place indicating the amount paid in loan except section 'C' of the forms that stated that "Kihega Investment is giving loan to Jumanne Muryery on agreement that after getting retirement benefits he repay 21,500,000/-".

"What is targeted in the loan forms is the amount to be paid back after getting retirement package but there is no indication of the amount borrowed," he said.

He further stated that following the disputable loan, the lender after receiving retirement package paid the company 21,500,000/- on 6th October, 2018 through account number 50210006142 bearing the name Jackson Edward Wambura, the owner of the Kihega Investment Company Limited.

Commander Tungaraza said the decision by the company not to clearly indicate the amount borrowed by the retiree is a clear indication that there was an ill motive to defraud their customers, specifically retirees.

He added that during a meeting involving both parties at the PCCB office in Dodoma on 22nd June, 2020 it was decided that the company refund Muryery 5,000,000/- after the loaner failed to ascertain the amount he gave the retiree and the borrower did not prove how much he borrowed.

The company, he said agreed to repay the amount in two installments whereby on 27th July, 2020 it submitted 2,500,000 and on 27, August it submitted a total of 3,000,000/-, totaling to 5,500,000/- that yesterday PCCB office gave to the retiree.

PCCB appealed to public servants, especially those nearing retirement and the public at large to think seriously before taking any loan from the microfinance organisations, some of which are out to exploit people.

"It is important that they read the loan contracts and understand all the aspects of repayment which include the interest rate, among others and have copies of the contract with them," said the deputy commander.

*"What is targeted in the loan forms is the amount to be paid back after getting retirement package but there is no indication of the amount borrowed"*

## Bright F-6 students with albinism taken through extra preps

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

EIGHTEEN students with albinism who passed their form six examinations are being grilled on how to successfully embark on higher education.

Sponsored by Under The Same Sun (UTSS) who are preparing to join various universities this year are being trained on self-reliance, among other skills.

The 25 day-training is also focusing on providing capacity building to the students on how they can succeed in their life after the university.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the training programme, manager - department of education in the institution Grace Wabanhu said that the training programme marks the fifth phase since it was introduced in 2018.

She added that 18 students who are sponsored by (UTSS) came from various regions including Geita, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro and Arusha, and were given the laptops each to assist them in their higher learning studies.

"The laptops are specifically to assist them to visualize the words to be seen clearly and to understand the subjects, because of their difficulty to see," she added.

According to her, since the inception of the programme, 91 youth living with albinism coming from various regions and different education backgrounds have benefited with the programme.

"Among all the programme is essentially focusing on insist to them that they need to observe integrity, obedience, hard-working and be ready to fulfill their dreams. This will help to prove to the society that people with albinism can add value and bring new hope in the society," the manager said.

"Through the training, the students will learn financial management, good

use of social networks, and they will also get advice for what course to learn in the university," Wabanhu explained.

"What we are focusing on is to give them a real picture of how university life looks like and how they can interact with other students who are not having albinism," the manager said.

For the past 12 years, the UTSS has provided scholarship to 429 students living with albinism from the primary to higher level learning.

She calls for other stakeholders working in the education sector to prioritize the agenda for inclusive education to people with disability in order to leverage the access for education to all.

For his part Marco Sein, a former beneficiary of the programme from Chato district in Geita region, conveyed his gratitude to Under The Same Sun for supporting him from the ground to the university level until he finished.

He said he is now a government employee working in Chato, Geita. He promised that he will assist his fellow students to accomplish their dreams, urging them not to give up at all.



**What we are focusing on is to give them a real picture of how university life looks like and how they can interact with other students who are not having albinism**



Grace Wabanhu (L), Under The Same Sun's Education, Training and Employment manager, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to Form Four leaver Amina Suleiman a laptop donated by Canada's Vivian Grace Ash and Open Chapel Society. The Guardian has reliably learnt that the beneficiary is aspiring to become a lawyer. Photo: Romana Mallya

## 377 university students benefit from TASAF sponsorship

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

A TOTAL of 377 students in the country's various colleges from poor households have benefitted by sponsorship from Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

The fund is engaged in various projects at community level aimed at providing services in various sectors according to peoples' needs.

TASAF Managing Director Ladislaus Mwamanga told a task meeting for sensitizing journalists from Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Tanga regions that all the students are enrolled in the country's universities.

"The government decided to establish three phases to meet these challenges, and this is a trial project for the provision of funds to poor households, the trial project conducted in Bagamoyo and Kibaha districts in the Coast Region and Chamwino in Dodoma Region.

"The programme registered 26,000 people who were provided subsidies amounting to 3.5bn/-," he said.

He said up to now 1,320 households that were unqualified for assistance opted out of the plan.

He said the aim to rescue poor households is to enable them to increase their basic expenditure

sustainably.

Meanwhile TASAF officials in Meru district have been called to be faithful during TASAF verification exercise of poor households in TASAF Phase III.

Meru District Development Director Emmanuel Mkongo gave the call at the opening of the TASAF task force meeting on the implementation of the Second Round of TASAF Phase III.

He also called upon the officials, mostly Meru District Council officials to be trustful during the verification exercise.

Representative of TASAF Managing Director, Tatu Mwaruka told the meeting that TASAF implementation

of First Round of its Phase II has contributed in the attainment of the government's aim in reducing poverty in the country.

She said poverty on basic needs has been reduced by 10 percent and abject poverty has been reduced by 12 percent in many household living in abject poverty.

She said the Second Round of TASAF III will be carried out in all 185 local councils in the country including all Zanzibar districts whereby a total of 1.45 million households with more than seven million people will be reached, an increase of 350,000 households.



# Agricultural technologies and innovations key for agri-business resilience during COVID-19 crisis

By Emmanuel Okogbenin

AS governments across the globe strive to curb the spread of COVID-19, it is becoming imperative now more than ever to promote agricultural technologies and innovations during these unprecedented times to cushion smallholder farmers and agri-businesses against the negative effects and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.

Accordingly, African governments, seed companies, and regional bodies should endeavour to collectively create an enabling policy environment for agri-business, support smart agro-input subsidy programmes without distorting market dynamics and promote digital agriculture solutions to ease the effect of the pandemic on food and nutrition security in Africa.

Good and well-implemented policies would have to be enacted or reinforced for firmly targeted impact to include the rapid emergence and growth of SMEs with a good incentive for the private sector to catalyze agricultural value chain developments in Africa.

Agri-businesses are gradually gaining increased prominence and will be pivotal to the processes for the attainment of the African Union (AU) 2063 agenda towards the transformation of the African continent.

Agri-business therefore should be viewed as one of the key economic pathways for Africa where agriculture contributes substantially and significantly among other sectors to the total Gross Domestic Product in most countries on the continent.

Inevitably, as an exigency, Africa needs to create an environment that will enable investment and adoption of best practices that are profitable in agribusiness, also, to rapidly modernise farming to integrate commercially successful innovative technologies to strengthen agribusiness resilience in the wake of COVID-19.

However, agribusinesses in Africa is facing unique challenges among which are high post-harvest losses, poor infrastructure, and limited access to crucial support services such as agricultural finance and insurance.

These challenges have been further compounded in magnitude by other shocks brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in other new additional cataclysmic effects including limited access to inputs, disrupted food production, shortage of labour and closed borders.

Strategies for agri-business development in Africa should adopt a systemic and integrated approach for sustainable impact and good pace in alignment with the goals of the AU 2063 agenda.

Some of the strategies to steer agri-business development include the deployment of resilient products and mechanisation/digital technologies towards commercialising the agricultural sector in addition to reducing drudgery for smallholder farmers, including addressing gender inequalities in agriculture.

The African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) has been on the forefront in promoting commercialisation of adaptable technologically innovative products and exploring social enterprises as a

robust model in building agri-business resilience among African farmers for better results and impact.

Access to new production and processing machinery specifically designed to work at the scale of the typical African smallholder farm has been aptly demonstrated in cassava by AATF.

With the major focus of transforming this hardy, climate-resilient cassava crop into major money-spinner (as food and industrial crop), digital and mechanisation solutions have been availed to over one million farmers and their families to maximise benefit, through improved planting, harvesting and other operations that has boosted yields from 9 tons to 25 tons per hectare with good linkages to the markets which has all enhanced the commercialisation of this crop.

If Africa must rapidly move away and evolve from subsistence agriculture, it is paramount for it to promote and support continuity in investment in new farming technologies—from better seeds to digital tools to machinery—as the best opportunity for transforming African agriculture into an engine for economic growth that will have benefits far beyond the farm sector.

For agriculture landscape to change in Africa, the timely accessibility and availability of quality certified seed is critical and strategic to enabling farmers to raise agricultural productivity, increase income, and reduce poverty.

Facilitating a functional seed system that supports a well-integrated production of breeder and foundation seed that feeds and drive the supply chain for certified seed production is equally as crucial.

A social enterprise, QualiBasic Seed (QBS) Company, being incubated by AATF is addressing a key bottleneck challenge in the seed system in Africa by offering a commercially sustainable foundation seed supply solution to seed companies who use it to produce quality certified seeds that are sold to farmers. QBS is therefore efficiently bridging the gap between crop breeders (working with national and international research programs) and the local seed companies to improve connections and coordinated integration for a responsive formal seed system.

To fully unlock and maximise agribusiness opportunities, there is a need to provide innovative market systems that offers agribusiness solutions to farmers' input and output needs towards strengthening more profitable practices.

In the wake of COVID-19, it has become very crystal clear that systems improvement and approach will be an essential requirement and not an option to the pandemic challenges.

The key requirements will be strengthening infrastructure to improve the delivery mechanism of agribusiness pipelines, creating frameworks to transform Africa into net food exporter for more revenues and by moving more actors to top of value chains for rapid agri-business transformation.

**Dr Emmanuel Okogbenin is the Director of Programme Development and Commercialisation at AATF**



Dr John Magufuli, who is seeking re-election for the Tanzanian Presidency in late October's General Election as the ruling CCM's candidate, waves to the crowds shortly after arriving in Bahi District, Dodoma Region, yesterday for a campaign rally. Photo: State House

# small and medium fuel station dealers benefit from new partnership scheme

By Francis Kajubi

EIGHT small and medium fuel station dealers across the country have benefited from the partnership scheme of Dealer Owned Dealer Operated (DODO), which is operated by the energy multinational firm—Total Tanzania.

The firm's head of legal and corporate affairs, Marsha Kilewo said this yesterday when speaking at the official launch of a new Total Mchigani service station located at Goba on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

She said that since the programme started in 2018 the company has managed to attract eight fuel dealers into this partnership through the DODO programme.

Kilewo called on small and medium fuel dealers who have experience in operating fuel stations and those who own land in prime business areas to enter the partnership to perk up their businesses.

DODO partnership, which obligates a dealer to buy fuel and lubricants products from Total and then sale to the final consumers, offers the same dealer with a discount of up to 40/- from Total for every purchased liter derived from EWURA's wholesale price. In the same vein, a dealer earns up to 67/- of the margin price of the product sold to the final consumer.

The partnership allows Total Tanzania's investments in infrastructure developments of the fuel stations so that to improve their

delivery capacity and establishing of service bays for cars.

It is through the DODO management model, Total has partnered with Eng Frank Malle, a Dar es Salaam resident to become its new fuel dealer for the next three months.

Firm's managing director, Jean-Francois Schoepp called on fuel dealers to make use of this opportunity that is intended at making their own modern stations.

"We are very happy to be in partnership with Malle owner of FS Mshuwa Company and now the owner of Total Mchigani fuel station.

"With this partnership, we have allocated a discount of 50/- for every liter of diesel sold to the consumers from today to 10th of this month.

We hope in the first three months the station will be able to sell around 250,000 a month with high projections in the coming months," said Schoepp.

He called upon business partners in the fuel sector who wish to expand their businesses to franchise with Total brand through DODO programme and stand a chance to own service stations and work hand in hand to broaden and strengthen their businesses with Total Tanzania.

Sharing his excitement over such success, Eng Malle said he opted for the partnership since it is at Total service stations a consumer is assured of excellent and ancillary services, high tech lubricants and a well-organized service bay.



A reforestation project in Muhanga District. File photo

# Rwanda out to restore two million hectares of deforested land

By Michel Nkurunziza

Through collective effort, using Rwanda's home-grown solutions, it is indeed possible to fully restore our forests

Rwanda is among the countries that, in September 2020, will showcase its progress on restoring two million hectares of deforested and degraded land in a global virtual conference.

The virtual meeting to gather countries globally is being organized by governments and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

In 2011, Rwanda became one of the

early adopters of the Bonn Challenge - a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.

So far, the recent assessment using the Bonn Challenge Barometer revealed that Rwanda has exceeded the forest cover target of 30 per cent. By this year, the country had achieved 30.4 per cent.

So far, according to official figures, Rwanda has already restored 708,629 of the pledged 2,000,000 hectares over the past ten years.

The country is also committing more investments to meet the 2030 target.

"Forest landscape restoration is a long-term process to gain ecological functionality of the landscape. Through collective effort, using Rwanda's home-grown solutions, it is indeed possible to fully restore our forests," stated Charles Karangwa, the Regional Technical Coordinator, Forests Landscapes and Livelihoods at IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa.

The FAO estimated that as much as 40 per cent of the cultivated land in Rwanda was at risk of severe erosion and required anti-erosion investments.

Over the past ten years, Rwanda quadrupled domestic investment in landscape restoration.

As of 2018, a combined domestic and international investment of US\$6.7 million made nearly 35 per cent of the country's two-million-hectare restoration ambition a reality.

Forests now cover about 30.5 per cent of the land in Rwanda.

A breakdown of this cover shows that 48.4 per cent is plantations, 25.4 per cent wooded savannahs in the east, 17.5 per cent natural montane forests and 8 per cent shrub lands.

The 10 districts with the greatest forest cover are those with large areas of protected natural montane forest and woodland savannah.

Overall, reforestation and

afforestation rates are estimated to be at 24 per cent of total forest cover with Rubavu, Rwamagana, Rutsiro, Ngoma, Nyabihu and Burera districts leading.

Although a deforestation rate of approximately 13 per cent was registered, predominantly in the eastern province districts such as Bugesera, Kayanza, Kirehe, and others, South province districts such as Nyanza, Ruhango and urban areas including Nyarugenge and Kicukiro, after restoration, the net balance actually shows an 11 per cent increase in forest cover over the decade.

From the eastern semi-dry areas near

Akagera National Park to the western part of the country including Gishwati-Mukura National Park, 80 restoration projects (some projects span multiple districts) have been implemented nationwide since 2011, the Barometer shows.

With the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) set to begin, Rwanda's investment in the legal frameworks to implement sustainable natural resources management and commitment to restore two million hectares of deforested and degraded land are a clear model that will hopefully inspire others around the world.



# Ministry donates ICT equipment worth 248.69m/- to agricultural training centres

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTRY of Agriculture has donated information and communication technology (ICT) equipment worth 248.69m/- to public and private agricultural training institutions to facilitate knowledge sharing and keeping the institutions with up-to-date practice.

Speaking at the event to hand over the donation, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Gerald Kusaya said a survey into some 11 public agricultural institutes in the country revealed a massive shortage of current books with the existing volumes being outdated.

"The ministry resolved to help address this challenge and today I am pleased to distribute these equipment that will help improve teaching and subsequently, service offered by our extension officers," he said.

In Tanzania, there are 11 public agricultural institutions and 14 private-owned institutions. The PS noted that the idea for donating information and communication technology gadgets to both public and private institution is to help maintain the spirit of togetherness.

He insisted that most graduates in both institutions end up being hired by the government.

"This is why we want to support both institutions," he said.

The equipment donated will help institutions establish e-labs that could be easily accessed by both institutions.

According to Kusaya, the equipment being offered is the only part of a large plan that seek to transform the agricultural training institutions to become more digitalised. They included a TV set, laptops, desktops, routers, projectors and mattress.

Mlingano Agricultural Training Institute Rector, Samson Cheyo and Aloyce Kasimili, Principal at the National Sugar Training Institute acknowledged that the institutions face serious challenges and that the equipment will improve the teaching and learning process.

"We have a serious shortage of teaching books. This donation will connect all agricultural institutions to share the same materials," said Kasimili, adding that the process will revolutionise the agricultural sector in the country.

The principals promised to maintain the equipment to help improve knowledge sharing for much more youth planning to join the professional to further their interests.



**We have a serious shortage of teaching books. This donation will connect all agricultural institutions to share the same materials**



Instructor Lucas Kivuyo of suburban Arusha's Patandi Teachers College leads a seminar Organisation for Righteous Voice organised yesterday, primarily with a view to honing the skills of Pre-primary and Standards One and Two teachers. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

## TAWA promotes 1,800 game wardens

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANZANIA Wildlife Authority (TAWA) has promoted 1,800 game wardens in a move that aims to strengthen the chain of command, professionalism, patriotism and discipline from civil to military system of command.

Speaking soon after promoting them, TAWA Acting Director Frederick

Ambwene said the wardens have been promoted after satisfying all the needed criteria and hoped they will perform their duties well.

"The step in promoting them with military ranks is part of TAWA's efforts in strengthening the military system for the authority's wardens aimed at strengthening the chain of command," Abwene said.

He said those promoted include seven Assistant Commissioners, 225 Conservation Officers and 1,568 game wardens.

TAWA Board Chairman Hamis Semfuko called on those promoted to use their creativity and patriotism to ensure the growth of the industrial sector.

Some of the promoted wardens

thanked the government for recognising their importance, saying they will work hard in fighting poaching activities in the country's wildlife reserve area.

Earlier, TAWA's Communication Officer Twaha Twaibu said there was a challenge in fighting poachers as many wardens had no military training.



Entrepreneur Joyce Chavala (L) of Isyesye suburb in Mbeya city and a colleague pictured yesterday with bars of soap she has managed to make after receiving training from SHOP (Save for Helping Other People) agency, with funding from the Foundation for Civil Society. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

## Entrepreneurship training to boost self-employment benefits youths in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 300 youth in the city of Mbeya have benefited from entrepreneurship training that have made them self employed in making various kinds of handcraft via a project that focus to transform lives of people in vulnerable groups organised by SHOP, a private NGO in collaboration of Foundation Civil Society (FCS).

SHOP's Coordinator, Maria Dominick said her organisation is among several NGOs engaged in supporting the youth in their entrepreneurial ambitions, including mobilising many other people to engage in gainful undertakings for their economic wellbeing.

Joyce Chavala, an Isyesye resident in Mbeya is among the youth who benefitted through the SHOP project by making various products including soap and ladies' bags.

Joyce (25) said their creativity have not only benefitted them, but have also created employment opportunities for other youth.

She said she started the project after receiving training on life skills from institutions that are engaged in assisting the youth and was bold to transform the skill gained to physical economic activities.

"I thank SHOP and FCS for providing me with the entrepreneurship training for self-employment as it enabled me to establish a small soap making factory

and now I have employed my fellow youth," she said.

Upendo Yohana Mkazi, a resident of Ilemi area in Mbeya city said Tanzania has many opportunities for the youth and if are well utilized they assist in pushing up their economic wellbeing and that of the nation in general.



**I thank SHOP and FCS for providing me with the entrepreneurship training for self-employment as it enabled me to establish a small soap making factory and now I have employed my fellow youth**

## LATRA to curb rampant trash-throwing habit along highways

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

LAND Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) in the Southern Highlands Zone says it was making follow-ups on drivers and conductors of passenger buses using Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) to identify those who contravene laws on environmental cleanliness by wanton

throwing litter along road reserves and forests.

LATRA Manager for the Southern Highlands Zone Denis Daudi early this week told reporters in Mbeya that despite the prohibition, there were bus crews who violate the requirement and that LATRA will be serious over the issue.

"We are now seriously enforcing the

laws after also seeing bus conductors throwing dirt in areas not reserved for the purpose, the practice that can cause the eruption of water borne diseases including detriment to wildlife," he said.

He said the practice is rampant in Mbeya Region especially in Igawa area in Mbarali District.

Some residents in the area

have appealed to government authorities concerned in the issue to control the practice of wanton throwing of dirt along the roads.

Some bus passengers have also confessed to be throwing dirt out of bus windows when travelling due to lack of receptacles in the buses for the purpose.



**We are now seriously enforcing the laws after also seeing bus conductors throwing dirt in areas not reserved for the purpose, the practice that can cause the eruption of water borne diseases including detriment to wildlife**





Ikwiriri resident Hussein Ramadhani (R) donates blood at an event organised by the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania at Ikwiriri in Rufiji District, Coast Region, at the weekend. Left is Rifiji District Hospital official Nicolas Slinder. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## 'Parents must support teachers in making children study hard'

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

PARENTS have been called upon to be ready to help their children's studies to increase their pass marks in examinations in effort to tackle the challenge of the shortage of teachers especially in rural areas.

The call was given yesterday by Morogoro District Education Officer who is also in charge of Statistical and Logistics Agnes Mhamilwa as she was responding to points raised by officials from Knowledge and Information Centres prepared by Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) in the district.

The officials went through the 2020/21 Budget on gender consideration and discovered acute shortage of teachers in the district, the issue that was not being worked upon.

She said Morogoro district leads all the country's districts for telling their children to perform badly in Std VII national examinations because the parents had no ability to pay for their further studies.

She said such talk and others of the kind discourage children in pursuing further studies in the district contributing to shortage of teachers, adding that as of now there are 45 primary schools with less than four

teachers each.

She called on TGNP activists to continue educating in various ways including stage plays to make parents see the importance of education to their children.

Mhamilwa said the geography of the district is also a contributing factor to the shortage of teachers as many teachers from other regions have been applying to be transferred to other regions.

The Chairperson of Knowledge and Information Centre for Mkambarani Ward Teresia Berege thanked the district council for its recognition of gender in its budget, as opposed to what used to be in the past.



**She called on TGNP activists to continue educating in various ways including stage plays to make parents see the importance of education to their children**

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

## WVT hands over 24 pit latrines to primary schools in Kagera Region

WORLD Vision Tanzania (WVT) has built 24 pit latrines at Nyaishozi, Kyanyamisa and Kahanga Primary Schools in Kagera Region, aimed to especially provide privacy to girl students who were using low quality latrines some of which had no doors.

World Vision Representative in Kagera Zone Joseph Potino said they have handed 24 pit latrines to the schools' authorities including one classroom for Ruhita Primary School, all at a cost of 110.5m/-.

A representative of Karagwe District Executive Director Angela Anselmi said the government was making all efforts to reduce the acute shortage of pit latrines at schools by working together with village governments and

the citizens in general. Afta Aron, a Std VI student at Kyanyamisa Primary School said apart from the pit latrines shortage, they were also using their skirts to cover themselves when in the latrines that

had no doors. Sabato Byamungu, a Standard VI student at Kahanga Primary School said due to the shortage of pit latrines at the school, boy students have been squeezing themselves in one

latrine especially during short calls, while girls took to the bush to help themselves. Another Kyanyamisa Primary School student Rostabela Jovenary said at times some fellow students were

peeping at her while helping herself in the toilet.

The Head-teacher of Kyanyamisa Primary School Gaudence Mashanda said they had a difficult experience from the acute shortage of pit latrines, adding that for girl students one pit latrine was serving 80, students.

"We convey our thanks for the eight pit latrines that have been built for us - four for boys and four for girls, and I trust these will assist students who spent long times at pit latrines queues," she said.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

## Herbalists urged to set up drug-processing factories

HERBALISTS have been called to use the opportunities in the country's drive to become an industrial nation to establish small factories for processing medicines for home use and for export.

The call was given yesterday by the permanent secretary in the Health Ministry, Prof Mabula Mchembe during his opening speech at the celebrations to mark African Traditional Medicines Day at Nyerere Square Grounds in Dodoma Region.

The PS said establishing small drug making factories, traditional herbalists will be able to produce many kinds of quality drugs that can also be exported.

He instructed the Traditional and Alternative Medicines Council to increase efforts in registering medicines produced by the country's traditional healers.

"Since the council was established you have only registered 30 drugs only, the number that does not reflect with the true picture of the big number of medicines being used for treatment," he said.

He also called on the herbalists to work together with other experts in modern drugs to improve their services.

He also urged them to abide by the policy, laws and regulations by stopping erecting their ads on power poles in various residential areas of the country including media outlets as they had to seek permission first.

"Another habit I want you to stop is cheating, many of you are using

conventional drugs you buy from pharmacies, mix with other ingredients and prescribe same to your clients," he said.


Ministry of Health's Director of Medical Services Grace Magembe said since the establishment of the Traditional and Alternative Medicines Council in 2005, users thereof have increased substantially.

"The number increased especially during the period of Covid-19 pandemic this year," she said.


She said as of now they are preparing a document to seek for resources to teach traditional healers to make drugs properly, including packaging thereof that can also be fit for export.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) workers move to unblock a sewage system the 'modern way' in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



**JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA**  
WIZARA YA UJENZI, UCHUKUZI NA MAWASILIANO  
MAMLAKA YA USAFIRI WA ANGA TANZANIA



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**HATUA ZA MSINGI ZA KUZINGATIA KATIKA USAJILI WA NDEGE ZISIZO NA RUBANI (DRONES)**

Mnamo tarehe, 23 Agosti 2020, Mamlaka ya Usafiri wa Anga Tanzania (TCAA) ilitoa agizo kupitia vyombo vya habari lililoweka tarehe 28 Agosti 2020 kuwa ukomo wa matumizi ya ndege zisizo na rubani (Drones) bila usajili.

Agizo hili linahusisha Ndege zililopewa kibali awali na ambazo hazijasajiliwa, ikiwa ni utekeleaji wa Kanuni za ki-usalama za kudhibiti matumizi ya Ndege zisizo na Rubani za mwaka 2018 (The Civil Aviation (Remotely Piloted Aircraft System) Regulations, 2018, G.N 758).

Katika kuhakikisha agizo hilo linatekelezwa, Mamlaka inakumbusha wadau hatua za kuzingatia ili kusajili Ndege zisizo na Rubani kama ifuatavyo:

- HATUA ZA USAJILI:**  
Usajili unapitia hatua kuu nne:
  - Mteja kukamilisha nyaraka zote za usajili zinazohitajika (Fomu, Barua, mwogozo wa utumiaji);
  - Mamlaka kuzishughulikia nyaraka hizo na kufanya upekuzi (Vetting) kupitia vyombo vya ki-usalama;
  - Taarifa ya upekuzi kurejeshwa Mamlaka kwa ajili ya uhakiki; na
  - Mteja atapewa usajili wa Ndege yake na kupatiwa cheti cha usajili.
- GHARAMA ZA USAJILI:**
  - Gharama za usajili ni Dola 100 za Kimarekani au fedha za Tanzania kulingana na kiwango cha kubadilisha fedha (rate) kwa siku hiyo, malipo haya hufanyika mara moja tu.
  - Usajili utafanywa mara moja tu kwa kila Ndege, hivyo mmiliki halazimiki kusajili au kuhuisha usajili wa Ndege yake kila mwaka.
- KIBALI CHA MATUMIZI**
  - Kibali cha matumizi kitatolewa kila wakati mteja anapotaka kutumia Ndege yake kwa kuwasilisha fomu ya maombi na Nakala (copy) ya cheti cha usajili wa Ndege yake. **HAKUNA MALIPO YOYOTE KATIKA KUOMBA KIBALI WALA UPEKUZI.**
  - Mbali na Kibali, Mtumiaji anapaswa kutoa taarifa kwa Jeshi la Polisi na Serikali ya mtaa katika eneo analotaka kufanya kazi yake.
- MATUMIZI KULINGANA NA USAJILI**  
Kila mtumiaji anapotaka kutumia Ndege anapaswa kuomba kibali kutoka Mamlaka, baada ya kuainisha eneo la kazi, kazi yenyewe na muda wa kazi. Hatua hii ni kuisaidia Mamlaka kutambua na kufatilia mahali ilipo Ndege kwa ajili ya kuhakikisha usalama kwa watumiaji wengine wa anga.

Mwombaji anapaswa kutumia ndege yake katika maeneo au mikoa alyoidhinisha nayo na endao mwombaji atakata kufanya matumizi nje ya maeneo au mikoa alyoidhinishiwa atakatiwa kuomba kibali kingine bila gharama yoyote.

Huduma hiyo itachukua muda mfupi na kibali kitatolewa mara moja endapo nyaraka husika zimekamiliika. Aidha waombaji wenye shughuli nyingi na maeneo mengi wanashauriwa kuainisha maeneo yote wakati wa kuomba kibali ili keupuka kuomba kibali mara kwa mara.

Fomu za Usajili na Maombi ya Kibali zinapatika kwenye tovuti ya Mamlaka: [www.tcaa.go.tz](http://www.tcaa.go.tz)

**Usafiri wa Anga Salama na Wenye Tija. Ni Wajibu Wetu. Kwa Kushirikiana na Wadau**

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WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## We ought to heighten receptivity to foreign business ventures and ideas

UNEVENTFUL incidents in the media which scarcely attract wide public attention can help to enable one to figure out what is happening 'behind the curtain', when people near and far discuss what they are doing and where Tanzania comes into it.

At this time when the country is gearing towards late October's General Election, it is an opportune moment to reflect on what others expect, signalled usually by visits either by national leaders or business delegations. We have seen a number of such delegations at the top level in the past few years.

The interest they express on Tanzania isn't of a passing sort, but it is not clear how far we have reciprocated in that area, but there are quite some interesting developments in various sectors.

All the same, the breadth of initiatives or show of interest and the number of brokered initiatives - so to speak - don't quite match, as the interest outstrips the take up.

One reason is that those seeking opportunities don't quite target adding capital to what we are doing, via our enterprises, or always start new initiatives.

What they prefer most is obtaining control of something that is already up and running, with a clear imprint on the ground and plenty of goodwill in the market or among the public.

Such an outfit then becomes the 'walking stick' for a major company to penetrate an economy, widen its activities by expanding on where the local company had already reached.

At times, there are newly opened areas as in mobile phones at the turn of the century where venture groups had to be formed, not any takeovers.

The pursuit of investment opportunities in world trade can be a little complicated, as usually it is seen that a rich country seeks sources of raw materials or new markets in a poor

country, but these days the situation is not quite like that.

There are all sorts of markets around the world where any company can compete, mostly depending on a number of preliminary assurances like low operational costs and a positive trajectory of consumer expectations. Stability is another factor as chaos disrupts production, profitability.

That is why the recent visit to Zanzibar by a business delegation from Brazil is something of a wake-up call, as the South American country has been around for decades looking for investment opportunities.

One project they were pursuing for years was Rufiji hydropower, working with the Rufiji Basin Development Authority (RUBADA).

However, some areas of concern were multipronged, and the project did not include national power utility firm TANESCO as the principal interlocutor in that venture, which faced plenty of obstacles. The project was ultimately taken up in a different format, likely with a different cost structure as well, in recent years.

The Tanzania Oil and Gas Service Providers leadership hosted a Brazilian business delegation in Zanzibar recently to explore market opportunities. This was after a Zanzibar trade mission to Brazil explored trade outlets, sought out investors interested to set foot in Zanzibar to promote tourism linkages, infrastructure, cargo business, fishing and exotic commodities.

The most recent delegation was particularly interested in airfreight and passenger services between Zanzibar and Brazil, a major reason apparently being that there are tourist parallels between the two parties - like the coastline, the music culture, and others besides.

There is likely to be something useful in that direction, and it should be easy to streamline into the policy format as a whole for the benefit of all parties concerned.

## Despite hiccups, run-up to October General Election off to a good start

VARIOUS political parties have already set foot in what is a 60-day journey to the General Election on October 28, with rallies to introduce their flag-bearers to voters and setting out the main axes of their policy intentions.

The atmosphere has been fairly calm, with noticeable excitement coming from artistic groups involved in the opening scenes and not commotion relating to political disputes. That is a positive environment, though there are lingering doubts as to whether the calm atmosphere will be sustained.

One hiccup was the sending away of a press team from the state-run television channel from an inaugural rally of the main opposition party.

As happened, the reason cited was that the channel wasn't airing the proceedings directly and instead it was interrupting them to host discussion, apparently if the point raised was unbearably sharp to some ears.

As could have been expected, it was the CCM inaugural event - this time held in the inland capital of Dodoma - that attracted the largest number of people as well as hefty batches of artist groups.

It was easy to see how the landscape has changed from the past, where opposition parties were capable of putting up some solid showing in the first stages of campaigns and more or less continuously. This time the opening stages were somewhat unbalanced, but that is not necessarily to suggest that there is little steam in their motion.

As has also often happened, there were completely unexpected faces as the country geared towards the polls, where one candidate was away for medical attention after a disturbing incident in the course of his

parliamentary activities.

This one braved what appeared to be solid inclination to dissuade him from coming back and in that regard alone he stands out as a remarkable figure, and the public throng to hear him.

Then there is another candidate whom the ruling party had to experience a long balancing act before deciding their position on his membership, while he juts would not beg for forgiveness.

Despite all that, political activity has for strategic reasons been somewhat stymied in the past five years, a reflection of a school of thought about how active multiparty politics augurs for development - including that the start of the campaigns shows that the political atmosphere is still vibrant.

The five-year stoppage has obviously had a toll on what can be said to be the preparedness and even routine of public speaking and setting out the agenda, but not all that much is actually damaged.

The agenda may appear rather hasty, only recently penned, but it will likely attract significant interest of voters, as the issues raised concern them - often urgently.

Not much has been heard of election monitoring this time around, with university-based organisations devoted to election studies hardly being heard, and with only sporadic gatherings discussing the political situation in the past few years.

It is possible that three months or restrained public activity on account of Covid-19 fears constituted another depressing input to preparing for the polls.

Still, even this ability to call campaign rallies to prepare for the voting must surprise most of the world, this constituting another reason to be grateful for these blessings.

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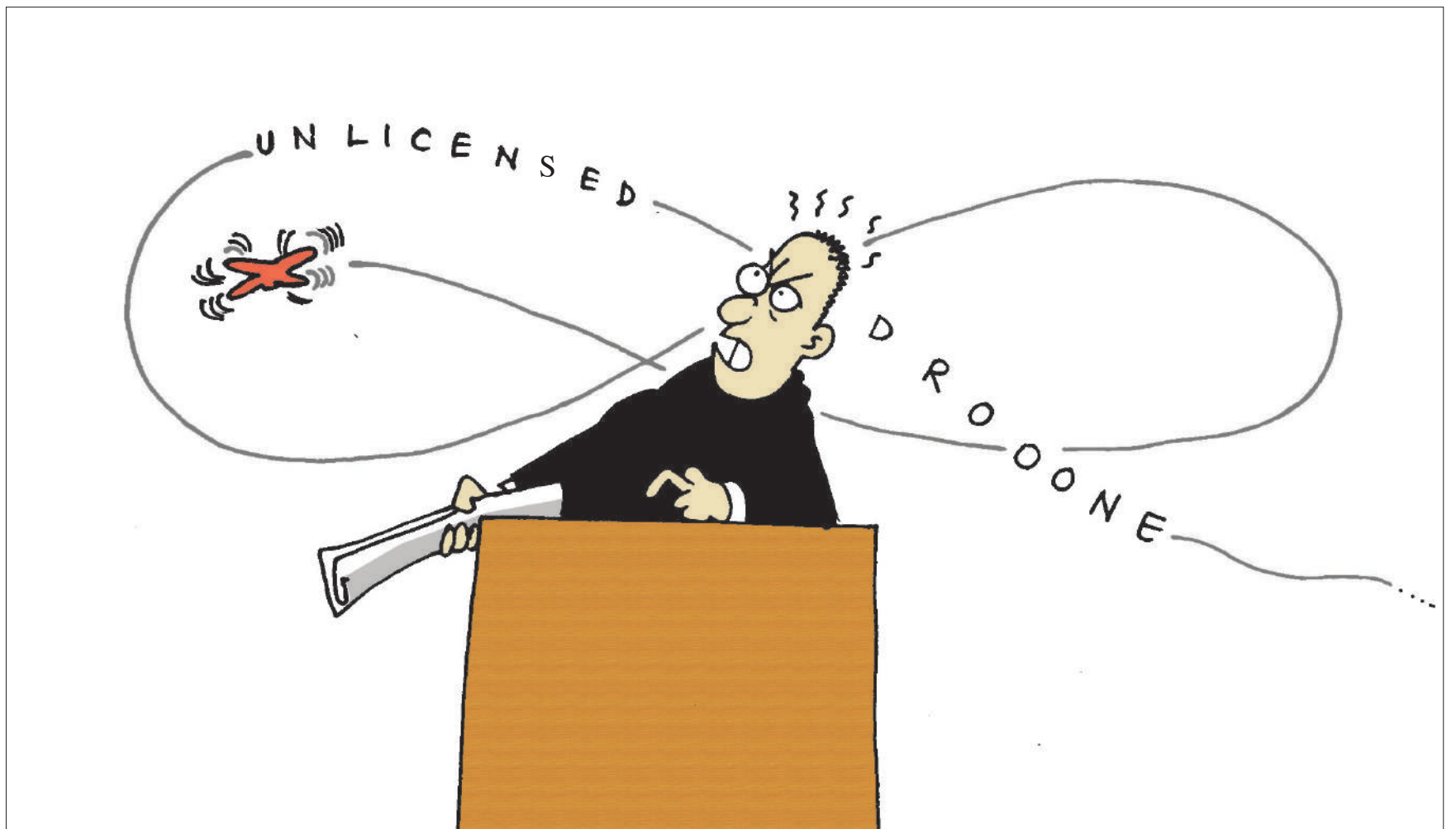
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## Climate breakdown 'intensifies gender-based violence'

By Orthalia Kunene

GLOBAL warming isn't simply going to destroy our communities - it is also going to be a serious intensifier of violence against women and girls.

I am a feminist, an African feminist to be exact. African feminism acknowledges the continent's historical colonial realities. Accordingly, our battle is two-fold: to dismantle patriarchal capitalism and to dismantle neoliberalism.

I grew up in an environment that normalised the oppression of women. I only realised later in life that I, like so many black women in my country, fell into the demographic that unfortunately suffers the most - because the reality is that global capitalism has placed women, especially black women, at the bottom of the economic system.

Climate breakdown is a direct product of the patriarchal capitalist economic model, which is built on the destruction and exploitation of human and natural resources. The oppression of women through control of women's bodies, minds and labour is part and parcel of this system.

As Africa still bears the horrifying scars of gender-based violence, alongside Covid-19, climate change has placed African women in the eye of the storm.

Gender-based violence continues to dominate the news. It seems difficult to add the weight of forced marriage and climate change to the daily horrors of violence against women and girls.

When I was growing up, child brides were a norm in my community. It was a tradition for older men to marry young girls. Often the phrase "women mature faster than men" was used to justify the tradition.

This practice involves a man abducting a girl or young woman for the purposes of conducting a forced marriage. It is something that happened to my friend. She was only 12 years old when she got married against her will.

She told me that she was sent to get married "because of a shortage of food in the house". Her parents used to have a small piece of land, but floods wiped out their harvest.

My friend tried to negotiate, to tell her parents that she wasn't ready, but they told her that it had to be done because it would save the family from poverty.

As climate breakdown intensifies, more girls are being married young. Many families are struggling to afford to feed and house their own children.

Climate change is recognised by researchers as a serious intensifier of gender-based violence. More especially in Africa, climate change-induced crises have also been shown to worsen



domestic violence, whether in relation to sexual and reproductive health, or discrimination against indigenous women.

As environmental degradation and stress on ecosystems increase, that, in turn, creates scarcity and stress on people. Human trafficking rises in areas where the natural environment is also under stress.

A study by the charity Save the Children showed that 420 million children - nearly one-fifth of children worldwide - live in conflict areas. Many millions of these are girls at risk of exploitation and human trafficking. Climate change exacerbates many of these conflicts.

Brides of the Sun, an independent investigative project funded by the European Journalism Centre, reports that after Cyclone Idai hit Malawi in March last year, some 1.5 million girls were put at risk of getting married before adulthood owing to climate change.

A World Meteorological Organisation report recognised Cyclone Idai as an impact of climate change. In Malawi, after the cyclone, there was an alarming increase in child brides recorded. While marriage before age 18 was outlawed in Malawi last year, nearly 50 per cent of girls in the country got married earlier.

This is simply a survival strategy for most families: to get rid of their young girls through early marriage to relieve the pressure on families, and also to generate income.

This is a lived reality for the majority of young women in the global south. Malawi and South Africa are not the only places where minors are being married against their will to help their families survive climate disasters.

In Ethiopia and South Sudan young girls are also being sold off into marriage during extreme droughts - in exchange for cattle.

Violence against women is not

limited to developing countries. Research conducted in one developed country into natural disasters such as bushfires and droughts found that they have increased the risk of domestic violence in rural regions.

One of the reasons for this is the social and psychological pressure arising from the loss of income resulting from the growing impact of climate change on the agricultural sector.

Currently, Africa's rate of sexual violence is among the highest in the world. Women, girls and gender-non-conforming people were among the hardest hit in the climate change fallout.

These and other groups are facing increased sexual violence, unsafe labour and an inability to reach medical centres.

We are living in times where sexual violence is used as a weapon of war against women and young girls, especially when climate-related disasters occur.

Let's just look at what has been happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo, largely as a result of civil war. Women and girls were held as sexual slaves for up to 18 months, often subjected to repeated rape by multiple men.

Girls as young as 12 years meanwhile suffered physical injury and illness, including HIV, because of rape, as well as the loss of livelihoods and access to education. This is a clear indication of what would soon be our lived reality globally because of climate change.

Climate action is an essential component in the ongoing fight to eliminate violence against women and girls. We need greater involvement of women in climate action, by putting an emphasis on gender exclusivity in the policymaking process.

Unfortunately the best policy ideas in the world are not worth much if we don't have activists fighting for change.

Women need to play a more critical role not only in educating communities about climate change but also in holding governments and companies accountable, in response to the climate crisis, by organising community awareness campaigns, protests, marches and pickets.

When women have secure rights and land access, they utilise resources sustainably. Also having women involved in climate change mitigation will help guarantee enough clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter for future generations.

We need to ensure female involvement, including the involvement of indigenous women and grassroots groups, in climate change negotiations and resource management.

We need to rally behind policies that recognise gender-sensitive impacts, provide women with access to resources, and give them opportunities to participate in mitigation and adaptation processes.

Our community campaigns ensure that communities understand why it is important to make key decision-makers understand how environmental degradation and climate change affect women and men differently.

We believe in including women in the creation of policies and strategies around environmental protection, including disaster response; building resilience; securing land and inheritance rights, food, and resources; and ending poverty.

Patriarchal capitalism has undeniably brought us climate change inequalities and injustices. The fight against climate change should, therefore, be an anti-capitalist fight - and a feminist one, for that matter.

• *Orthalia Kunene is a South African writer and grass-roots activist in her community with Extinction Rebellion (XR) South Africa.*



BY BEATRICE PHILEMON

# Need to have areas for village land forest reserves

**E**STABLISHING village land forest reserves (VLFRs) covering unreserved forests on village lands will help local authorities reduce dependence on government support, broaden rural development projects, improve livelihoods and control effects of climate change.

To start with, Tanzania forest conservation groups (TFCG) in collaboration with the community forest conservation network (MJUMITA) have embarked on a new campaign for forest reserves in all villages being mapped out in three zones. This proposal is meant to mobilize villagers being allocated forest reserve within their village land, thus take full ownership and management as well as formalizing that reserve in a legal capacity.

The groups initiated this campaign after discovering that 17.6m hectares of unreserved forests, or about 80 per cent of around 22m hectares of forest cover located in village lands countrywide that remains unreserved or formalized, resulting in deforestation.

Research conducted by the National Resource Monitoring and Assessment in Tanzania Mainland (NAFORMA) indicates that more than 460,000 hectares of forest cover are cleared every year, mostly in unreserved forest cover within village land areas. That implies emissions of over 44m tones of carbon dioxide annually, not irrelevant to global climate trends.

The unreserved forests are exposed to illegal and unsustainable harvesting, thus forest degradation and loss of government revenues as forests size decrease.

MJUMITA facilitator Shabani Hamisi noted at the just-ended media training for advocating the forest reserves for all villages campaign, to be conducted in three zones.

The main goal is to help villagers allocate areas for village land forest reserves, reserve about 17.6m hectares and be gazetted as forest reserves,



**MJUMITA facilitator Shabani Hamisi trains journalists for advocating the 'forest reserves for all villages' campaign to be conducted in three zones countrywide.**

help villages benefit from what they conserve, thus assisting the government in controlling harvesting of forest products in currently unreserved areas, as provided for in section 49 (4) (a) of the Forest Act No.14 of 2002.

Activists want forests to be prioritised, well budgeted for forest conservation and helping villagers to formalize these resources.

Shifting agriculture is central to deforestation as each year more than 469,000 hectares of forest are cleared, mostly in unreserved forests falling within village land.

The campaign will be conducted in the southern highlands zone, the northern

zone and the southern zone in a two years project, for 'Forest Justice in Tanzania,' being supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

The campaign theme is "Every Village with forest resources on its land has a right to establish and sustainably manage its own Village Land Forest Reserve."

The training was offered to journalists to generate understand the challenges and achievements of participatory forest management (PFM), plus setting in motion the new campaign for forest reserves in most villages.

"During the on-going campaign MJUMITA in collabo-

ration with TFCG mobilize villagers to demand being allocated special areas for village land forest reserves within their village land that in turn will be gazetted as forest reserves.

Stakeholders' experience shows that the community based forest management approach, integrated with forest-based enterprises, provide incentives for communities to manage forests on village land sustainably, enhancing rural development.

"Today we have begun training journalists on participatory forest management and the campaign, such that they can help candidates with

the various political parties to work on encouraging citizens and stakeholders to conserve forests on village land.

During the next fifth phase term of office, 2020 - 2025 the ruling party should insist on the implementing these recommendations by incorporating them into rural development plans and strategies.

"As stakeholders engaged in forests have recommended, the government to establish and maintain a favorable policy environment for participatory forest management" he says.

Strategies for developing new or revision of forest management instruments such as the forest policy, legislation and related regulations should consider the rights and responsibilities of villagers to manage forests in village lands.

The government should maintain policy statements number 5 and 6 of the Forest Policy 1998, and provisions of sections 32 to 41 and sections 65 (3), 78 (3) and 97 (1) (b) of the Forest Act number 14 of 2002, in the new/ revised Forest Policy and related legislation, and remove all policy barriers to CBFM provided by GN417, the activist underlined.

Villages should continue to have legal rights to prepare and implement sustainable harvesting plans, including rights to decide the prices and buyers of forest products from their Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs).

The government should develop a national CBFM strategy to enable every village with forest resources on its land to establish such a reserve.

This strategy should support the development of land use planning and facilitate the provision of land tenure rights to all citizens, and it should be incorporated into national development plans and budgets for implementation, he emphasized.

The government should put in place specific funding mechanisms

for implementing Community Based Forest Management.

These may include continuous support of the National Forest Fund (TaFF), encouraging villages with active sustainable forest trade to invest on scaling up CBFM to neighboring villages, encouraging financial institutions to invest on VLFRs and working closely with the international climate fund to mobilize financial resources for CBFM.

The Forestry and Bee-keeping Division (FBD) in collaboration with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) should set standards for forest products countrywide, the initiative suggests.

This will help to control illegal and unsustainable harvesting especially in unreserved forest on village land. The government need also to establish an independent system for monitoring forest trade, he pursued.

The government should ban harvesting of forest products in unreserved areas as provided by section 49 (4) (a) of the Forest Act No. 14 of 2002 and it should focus on enabling villages to develop sustainable management and harvesting plans in those areas.

"To encourage sustainable harvesting in village forests, the Government should set a specific arrangement for public construction projects which require wood, to obtain them from sustainable sources such as the reserves," he urged

On his part, the MJUMITA communications and advocacy officer, Revocatus Njau noted that the government needs to empower forestry officers to reach areas where there are patches of forest.

It should empower such officers as some of the forests are in marginally accessible areas, up to 70km or 80km from district council head offices, he added.

BY MOHAMED M DIATTA

# Côte d'Ivoire and the 'third-term' virus

**D**evelopments over recent months in Côte d'Ivoire point to a likely rise in tensions around the presidential polls scheduled for 31 October. Events in early August marked by protests, violence and death confirm this and are reminiscent of the 2000 and 2010/2011 post-election crises.

To prevent instability, regional bodies such as the African Union (AU) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should act against opportunistic constitutional amendments or interpretations aimed at prolonging presidential mandates.

The first protests erupted in response to former president Laurent Gbagbo's name being removed from the voters roll. Young supporters of Gbagbo's Popular Ivorian Front (FPI) protested in front of the electoral commission's offices. More protests followed in Abidjan and other parts of the country against President Alassane Ouattara's decision to run for a controversial third term.

On 5 March Ouattara, 78, had announced that he wouldn't run for a third term, and wanted to 'transfer power to a young generation.' The ruling Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP) nominated prime minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly as its candidate. But he died on 8 July, and RHDP cadres almost unanimously called for Ouattara to stand for a third term.

The AU should take earlier action against opportunistic constitutional amendments or interpretations

Ouattara then made an about-turn and declared he would contest the October presidential elections. The RHDP says his candidacy will preserve peace and stability in the country. Although the constitution sets a two-term limit for the president, the RHDP claims that Ouattara can run for a third term under the new constitution, passed on 8 November 2016.

It argues that Ouattara's second term began under the Second Republic, governed by the 2000 constitution, whereas this new term would be under the Third Republic, as per the November 2016 constitution. By that logic, Ouattara could remain in



power until 2030.

The opposition has dismissed the argument as spurious. It says a third term for Ouattara is unconstitutional and would go against the letter and spirit of the constitution, as well as the democratic principle of change in power.

Many African leaders have amended their constitutions to remove a prohibition on a third term. Some have succeeded, while others such as former Burkina Faso president Blaise Compaoré failed and lost power.

Supporters of Condé and Ouattara claim the new constitution resets the counter for presidential terms

More recently, Guinea's President Alpha Condé, aged 82 - in a tense political climate marked by protests and violence - organised a constitutional referendum to allow him to run for a third term. Condé has since been nominated by the ruling Rally of the Guinean People as its candidate for Guinea's presidential election, also set for October.

Condé's supporters rely on the same argument as those of Ouattara, claiming that the new constitution resets the counter for presidential terms to zero. Former Burundian president, the late Pierre Nkurunziza, used similar reasoning to legalise and legitimise his candidacy for the 2015 presidential election.

The virus of 'a third term at all costs' poses a serious risk to democratic norms and practices in Africa, especially when heads of state use subterfuge to torpedo or interpret constitutions

contrary to the principle of a (peaceful) change of power. The risk is instability and the institutional tango that results from the abuse of power by those who refuse to vacate their offices.

At an ECOWAS meeting on Mali's military takeover, Guinea-Bissau's President Umaro Sissoco Embaló reportedly stated that while Mali's military coup should be condemned, third terms should also be deemed coups and be rejected.

The RHDP is adamant that Ouattara's candidacy will pre-

serve peace and stability in the country

The RHDP likely chose Ouattara to replace Gon Coulibaly after another political heavyweight, former president Henri Konan Bédié, 86, was nominated as the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire's (PDCI) presidential candidate. The RHDP seemingly believes only Ouattara has the stature to compete against Bédié or another candidate that a coalition of opposition parties could support in a possible second round of voting.

In a recent interview, Bédié said the opposition had made an electoral deal that would see them backing a single candidate in a second round against the RHDP, should that scenario play out. This agreement includes Bédié's PDCI and Gbagbo's FPI, and movements led by former prime minister and national assembly speaker Guillaume Soro and former minister and youth leader Charles Blé Goudé.

Gbagbo and Blé Goudé have both been acquitted of crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court and want to return to Côte d'Ivoire. The government says it's reviewing their passport applications. Former first lady Simone Gbagbo has urged Ouattara to allow Gbagbo back, saying that keeping him away from his native land wouldn't further peace and reconciliation.

Meanwhile Gbagbo, Blé Goudé and Soro have each been sentenced by Ivorian courts to 20 years in prison for various crimes. All three have thus been removed from the voters roll, with the obvious implication that they cannot contest the October 2020 polls. None of this bodes well for the country's stability as elections approach.

The Ivorian political class must agree on certain rules, and commit to respecting them for the preservation of peace in the country. They also need to work towards true reconciliation so that future generations don't inherit a fractured society.

Regional bodies such as ECOWAS and the AU should work harder to ensure that constitutions aren't tampered with to the detriment of democracy. If these bodies reject unconstitutional changes of government, the same should apply to opportunistic constitutional amendments or interpretations.



## UNITED NATIONS

When two recent staff surveys, one in Geneva and the other in New York, revealed widespread racism at the United Nations, it triggered the obvious question: why shouldn't the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) probe these charges?

Currently, the UN has a veritable army of over 80 independent experts, described as "Special Rapporteurs" appointed by the HRC and mandated to undertake "fact-finding missions" to investigate human rights abuses worldwide.

The litany of abuses include torture, arbitrary detentions, involuntary disappearances, contemporary forms of slavery, and most importantly, "racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance."

Do revelations at the UN, warrant a Special Rapporteur to probe racism in international organizations? Or shouldn't the Human Rights Council widen the mandate of the existing Special Rapporteur to include the UN?

Louis Charbonneau, United Nations Director at Human Rights Watch (HRW), told IPS the results of the UN staff survey are extremely worrying.

"The UN leadership should practice what it preaches and work to end racism across the UN system," he said.

He pointed out that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has spoken out against racism in the U.S. and around the world.

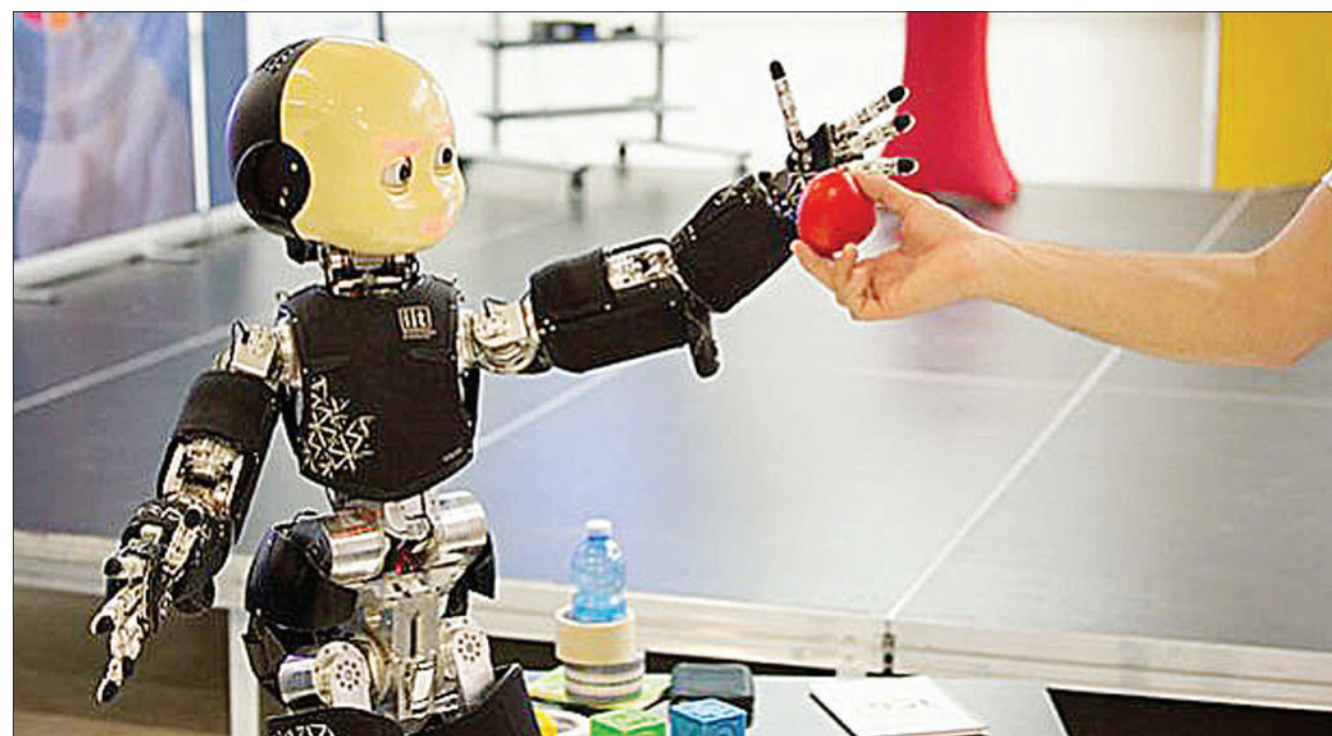
"He should continue to work on ensuring that the UN itself is a solution to – not part of – the problem."

As for the idea of a new special rapporteur, Charbonneau argued, there's a special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism – and looking at racism in the UN system is certainly something that could fall within that mandate.

"If member states feel a new position would be useful to investigate racism in international organizations and come up with recommendations to deal with the problem, we would certainly not object. Anything that helps combat racism is a good thing," he declared.

Citing his personal experiences in overseas peacekeeping operations, Roderic Grigson, a former Peace Keeping Officer and a twelve-year veteran of

## Racism at the UN: Practise what you preach



An independent UN human rights expert is calling for greater scrutiny of emerging digital technologies which she said are being used to uphold racial inequality, discrimination and intolerance. So, why skip scrutiny of the United Nations? File photo

the UN, told IPS: "When I arrived in Ismailia, which was where the UN Emergency Force (UNEF II HQ) was located, the UN compound was a mixture of both civilian and military staff. The international civilians, like me who came from overseas, were treated very differently to the local Egyptian staff in many ways".

For example, he said, the locals who were disparagingly called 'gyppos' were not allowed into the international mess (club) in the compound unless they were cooks, waiters or barmen.

"If I wanted to bring a local into the bar for a meal – even if it was someone who worked right next to me during the day – I would be refused entry", said Grigson, author of the 'Sacred Tears' trilogy: a historical fiction set during the civil war in Sri Lanka.

This attitude towards the locals, he noted, "extended across all the UN peacekeeping operations I visited during my time in the Middle East – whether in Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, or Cy-

prus, it did not matter."

"The International UN staff in all the UN missions treated the locals like lackeys. And they hated us for it. And I felt very uncomfortable working in this environment," he said.

"Even though I was considered an 'international' having been recruited in New York, I was from Sri Lanka and felt I was a 'second class' international given the European clique that was predominant at the time".

Having grown up in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), which was once a British colony, "I had experienced first-hand what it felt like to be treated as one of the colonial masters on the island".

"My grandfather who was Scottish, lived with us. He worked in a senior management position in the British colonial administration of the island. He had a position of privilege given his race and colour which extended down to his family. Working for the UN felt exactly like that," Grigson declared.

Somar Wijayadasa who worked in multiple UN agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told IPS the UN is awakening to the issue of "racism" after 75 long years.

Racial discrimination (so discreet & subtle) was always there – especially in UN's Human Resources Departments, headed mostly by white folks, who were also heads of departments and organizations.

This was on top of the rampant nepotism where unqualified and incompetent relatives of world politicians of all colors were appointed to professional P-level positions.

"That is worse than racial discrimination," said Wijayadasa who also served with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and was Representative of UNAIDS from 1995 to 2000.

Wijayadasa also said: "it's high time the UN Human Rights

Council appointed a Special Rapporteur to investigate charges of racism at the UN, and more importantly, for the UN to provide iron-clad protection to whistle blowers who complain about racial discrimination in their offices – and not be punished for speaking out."

Asked about the UN's role in probing racial discrimination, Grigson said: "Yes, I think the UN should investigate these charges, but I also think that the UN is just a microcosm of what takes place in individual countries around the world."

He said racism begins at home, and by calling out those who indulge in it, however famous or well-connected they might be, is the place to start.

The history of racist ideas can be traced back to those European societies that wanted to rule the world and used slaves to grow their wealth and influence, he noted.

"Slavery was only abolished in the world between 150-200 years ago which means that we are only three or four generations away from the time when people were used as chattels."

"We saw that happen in Ceylon, and here in Australia, where I live. But what I don't want to see is an international organization like the UN, which does so much good around the world, become elitist and superior as they have already become to some extent, in the execution of their mandate," he declared.

Meanwhile, in a message to UN staff on August 27, the Office of Human Resources and the Office of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Service, said a "United Nations Survey on Racism" was sent on August 19 to all staff members, as part of the Organization's campaign of dialogue and action to eradicate racism and promote dignity within the United Na-

tions.

"The survey has been taken offline following a number of legitimate concerns raised by staff on some of the content of the survey and we regret any pain and distress it has caused. We fully understand their frustration and acknowledge the need to further approach the issue of race and ethnic identity with greater sensitivity and awareness."

In its original survey, the UN asked staffers to identify themselves either as "black, brown, white, mixed/multi-racial, and any other". But the most offensive of the categories listed in the survey was "yellow" – a longstanding Western racist description of Asians, including Japanese, Chinese and Koreans.

The new message said: "Taking into account the genuine concerns expressed by staff, we are reviewing the content of the survey and will communicate when the survey will be re-launched."

"We take this opportunity to thank staff for their frank feedback as part of a deep and open discussion on the issue of racism and racial discrimination in the United Nations."

Responding to a question, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters August 27: "Racism is something that needs to be addressed in every society, whether in the United States, whether... in any country, anywhere around the world, it is an issue, and within organizations, including our own."

What is important, he said, "is that racism be fully investigated and that people need to also be able to express themselves peacefully, and whether that is through collective action, as we've seen through sports figures, or other ways, that is their right."

People have a right to express themselves when they feel strongly about injustice, he declared.

But we're seeing the issue of racism come up again and again in many, many countries, and this is something that... needs to be an open and frank dialogue on addressing, not only the issue of racism but all the inequalities and injustices that flow from that everywhere, Dujarric declared.

Agencies

By Robert Roy Britt

Spikes in pollution caused by a federal relaxation of air quality standards in March led to increases in Covid-19 deaths in the most industrialised areas of the United States, new research suggests.

Meanwhile, several other recent studies reveal that people who live in the most polluted areas are more likely to contract Covid-19 when exposed to the coronavirus, and then are more likely to suffer severe symptoms and die from the disease.

The revelations, which many scientists have been expecting since air pollution is known to exacerbate respiratory diseases, are based on early pandemic data and studies that mostly have not yet gone through peer review by other scientists.

They come while the White House worked to roll back numerous clean-air regulations and as air pollution – which was declining for decades – was surging back.

Because many of the nation's worst polluters are concentrated in lower-income areas with high proportions of people of colour, air pollution and any relaxation of air quality standards have a disproportionately negative impact on health in general and with Covid-19 specifically – for populations that are already suffering systemic barriers to good health.

"Even absent the pandemic, rolling back regulations will have a detrimental effect to public health," says Francesca Dominici, PhD, a professor of biostatistics, population and data science at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

"And now with a pandemic that we know affects our lungs, this is an irresponsible act" that will "further increase health and environmental injustice," she adds.

### Exacerbating Covid-19

It's well established that long-term exposure to air pollution harms lung function and has many other negative health effects. Because Covid-19 is a respiratory disease, scientists expected that pollution would make people more susceptible to catching the disease and then worsen its outcomes. The data are now rolling in.

## A surprise surge in air pollution may be causing more coronavirus complications



People who have lived for decades in heavily polluted US counties are 8 per cent more likely to die from Covid-19 than people in the least-polluted counties, Dominici and her colleagues concluded in a study earlier this year that has not yet been published in a scientific journal.

The research, reported previously by some news outlets, accounted for socio-economic and behavioural variables and other factors.

A similar study in the Netherlands, published in May, found that the risk of death from Covid-19 was 16 per cent higher for people living amid the worst pollution. A study in Italy found a similar connection.

Separately, Dominici and her team are in the process of reviewing all studies by various research groups linking exposure to heavy air pollution with coronavirus spreadability or Covid-19 outcomes.

Her preliminary take, she says, is that people who have had long-term exposure to air pollution are not just more likely to die from Covid-19 but also more easily infected by the coronavirus that causes it.

And even short-term increases in air pollution can raise the spreadability of the virus and the severity of the illness. "There is enough scientific evidence that makes these links at the very least plausible," Dominici says.

### Lax regulation leads quickly to Covid-19 deaths

On March 26, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced that it would not enforce air pollution standards during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Claudia Persico, PhD, an assistant professor at American University who studies environmental policy, inequality and health policy, wondered if that decision

would impact on emissions – and the pandemic.

So Persico and her colleague Kathryn Johnson examined data from more than 21,000 industrial sites around the United States, all categorised as emitting toxic pollutants. These include factories, power plants and mining facilities. They are concentrated near large population centres, and two-thirds of Americans live within five kilometres of one.

The study, which has not yet been published by a scientific journal, found that starting on exactly March 26, pollution from many of these sites spiked and remained higher through the study period, ending April 25, compared to before March 26.

"While we might believe that the Covid-19 pandemic lowered pollution everywhere, that in fact has not been true, and in some places pollution increased substantially because of this rollback," Persico

says, adding: "This suggests that polluters respond to the absence of regulatory enforcement by potentially increasing their pollution, on average."

Notably, in counties with the highest number of heavy polluters – where pollution surged the most – daily cases of Covid-19 spiked by 38.8 per cent, and deaths rose 19.1 per cent. The death spike was 21.6 per cent in counties where Black people constitute a majority of the population, and about 5 per cent counties that are predominantly white.

"This increase in pollution actually contributed to a worsening of the pandemic," Persico said on July 15 in a webinar organised by the American Lung Association.

The increase in the number of deaths could be attributed in part to long-term exposure to pollution and the harmful effects it has on a person's respiratory system, Persico says by email.

But she added that she was "fairly confident of a direct connection" between the spikes in pollution starting March 26 and subsequent Covid-19 deaths.

That's because the study established cause-and-effect by analysing Covid-19 data before and after March 26, then comparing what happened in counties with the highest number of polluting sites to a control group of counties with fewer such sites. That allowed the researchers to account for differences in demographics, stay-at-home orders, and other pandemic factors and trends.

### Bad air was already deadly

Dirty air is responsible for more than 100,000 premature deaths in the US every year, researchers reported last year in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It is known to reduce lung func-

tion, cause heart attacks and strokes as well as aggravate asthma, among other ills, according to the EPA.

Long-term exposure to fine particulate matter, the soot and grit that is one type of outdoor air pollution, is "a major contributor to cardiovascular disease and deaths", scientists concluded in a global study in May whose findings were published in Lancet Planetary Health journal.

While the US has lower pollution levels than many countries in the study, "there is substantial evidence that these (US) levels still contribute to increases in cardiovascular disease and death," study leader Perry Hystad, PhD, an environmental epidemiologist at Oregon State University, says by email.

Other research has found that air pollution has a negative effect on everything from a pregnant woman's placenta to cognitive development in children. Research last year found that women were 16 per cent more likely to have a miscarriage following even short-term exposure to heavy air pollution.

Averaged out across the entire global population, air pollution robs the world's people of 2.9 years of life expectancy versus 2.2 years for tobacco smoking, researchers concluded earlier this year in the journal Cardiovascular Research.

"Air pollution is a leading cause of premature mortality and loss of life expectancy, in particular through cardiovascular diseases," says Thomas Münzel, director of the Cardiology Center at the University Medical Center in Mainz, Germany, and a co-author of the paper.

### How air pollution worsens Covid-19

Because air pollution causes cardiovascular and lung diseases, Münzel says that it makes sense that pollution would worsen Covid-19 infections, too, as the new studies show. He explains how: Fine particulate matter, many times smaller than the diameter of human hair and invisible to us, penetrates deep into the lungs and even the bloodstream.

● A piece originally published in *Elemental*, a Medium publication on health and wellness. Robert Roy Britt is a science and health journalist.





# New technique used in mapping malaria in Africa's climate future

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**M**ALARIA hits hard on the African continent, home to 93 percent of the world's 228 million cases in 2018 and 94 percent of its fatalities.

What scientists at the universities of Leeds and Lincoln in the UK want to know is how Africans might be affected in the climate change future, because climate - heat, humidity, rainfall - is critical to how the mosquito-borne disease is transmitted.

So they developed a new model to better map where outbreaks are likely, one

they say more accurately accounts for water and moisture, and its evaporation, infiltration and flow through rivers. Their study, published in Nature Communications, highlights how river corridors serve as "hot spots" of malaria transmission.

The results point to some changes in where malaria might be observed in the future, despite the public health gains of the past.

Botswana and Mozambique, for example, benefit from more arid conditions that discourage malaria transmission when compared with other Afri-

can regions. Yet that advantage evaporates, too, when considering projections researchers developed while using the new hydrology mapping.

"Conversely, projected decreases in malaria-suitable areas across West Africa are more pronounced," the authors said. "The largest difference is in South Sudan, where the study estimates substantial decreases in malaria suitability in the future."

The Niger and Senegal rivers in Mali and Senegal, and the Webi Juba and Webi Shabeelle rivers in Somalia, are all potential zones for

malaria transmission despite the fact they are outside the geographical zones currently identified as malaria-suitable regions.

The scientists say looking at the rivers and the breeding grounds near them is important because Africa's human populations rely so heavily on its rivers.

"If we are to project the impact of climate change on the geography of malaria transmission, we need to develop more sophisticated ways of representing that envelope of malaria suitability both today and in the future," said lead author Dr Mark Smith.

## Planting 50 billion trees across Africa for wealth creation

BY GLORY MUSHINGE

A Canadian-based organization, working with a team of African citizens, has embarked on a mission to plant 50 billion trees across Africa and beyond.

Tfortrees, a politically independent organisation that promotes sustainable living, and is actively involved in creating sustainable environmental protection solutions, realizing innovative climate protection projects and promoting the use of renewable energy sources, came up with the initiative, in order to reduce the negative impacts humans have had on the environment.

AbdulAziz Quraishi, the organisation's chairman and Chief Executive Officer, says the project will not only help mitigate Global Warming and Climate change, but also abject poverty in the process, as they plan to create about 5 million direct jobs and 50 million indirect jobs, which will change the socio-economic fabric of the continent.

Workers will be offered houses, their children's education with schools and basic health care, thereby creating sustainability for future generations.

"As you may be aware, billions of dollars or Euros go to help Africa, with never reaching the most deserving. Planting trees, anyone can do, but to build a sustainable environment that will help future generations to come is what's needed in Africa," says Quraishi.



### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE (PACKAGE)

Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) an independent Tanzanian non-for-profit organization providing grants and capacity building services to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Tanzania. Our mission is to contribute to sustainable development in Tanzania through civil society strengthening, policy influencing and enhancing a learning culture.

The FCS invites applications from credible, eligible and well-established service providers to express interest to supply suitable Accounting Software capable of supporting Accounting systems for Non-Government / Non-commercial undertaking.

Short listing criteria will include;

- (i) Company Profile and physical location, possession of business licence, tax clearance certificate, certificate of incorporation, business registration, TIN, and VAT Certificate.
- (ii) A minimum of two (4) years' experience in the field and recommendation from, at least (4) three customers.
- (iii) Documented financial capacity, technical competence and ability to deliver good services.

Applications in plain sealed envelopes, clearly showing the title of the tender "Supply of Accounting Package", should be addressed to:

**Chairperson – FCS Procurement Committee,**  
**P.O. Box 7192,**  
**7 Madai Crescent, Ada Estate, Plot 154**  
**Dar es salaam**

Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest shall be 15th, September 2020 at 16.00 and they will be opened on the same date.

The Foundation for Civil Society is not obliged to accept the lowest or any tender.

**Executive Director**  
**Foundation for Civil Society**  
**7 Madai Crescent, Ada Estate, plot 154**  
**P.O Box 7192, Dar es Salaam. Tel:+25522-2664890-2, Fax: +255 22-2664893**  
**E-mail: information@thefoundation.or.tz**



### RE-ADVERTISED

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)/ REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI): PROVISION FOR UNDERGROUND MECHANISED CONTRACT MINING SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The purpose of the EOI/ RFI is to explore the market for underground mining contractors (Mechanised underground mining) with the requisite technical skills, operational knowledge and financial capacity/capability to undertake the Supply of underground mechanised contract mining services, necessary for the development and production of ore from underground to Geita Gold Mine in accordance with the EOI/RFI documents.

The responses to this EOI/RFI will be used to shortlist capable Service Providers that will be invited to respond to the Main Tender for the Supply of underground mechanised contract mining services for Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML). The details and dates for the issue of the Main Tender will be communicated to shortlisted Companies only. It is necessary to respond to this EOI/ RFI in order to be pre-qualified to be considered for the Main Tender.

**Scope of work:**  
**Provision of Service as detailed below:-**

S/N	Reference Number	Projects Description
1	GGME0955	Provision of underground mechanised contract mining services for Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML)

#### Scope

The EOI for the supply of underground mechanised contract mining services is for two UG mines in the GGM complex, Nyankanga UG and Geita Hill UG. The Nyankanga and Geita Hill orebodies will be mined using mechanised mining methods. Development will utilise standard jumbo drilling and bolting for ground support, while any production activity will be based around a variation of long hole open stopping. The current and proposed mining method is a well proven mining technique that does not introduce unknown risks to people, equipment and the environment. The mining method is well proven and adopted in other organisations underground mines operating in Tanzania. The main mining activities will include horizontal development, vertical development, production drilling and blasting, bogging and hauling, and all associated works required as part of the mining cycle.

#### II. SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE PROVISION OF THE RELEVANT SERVICE

The below information forms the minimum requirements in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out:

- SHE (Safety, Health and Environmental) performance
- Supplier due diligence evaluation for responsible sourcing and compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended.
- Technical Capability, performance and previous experience
- Software and innovation employed in the management of similar scopes
- Supplier training and recruitment process
- Supplier financial performance

#### III. GENERAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

The below information is required in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out below:

1. Detailed service provider's information with organization structure, list of manpower with CVs of key personnel, parent company (if applicable), support agencies and other facilities and resources.
2. Details of the service provider's SHE (Safety, Health and Environmental) performance including:
  - Safety Records (FIFR, AIFR, regulatory infractions etc.) for a 3 (three) year period, training and certificates
  - Safety Management Systems (SMS)
3. Details of the service provider's responsible sourcing procedures as well as compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended.
  - **Governance:**
    - i. Operations profile
    - ii. Ownership and Management profile
    - iii. Business integrity
    - iv. Anti-bribery and corruption
  - **Safety, Health and Environmental**
    - i. Operations profile
    - ii. Management systems and training
    - iii. Waste management
    - iv. Compliance and certifications
    - v. Water management
    - vi. Air emissions
    - vii. Business integrity
    - viii. Hazardous substances
  - **Social**
    - i. Code of conduct
    - ii. Forced labour
    - iii. Child labour and young workers
    - iv. Localisation
    - v. Discrimination
    - vi. Freedom of association and collective bargaining
    - vii. Security
    - viii. Harassment and abuse
    - ix. Grievance and remediation
    - x. Supplier management
  - **Provide details on local content regulations, including:**
    - i. Local procurement of goods and services
    - ii. Local employment and training practices

- iii. Details of percentage of managerial and non-managerial positions held by Tanzanian citizens.
- iv. A copy of the latest Local Content Plan and Local Content Performance Report as submitted to the Mining Commission or equivalent information if no prior reports and plans have been submitted.
- v. For privately owned companies, a list of all the owners, their nationality and respective percentage ownership of your organisation.
- vi. For publicly traded companies, a list of all shareholders holding more than 5% with details of their nationality and percentage ownership.

4. Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last 3 (three) years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution covering:
  - i. Previous experience specifically related to underground mechanised mining (With related development rates) including references
  - ii. Experience in Tanzania, East African and developing countries
  - iii. Projects of a similar scale/nature undertaken in the last 5 (five) years with the value of work in United States Dollars (USD)
  - iv. List of all mining fleet assets, complete with SMU hours, condition, life expectancy and ownership status. Indicating capacity to provide underground contract mining services required by the Mine in addition to other current projects
  - v. Maintenance regime and HME engineering capability (Detail to be provided on equipment utilisation, availability, productivity, MTBF, etc.)
  - vi. Typical mining Method Statement

5. Details of the service provider's Software and innovation employed in the management of similar scopes:
  - vii. Software utilised to manage business
  - viii. Innovation initiatives identified as continuous improvement strategies
  - ix. Short term planning proficiency
6. Details of the service provider's Supplier training and recruitment process:
  - x. Workforce training and skills development
  - xi. Selective and targeted recruitment pre-employment processes
7. Service provider's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years.
8. List of policies, procedures and quality assurance practices currently in place for the execution of similar work.
9. Lists of HSE management system, HSE policy and implementation procedures in line with internationally accepted practices.
10. Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable

#### IV. PREQUALIFICATION EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

In evaluating the interested bidders, GGML will consider the following:

1. **Health, Safety and Environment** - Prospective Bidders to give details of their Health, Safety and Environmental performance and management systems.
2. **Local Content** - Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their responsible sourcing procedures as well as compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended.
3. **Capability** - Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their technical skills and operational knowledge for the applicable scope of works along with the approach they will follow to ensure successful completion of the works, based on their previous experience.
4. **Systems and Innovation** - Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their proficiency to manage business processes successfully with applicable systems/software and to prove a culture of innovation and continuous improvement
5. **Sustainability** - Prospective Bidders to give details of their local labour sourcing and training plans as well as details of any commitments to the social development of the area where Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is located.
6. **Financial Capability** - Prospective Bidders to provide details of their financial capability supporting their ability to render the service.
7. **Permits and Certifications** - Prospective Bidders to provide details and evidence of permits and registrations issued by the relevant Government authorities, including OSHAS and any other statutory bodies regulating the related services.

*Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide supply and delivery of various Goods and Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) not later than **0830 A.M 16 September 2020** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.*



By Markham Heid

Almost everyone is familiar with the short-term symptoms of an acute SARS-CoV-2 infection. These include a fever, cough, breathing problems, fatigue, diarrhoea and other flu-like symptoms.

While some doctors have raised alarms about the infection's potential to inflict lasting organ damage, the popular perception of Covid-19 is that a small percentage of patients die and the rest recover.

But as the pandemic has stretched on, experts have begun to recognise that many Covid-19 patients – maybe even a majority – continue to grapple with a range of “post-viral” symptoms.

Some of these patients eventually get all the way back to normal, even if it takes a few weeks or months for that to happen.

But some don't. And for those who have yet to fully recover, there's a growing suspicion that the virus may act as a catalyst for a condition that is commonly, if a bit misleadingly, known as chronic fatigue syndrome.

“Prolonged fatigue as well as brain fog and other persistent symptoms have been reported in a lot of Covid-19 patients,” says John Swartzberg, MD, an infectious disease expert and emeritus professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

He says that these post-viral symptoms are typical of chronic fatigue syndrome, an illness that also goes by the name myalgic encephalomyelitis and is often abbreviated ME/CFS.

“We know that in patients who develop ME/CFS, it's often triggered by a bad viral infection,” he says, adding: “And so there's the thought that SARS-CoV-2 could be a cause.”

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) last month published a report from Italy that found that the bulk of former Covid-19 patients – those who had been hospitalised, discharged, and who no longer tested positive for the infection – continued to grapple with health issues months after their ostensible recovery.

Among the 143 people interviewed for the report, only 18 were symptom-

## Chronic fatigue syndrome may hold key to understanding post-Covid syndrome



free 60 days after their hospital discharge. More than half of the people interviewed said that they still experienced three or more symptoms, among which fatigue was the most common issue cited.

During a recent press conference, Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, talked about the potential long-term effects of Covid-19 – and specifically whether people who develop the illness are at risk for chronic ailments.

Fauci said that many Covid-19 patients report health issues that are “highly suggestive” of ME/CFS, elaborating: “If you look anecdotally, there is no question that there is a considerable number of individuals who have post-viral syndrome that ... can incapacitate them for weeks and weeks following so-called recovery and clearing of the virus.”

He mentioned brain fog, fatigue and problems with concentration as some of the symptoms most often mentioned among recovering Covid-19 patients. Poor sleep, muscle pain, and depressive symptoms are some others.

“This is something we really need to seriously look at. There very well might be ... a post-viral syndrome associated with Covid-19,” he said.

Doctors have long recognised that viral infections can act as catalysts for fatigue, gut issues and other health problems that persist long after the infection itself has gone.

A 1987 report in the Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners sketched the outlines of post-viral syndrome. “The syndrome typically follows an upper respiratory tract infection from which the sufferer fails to make a full recovery,” the author of that report wrote.

The “cardinal symptom” is profound muscle fatigue, but poor memory, lack of concentration, and sleep disturbances are also common characteristics, the report states.

While doctors first identified and documented cases of ME/CFS more than 70 years ago, the disease was until recently considered “psychosomatic”, which some experts use as a polite euphemism for “imagined”.

Fortunately, that has changed. “I think it's now widely accepted that

there is a condition that causes profound and chronic fatigue in patients, and it's not a psychosomatic disease,” UC-Berkeley's Swartzberg says, adding: “It seems to be common, but we don't really know why it happens.”

To this day, few medical schools include ME/CFS in their curriculum, and most doctors and medical professionals are not trained to identify and treat the disease.

“I would say that this is one of the most stigmatised illnesses,” says Leonard Jason, PhD, a professor of clinical psychology and an ME/CFS researcher at DePaul University in Chicago, adding: “There are few experts in this field, and everything about it is controversial.”

Part of the problem, Jason says, is that there is currently no simple blood or lab test for ME/CFS. People who have it are usually diagnosed based on self-reported symptoms, although some recent work at Stanford University has identified potential biomarkers of ME/CFS.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that up to 2.5 million Americans have ME/CFS, but that 90 per cent of those people have not been formally diagnosed.

One thing that experts do know is that ME/CFS often follows a bout of infectious disease. “We know that 80 per cent of ME/CFS cases diagnosed in the past are attributed to some kind of infection, and typically it's a viral infection,” says Oved Amitay, CEO of the nonprofit Solve ME/CFS Initiative.

He says that the Epstein-Barr virus, which causes mononucleosis (mono), is an established ME/CFS trigger. So are some of the older coronaviruses, including SARS and MERS.

Amitay says that, from the very start of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, he and other members of his organisation expected to hear reports of debilitating

fatigue and other ME/CFS symptoms. “Unfortunately, none of this was surprising to us,” he notes.

How many people with Covid-19 could go on to develop ME/CFS? Jason says that some older research suggests that a significant percentage of people who develop viral infections – “We think maybe 10 per cent, but it may be a larger percentage” – still feel ill six months later.

This six-month threshold is usually used to differentiate ME/CFS from the shorter-lived post-viral syndrome. But at this point, and especially when it comes to Covid-19, there are many more questions than answers.

As to what causes post-viral syndrome and ME/CFS, Jason says that there are theories, but no hard-and-fast answers. “Some think that remnants of a virus might still be in a person's system causing problems,” he says.

While normal tests don't reveal the continued presence of a virus, a component of it may still be secreted away in the brain or body, doing harm. “There are others that think the immune system gets revved up and does damage,” notes Jason.

The authors of a paper on post-viral syndrome among Covid-19 patients issued earlier this year point out that the related SARS virus was known to cross the blood-brain barrier and trigger an improper inflammatory reaction that resembled the “disturbances” observed in ME-CFS patients.

They write that inflammation in the brain and hypothalamus could cause short-term symptoms like a fever and also longer-term symptoms like a disturbed sleep-wake cycle, cognitive dysfunction and exhaustion.

Whatever is going wrong, Jason says he believes it's ultimately something to do with the brain: “It's the master organ, and we're doing some work with brain neurons where we're seeing

some signs of dysfunction.”

“We think the immune system has the hit from the infection, and then it does the structural damage to the brain,” he explains, adding that some of his recent work on college students who have had mono and then gone on to develop ME/CFS suggests that certain immune system factors could predict who is at greater risk for the illness. But he is emphatic that a lot more work needs to be done.

As far as treatments go, Jason says most are targeted at specific symptoms – not at relieving or curing the disease: “Sometimes it's just helping people with pain management.”

For those who experience exhaustion following physical activity, there are calibrated “pacing” guidelines that can help them avoid over-exercising themselves and exacerbating their condition. There are also some experimental drugs, though none is yet approved for the treatment of ME/CFS.

The bottom line, Jason says, is that the medical community's interest in post-viral syndrome and ME/CFS has, up until recently, been minuscule – though the novel coronavirus may change that.

“The field of ME/CFS has already changed dramatically in the last few months,” he says, adding: “Previously, there were quite a few people who would raise eyebrows, or patients who were treated pretty poorly.”

“We have to study this now, because we believe this is a situation that will become a crisis if we don't pay attention to it,” he notes, adding: “We know what we know, but there's a lot that we don't.”

• **A piece originally published in Elemental, a Medium publication about health and wellness. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.**

## Karl Marx's teachings give best hope for the UK's beaten-up working class

By Dr Lisa McKenzie

Karl Marx believed that creativity and toil should be equally distributed through society. This would be a good blueprint for broken Britain to follow, as it faces a recession that will hit its poorest hardest.

As summer comes to an end, so does the government's furlough or laying-off scheme and the storm clouds are gathering over the United Kingdom. What comes next will be brutal.

The numbers of redundancies being announced every day can easily pass you by, but we must always remember that there is real misery behind each one. The future is shaping up to look truly bleak, and we have now officially entered into what will be a devastating recession.

Politicians are warning of the hardships to come, as if the last 20 years have been full of wealth and prosperity for all. But, of course, they have not and – with the coronavirus still among us – there is likely to be more misery in the coming winter months.

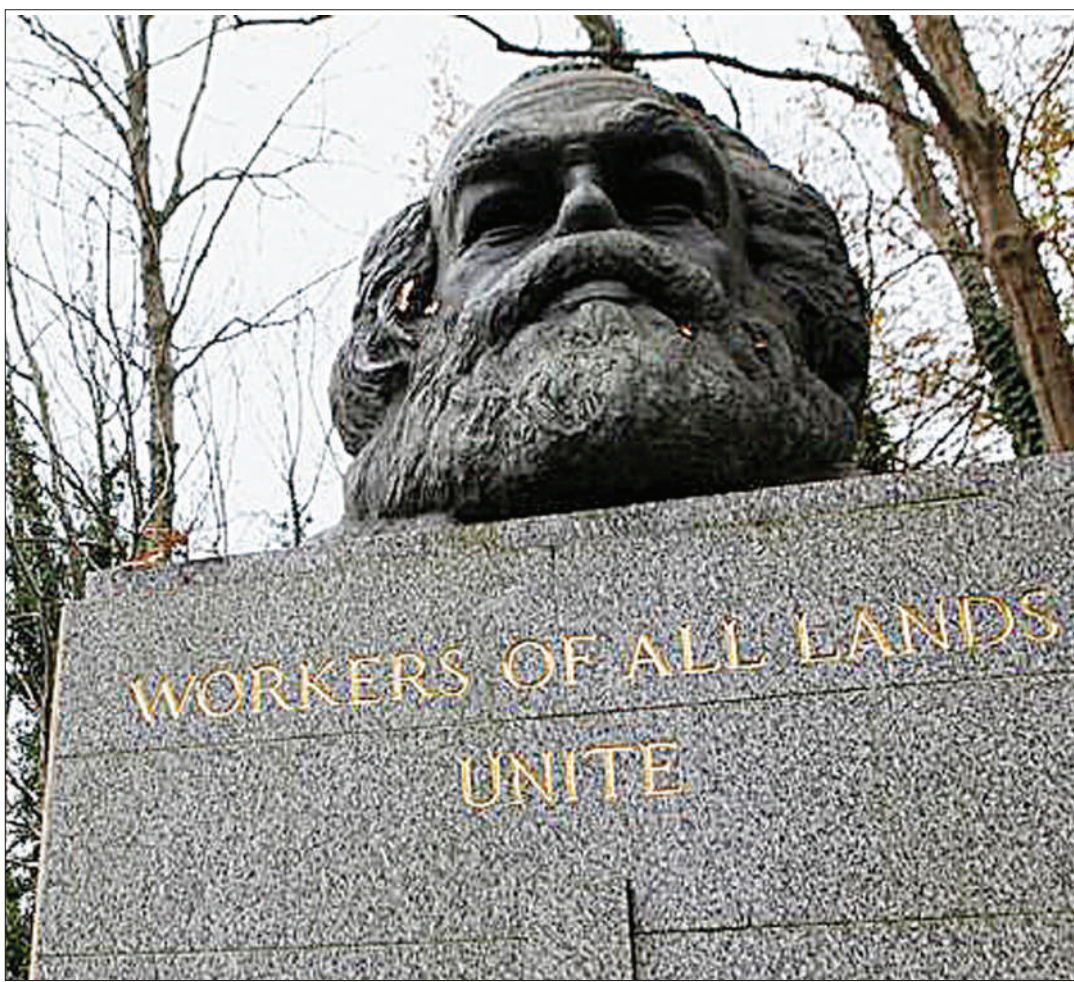
I am an academic, and my calendar starts in September when a new set of students walk through university doors wide-eyed and full of wonder. This September, I am uncertain what those students will be walking into.

Yet it was only a few weeks ago that we waved off our third-year graduates to a future that is offering very little, while those in their 20s and 30s are being made redundant at alarming rates. I can see a conveyor belt of competition as each generation has to turn on the other in order to survive.

The saddest element of all is that we have been here before, time and again. And it makes me wonder why society continually makes the same mistakes. Maybe it's time to look back and then to look forward and consider, for example, the words of Karl Marx.

Almost 200 years ago, Marx spoke and wrote about what makes a good society. He argued that arts, creativity and toil for the good of society should be equally distributed. He argued why a person couldn't be both a fisherman and an artist.

This has to be a better blueprint to follow than what we are currently



The grave of German philosopher and economic theorist Karl Heinrich Marx, remembered as the founder of modern Socialism and Communism, stands on November 19, 2012 in Highgate Cemetery in London. Photo: Getty Images/Adam Berry

doing. And that will be borne out by what comes next, because I have lived through a crisis like this before – and it is going to be ugly.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, mining and other industrial communities faced the same fate as we do today, with the past, the present and the future being swept away. Every age of man and boy was losing their incomes, and there was nothing else for them to turn to.

There was no plan for those being made redundant, and no care as to what would happen to them. Men in their 40s and 50s never worked again.

Younger men and school leavers fought it out among each other for the next ten years for what little work was available. Many left their communities; the 1980s and 1990s were desolate times for the working class in Britain.

And there wasn't just one lost

generation of school-leavers; there were, and still are, multiple lost generations of families, some which have not recovered.

The women in these communities fared no better, as the factories that traditionally employed them moved their trade abroad; their competitors for work were on the other side of the world.

This is a grim picture I am painting, and if I were to recount the personal and individual pains and struggles that I have witnessed it would be far grimmer. It is a horror story of addiction, suicide, poverty and hopelessness.

So now is the time to look back at those years with honesty, and to fiercely demand on the streets and in our communities that no more of our people are allowed to be lost.

There are solutions, and they were there in the 1980s and 1990s, but the

governments of the day chose not to engage with them and instead use draconian welfare policy to punish people.

There are now many individuals who, through no fault of their own, are unemployed. There is no work. We can look to quick fixes and grandiose spivs to help out – such as the Amazonian warehouse model and other satanic mills – or we can think seriously about Marx's ideas, and introduce a New Deal for the arts and for education.

Working class communities are filled with richly creative people who can tell a story, in words and images and music. There are rich traditions in every working-class community – of debate, philosophy and the arts.

However, they are not recognised for what they are and instead are devalued through a limited education system. What working class people do not have

are the time, the resources and the opportunities to nurture their talents in a way that works for them.

This has never been an easy sell. Governments, policy makers and the politicians may all feel uncomfortable with making life appear easy for those not in work. Political speeches are often littered with aggressive language about ensuring that worklessness is punished.

George Osborne's words still ring in my ears as he told the country that he would no longer tolerate ‘those with the blinds closed living a life on benefits’.

Or what about Norman Tebbit in the 1980s telling the country, in the midst of mass unemployment, that people needed to help themselves by getting on their bikes to look for work?

Or Tony Blair in the days after the 1997 election, when he stood outside the Aylesbury council estate in South London and told us that there would be ‘no forgotten people’, while his message to the 250,000 young people who were unemployed at the time was ‘work is the best welfare’.

None of this is new; we continue this cycle decade after decade when the root problems of the fair distribution of wealth and time and labour and resources are never tackled. Now is the time to follow Marx's lead and attempt to change things for the better for everyone.

Instead of terrifying people with threats to their incomes or through a welfare system which is cruel and purposefully wears them down, we could bring hope and art and creativity and opportunity.

We have the best universities in the world, but they have been long closed off to local people who want to retrain or get a new skill or just learn simply to enjoy the process of discovering knowledge.

Years ago, they became places not of learning but of selling the commodity that is ‘the qualification’. In this frightening new world that we are entering, this model of work and education is not adequate and will fail this generation and the next and the one after that.

In East London, opposite the

Whitechapel Gallery, there used to stand an arts college. Students were mostly working-class locals: diverse and fizzing with creativity.

The building was sold and demolished, and today on that site developers are building yet more luxury flats. Ironically, some are for wealthy overseas university students, who may not take up their places.

In Nottingham, the university's adult education centre was closed ten years ago and sold off and now is home to an insurance company.

In these grim times, universities, further education colleges, community centres, libraries and anywhere else that has space must open up and provide the time and resources so that working-class people of any age can learn and be part of their own knowledge creation, at no cost.

This would be not only instrumental in getting people off universal credit but would also allow them to contribute to society in every and any way they can, whether that is by telling stories through music, art and words, while at the same time allowing them to earn a living that allows dignity.

The working class should no longer be demeaned as exclusively the workhorses of Britain, but should be given a deal that allows them to be hopeful and creative.

The professional artists and creatives of today and yesterday are too often chosen and rise out of nepotism and privilege but, as Marx said, the distribution of labour should be of each according to their ability and to each according to their need. So, let our artists and creatives rise out of the satanic mills, the job centres and the council estates.

• Political activist, writer and thinker Dr Lisa McKenzie is a working-class academic. She grew up in a coal-mining town in Nottinghamshire, the UK, and became politicised through the 1984 miners' strike with her family. At 31, she went to the University of Nottingham and did an undergraduate degree in sociology. She now lectures in sociology at the University of Durham and is the author of ‘Getting By: Estates, Class and Culture in Austerity Britain.’



## BUSINESS



SBM chief economist Fásio Mussá.

## OPTIMISM

## Opportunities see Brazilian express readiness to invest in Mozambique's agriculture sector

## MAPUTO

Brazilian investors have expressed interest in Mozambique's agribusiness, given the agro-ecological potential and the promising opportunities that the country offers in this sector.

This comes after a recent economic briefing held by Standard Bank Mozambique (SBM) specifically for Brazilian entrepreneurs with ventures or interests in the country, to present the macroeconomic perspectives, and the investment environment and opportunities in various sectors.

The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) projects in the Rovuma basin will ultimately place Mozambique on the list of the five largest producers and suppliers of this energy resource in the world, and it holds the potential to boost various other sectors in the country, particularly in agribusiness, by expanding its market, as well as potentially supporting the emergence of a domestic nitrogen fertilizer industry from sub-products of LNG manufacturing process.

At the briefing, SBM's chief economist Fásio Mussá highlighted to the delegates bank's experience in agribusiness, and its eagerness to support the Mozambique government's Sustenta project, promoted through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to leverage and boost the agribusiness sector in the country.

Sustenta is an integration project which aims to create and improve the linkages amongst the sector's value chain players, in order to boost the country's production volumes and enhance the competitiveness of its agricultural sector.

The project includes the following integrated components: Technology transfer, Market linkages, Production mapping and planning, Infrastructure development, Environmental and social practices and Production subsidies.

The World Bank has recently committed USD500m to support the project, following an e-meeting held

with President Nyussi.

"During the pilot phase, Sustenta was implemented in two provinces (Nampula and Zambézia), and from this year on it will be implemented throughout the country. The goal is to induce agricultural transformation towards a more market-oriented agriculture, with a strong impact throughout the sector including on smallholder farmers and medium and large agriculture companies," said Mr. Mussá.

Mozambique is one of the bank's key focus countries in the agriculture sector, where it sees opportunity to improve and extend linkages within the agribusiness value chain - from input suppliers and primary agriculture to agro-processing/value addition, exports, logistics, warehousing and more.

"Our main objectives are to address fragmented value chains, add a funding source to the sector and support Mozambique's food security, employment creation and foreign exchange revenue through exports," says Louis van Ravesteyn, head, agribusiness for Pan-Africa at Standard Bank Group.

The bank is one of the few banks in the country directly involved in several agricultural sub-sectors such as grains (corn for the production of beer and feed for the poultry industry), cassava (for the production of beer), sugar (conventional and organic), poultry, tobacco, and banana, among others. "We have a dedicated agribusiness team, which is comprised of sector specialists, who understand the key commodities, and subsequent commodity value chains. The team has successfully supported various landmark agriculture projects over the years," says van Ravesteyn.

By supporting this sector, the bank believes that it will also trigger a positive impact on other related and associated industries including transport, logistics, technology, wholesale and retail, as well as promoting rural and country development.

## PARTNERSHIP

## Bank commits to helping Zanzibar tourism to grow

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

**R**ECOVERY of the coronavirus battered tourism sector in Zanzibar has been promised financial support by NMB Bank Plc which has already invested billions of shillings in the industry countrywide.

NMB's Zanzibar Head, Abdalla Duchi said in the Isles earlier this week during a tourism stakeholders meeting that the bank is committed towards supporting growth of the Spice Islands' largest foreign currency earning sector.

"We understand that tourism is a major foreign currency earner for both Zanzibar and the Mainland with the Isles getting almost 80 percent of forex from the sector which is very crucial," Duchi said while pointing out that the bank will also focus on digitization to revive the sector.

He pointed out that digitization of payment system plays well with foreign tourists who are allowed to buy and pay for goods and services using their digital tools through point of sales and bank card use. He named other digital platforms as NMB Wakalas, Internet Banking and use of QR Code of Visa International

Duchi further noted that use of digital payment solutions also stimulates electronic commerce which will benefit local producers who display their merchandise online. The NMB Zanzibar chief stated that in order to cushion businesses against Covid-19 outbreak effects, the bank is providing various supporting products and services in partnership with the Isles government and Zanzibar Association of Tour Operators.



NMB Bank Plc's Zanzibar Branches manager, Abdalla Duchi speaks at a stakeholders meeting early this week. Photo courtesy of NMB.

Addressing the gathering, Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Ambassador Seif Ali Iddi called upon Zato members to mobilise domestic tourism which remains docile other than focus on foreign arrival only because potential is available.

"You have been working closely with the government through Ministry of Informa-

tion, Tourism and Antiquities and now we want you to promote domestic tourism so that youths should visit some of our historical places and witness what they have learnt in class," Ambassador Iddi said. He also urged the tourism stakeholders to make proper use of social media outlets to promote tourism which is the Spice Islands main foreign currency

earner but whose potential is yet to be fully exploited.

The Zanzibar VP further revealed that in 2019, tourism earned the islands 833.4bn/- compared to 712.7bn/- earned in 2018 hence showing sharp growth but doubted that this year, the Covid-19 pandemic will deplete earnings.

Speaking at the same event, Zato Chairman, Hassan Ali Mzee said in a presen-

tation that the NMB meeting was a better forum for stakeholders to share experiences and listening to bankers on the future of the sector.

"This is an opportunity for the sector's main players to regroup and advance to beat the pandemic," Mzee said while stressing that government's support is of paramount importance to rejuvenate the struggling sector.

## INNOVATION

## Kigali to pilot 'smart' waste management system

## KIGALI

The Ministry of ICT and Innovation has started the search for a firm to implement a smart system for waste management in Kigali city. The proposed project will feature smart dustbins and smart waste stations.

According to Smart Africa Secretariat, an African Union-backed non-profit organisation partnering with the ministry to implement the project, the initiative will begin "as soon as the contract is signed." The winning design is expected to be announced in early December 2020.

During the pilot phase, smart waste collection stations will be installed in 10 public markets across all three districts that make up Kigali. The US\$100,000 project consists of collection, transportation, treatment, recycling and disposal of waste.

This, the Kigali-based Smart Africa Secretariat says, waste management is still costly, hence the need for an effective system to collect and sort waste. The proposed system aims to minimize the resources spent on the daunting exercise.

Its solar-powered stations will introduce waste sorting at generation sites and feature smart dustbins with a real-time monitoring system which uses sensor technologies to alert collectors on garbage fill levels.

In addition, according to officials, they also will have dashboards where gathered information could be analysed and displayed, as well as an end-to-end security system featuring CCTV cameras and Geographic Information System (GIS).

In Rwanda, waste collection and monitoring is still done manually, a model that experts say is inefficient and also poses some environmental related risks. At least 450 tonnes of waste are collected in Kigali every day.

Now city authorities hope the proposed project will make the waste collection process smarter and data driven. An official in the Ministry of ICT and Innovation said that the project will reduce fuel emissions stemming from garbage collection trucks, allowing waste recycling to take place in a smoother manner.

Kigali, now home to over 1.6 million population, is one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa. With Kigali's population expected to double by 2035, waste management, affordable housing, and access to transport services as well as water are critical issues.

The urban population in Africa will triple over the next 50 years. A 2018 environment assessment report revealed that only 36 per cent of the urban dwellers are served by waste collection services. About 30 per cent dump waste in nearby bushes and 29.5 throw them in fields.

Experts argue that addressing waste management in Africa's fast growing cities will require innovative engineering and technology-based solutions. However, the country has no single centralised waste treatment plant. Kigali only has Nduba dumpsite which, according to the neighbouring citizens, is a serious health threat.



Workers sort garbage at Nduba dump site in Gasabo District, Rwanda

## Maersk to announce major reorganisation and job cuts

## COPENHAGEN

Shipping group Maersk will cut job cuts as part of a major reorganisation, an internal email sent to Maersk employees shows.

Maersk, which handles about one in five containers shipped worldwide, has been under pressure from investors to speed its transformation from an unwieldy conglomerate.

The company sold its oil and gas assets in 2017 to Total as part of efforts to become a more

streamlined company focused on its container and in-land logistics business for large customers such as Walmart and Nike.

The integration of its Damco freight forwarding business and Africa-focused carrier Safmarine will take place by the end of this year, with its Hamburg Sud operation also affected by the shake-up, the email said.

"Simplifying the organisation will regrettably impact jobs due to duplicate roles and roles that will no longer be needed," Chief

Commercial Officer Vincent Clerc said in the email. Maersk declined to comment on the internal email. The email gave no detail on the number of job cuts or employees affected.

Hamburg Sud, will remain a separate brand but its back office will be rolled into that of Maersk, Clerc said in the email. Maersk's share price has nearly doubled since March, but is still a fifth below a peak three years ago. They were trading 0.1% up at 9,558 crowns by 0745 GMT



## BRAINSTORMING

# LSF grantee's top executives to attend review meetings

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

SENIOR executives of organizations which have received grants from Legal Services Facility are meeting in Dodoma which started on Monday to review progress being made by their projects.

LSF Programme Manager, Ramadhan Masele said yesterday that the three-day workshop involves about 200 participants who include organization's executive directors, program coordinators, monitoring and evaluation officers, and finance officers from all regions of the Mainland and Zanzibar.

"The workshop has an objective of offering LSF grantees and partners a platform for sharing information on the results of the programs, discuss basically and technically the future prospects of the LSF beyond 2021," Masele said.

Masele added that LSF and its partners want to learn about grantees' progress and results of



LSF programme manager Ramadhan Masele.

the implementation covering the period 2019 and the first half of 2020. They also want to understand how the paralegals were supported

and discuss on the way forward beyond 2020 including key issues to be incorporated in the 2022/26 LSF Strategic Plan.

"This intends to promote performance-based, service delivery-oriented, citizens-centred legal services system that favour

the emergency and consolidation of accountable, participatory and inclusive legal empowerment system in the country," the LSF Program Manager added.

The LSF which is funded by a donor basket fund championed by Denmark is marking the end of the second phase of the four-year funding for the Regional Mentor Organizations (RMOs) which due to conclude in December. UK Aid and European Union are also major donors to the basket fund.

"So, this is a platform to share the results, experiences, lessons and recommendations on the way forward as this does not mark the end of promoting access to justice in Tanzania," Masele noted.

Established 2011 as a non-profit organization that strives to increase access to justice for all, in particular for women through a legal empowerment approach, the LSF channels its funding on an equal opportunity basis to organizations which provide legal aid and paralegal services on Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

## CRISIS

## Smuggling in Mozambique gobbling up 12.6pc of GDP

MAPUTO

Smuggling between Mozambique and South Africa, India and China, among others, costs the country about US\$2 billion a year, close to 12.6% of its annual gross domestic product, a doctoral thesis written by the president of the Tax Authority (AT), Amélia Muendane, claims.

Muendane's thesis unveils the "smuggler's web" disadvantaging the Mozambican state. "Smuggling consumes a significant part of our budget and Gross Domestic Product. The data indicate with a margin of 5% of standard deviation that smuggling is above 12%. We have ascertained that in terms of budget it is over 40%. Without smuggling, Mozambique would already be self-sufficient or have a surplus budget since 2006," the president of AT writes.

With neighbouring South Africa, India and China the most active smugglers of Mozambican products, with an emphasis on wood, seafood and precious stones, Muendane advocates more incentives and the involvement of the whole society in the fight against the trade.

"There is no particular country that is the biggest thief in the economy, but we see that, from 2014, there is a tendency to smuggle from Germany. It is necessary to pay attention to these emerging [in terms of smuggling] countries," Muendane underlines.

"Contraband only increases poverty"

Former head of state Joaquim Chissano, a prominent figure in the dissertation, says that Amélia Muendane's thesis is the starting point for change and reform. "It is an example of the progress and development of Mozambique. What we need for Mozambique is to develop men and women. We have to fight poverty and smuggling can contribute to increasing poverty," Chissano says.

In turn, former prime minister, Luís Diogo, praised Muendane's courage. "I was in love as soon as I saw the theme and I couldn't miss it. A topic (contraband) that leads us to reflect very deeply on what this Mozambique is capable of with what it has. One of the great conclusions that she (Amélia Muendane) draws in her thesis is that, in this issue of contraband versus the development of the economy, it would be possible for Mozambique to cover its budget with its own revenues if it did not have contraband," Diogo notes. The president of the Mozambican Tax Authority obtained her PHD with distinction. Muendane singles out electronic commerce as the major challenge in the fight against smuggling.



Mozambican Tax Authority president Amélia Muendane.

## APPRECIATION

# Farmers' milk price in Kenya rises to Sh42 per litre



Nixon Sigey, chair of Kenya Dairy Producers Association.

NAIROBI

The producer price of milk has risen by up to Sh42 per litre from Sh33 previously as farmers gain from the current shortage of the commodity.

This is the highest price that dairy farmers have earned since the beginning of the year, coming as a reprieve at a time when they are grappling with increased cost of animal feeds. The price rise is due to the forces of demand and supply as processors jostle for the limited available volumes of milk.

"The price has gone up because of the market forces caused by low volumes in the market," said Nixon Sigey, managing director New Kenya Cooperative Creameries. Mr Sigey, who is also the chair of the Kenya Dairy Producers Association, said the intake to the factories has dropped by 40 per cent. The decline implies that most processors are operating below their installed capacity. Brookside will pay 17 per cent more for a litre of raw milk, which pushes the cost to about Sh40 for a chilled commodity delivered at the firm in Ruiru. John Gethi, Brookside's director of milk procurement, said the price review had been necessitated by a change in the prevailing market conditions in the dairy value chain.

Kenya Dairy Board last week announced that the volumes had dipped from 60 million litres in January to 43 million litres in June. The rise in producer price signals high cost for consumers as processors will have to recover the higher cost through the retail market.

However, Mr Sigey allayed fears of price increment saying processors are reconstituting powder into fresh milk and that it will go a long way in stabilising shelf prices. Consumer prices have been relatively stable since the beginning of the year with a half-litre packet retailing at an average Sh50 despite a significant rise in farm gate price from a low of Sh25 to Sh33 in March.

Normal production is expected to pick up in October with the onset of the short rains. At the same time, grain millers have scaled down on milling creating a shortage of the by-products for animal feeds manufacturers, pushing up the price of the key supplements and setting stage for higher cost to farmers. Maize and wheat millers have cut down on processing because of unmoving stocks of maize flour on the shelf that has left them stuck with huge quantities of unsold products.

## OUTAGES

# Old Mutual scraps dividend as profit plunges

JOHANNESBURG

Old Mutual has suspended its interim dividend as the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic savaged earnings, and will only make a decision on resuming payments when it has more clarity on the economic outlook.

Profit excluding one-time items fell 67% in the six months through June, the Johannesburg-based insurer said in a statement Tuesday. Earnings from the South African operations, excluding accounting charges and the

effect of Covid-19, fell 4% from the prior year. The decision to scrap the interim dividend comes after South Africa's Prudential Authority urged firms to grow reserves ahead of payments to shareholders.

"While the mass and foundation cluster was under a lot of pressure, generally our businesses held up quite well," Chief Executive Officer Iain Williamson said by phone. "On a forward-looking basis we are encouraged."

A sales slump and an increase in business-interruption and funeral claims as a result of South Africa's lockdown to contain the spread of the virus weighed on the insurer's profit. Since the easing of restrictions there has been a steady increase in activity, Williamson said.

South Africa's oldest insurer headed into the coronavirus pandemic after a protracted legal battle with its former chief executive officer. Since being appointed permanently in July

Williamson, who has spent almost three decades at the company, has had to deal with turmoil surrounding its Zimbabwe listing. Along with other insurers locally and globally, Old Mutual is also grappling with the treatment of business-interruption claims related to the virus and is offering clients settlements.

"We have about 1,500 policies on our entire book that have this cover and these vary in size," Williamson said. "It's something we would prefer to see

fairly rapid certainty on from a legal clarification perspective."

Seeking clarity

Old Mutual's shares pared earlier losses to trade 1.3% higher at R11.33 at 10:29 a.m. in Johannesburg, while the five-member FTSE/JSE Africa Life Insurance/Assurance Index rose as much as 1.5%.

The company, which also manages mutual funds and provides loans, will focus on improving productivity from its advisers and managing costs in the

second half. Still, it expects full-year profit to decline more than 20%. More detail about future earnings will be given once there's more clarity on the outlook.

While the company is revamping its strategy, it remains committed to its presence on the African continent, Williamson said. "East and West Africa are both still sub-scale and we remain on the lookout for options there to help us get those businesses to the kind of scale we think we need," he said.







## WORLD

# Hackers test defences of President Trump campaign websites ahead of US election

LONDON

HACKERS have stepped up efforts to knock Trump campaign and business websites offline ahead of the U.S. election, in what a security firm working for the campaign said could be preparation for a larger digital assault, according to emails seen by Reuters.

The security assessment was prepared by staff at U.S. cybersecurity firm Cloudflare, which has been hired by President Donald Trump to help defend his campaign's websites in an election contest overshadowed by warnings about hacking, disinformation and for-

eign interference.

Cloudflare is widely used by businesses and other organizations to help defend against distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, which aim to take down websites by flooding them with malicious traffic.

Internal Cloudflare emails sent to senior company managers - including CEO Matthew Prince - on July 9 state that the number and severity of attacks on Trump websites increased in the preceding two months and reached record levels in June. The emails did not give the total number of attacks.

"As we get closer to the election, at-



US President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump and their extended family watch Trump campaign fireworks explode behind the Washington Monument from the South Lawn of the White House after his acceptance speech as the 2020 Republican presidential nominee during the final event of the Republican National Convention in Washington, U.S., August 27, 2020. REUTERS

tacks are increasing in both numbers (and) sophistication" and succeeded in disrupting access to the targeted websites for short periods of time between March 15 and June 6, the assessment said.

Cloudflare did not respond directly to questions about the emails or their contents. The company said it was providing security services to both U.S. presidential campaigns and declined to answer further questions about the nature or details of its work. "We have seen an increase in cyberattacks targeting political candidates. We will continue to work to ensure these attacks do not disrupt free and fair elections," it said in a statement when asked about the emails.

A spokesman for the Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment. The Biden campaign declined to comment on its work with Cloudflare or any attacks on its websites.

A spokeswoman for the Trump Organization

said no Trump websites had been taken offline by cyberattacks. She did not respond to further questions about the attacks or Trump's work with Cloudflare. Cloudflare's security team did not comment on the identity of the hackers and Reuters was not able to determine who was responsible for the attacks. DDoS attacks are viewed by cybersecurity experts as a relatively crude form of digital sabotage - easily deployed by anyone from tech-savvy teenagers to top-end cyber criminals.

But seven of the attacks on Trump websites, including donaldtrump.com and a Trump-owned golf course, were judged to be more serious by the Cloudflare security team, the emails show.

The increasing number and sophistication of attempts suggested the attackers were "probing" the website defenses to establish what would be needed to take them fully offline, the security assessment said.

Agencies

# Xinjiang rebuts claims about 'racial genocide'

By Zhang Yi in Beijing and Mao Weihua in Urumqi

THE Uygur population in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region has increased under the law-based implementation of the family planning policy, with all rights of ethnic minorities protected, a Xinjiang official said at a news conference over the weekend.

The remarks came after German scholar Adrian Zenz recently published a report that claimed Xinjiang was using forced sterilization and coercive family planning against Uygurs and other minorities in Xinjiang in an attempt to limit their populations.

Tursunay Abdurehim, an official from Xinjiang's Statistics Bureau, said the report was biased, used incorrect data and cited fake cases, and its findings went against academic research methodologies and the realities in Xinjiang.

Between 2010 and 2018, Xinjiang's total population, ethnic minorities population and Uygur population all rose, while its Han population registered just a meager increase, Tursunay said at the news conference in Urumqi, Xinjiang's regional capital, on Saturday.

The Uygur population's growth rate 25.04 percent during that period was not only higher than



A family spends time together in Bachu county, Kashgar prefecture, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, on July 21, 2020. XINHUA

the 13.99 percent for Xinjiang as a whole, but also higher than that of other ethnic groups, she said. The region's Han population rose just 2 percent.

Tursunay said that from 2010 to 2018, the birthrate and natural growth rate of Xinjiang's population both declined slightly.

Before 2017, the birthrate in Xinjiang was around 15 newborns per 1,000 people.

In 2018, it was around 10.7 newborns per 1,000 people, almost the same as the national level, she said.

But the Uygur population's birthrate and natural growth rate were higher than the overall fig-

ures for Xinjiang and for the region's Han population, making allegations of "racial genocide" simply nonsense, Tursunay said.

She said the decline in Xinjiang's population growth in 2018 was the result of the stricter implementation of the family planning policy, and also reflected economic and social development and changing attitudes to reproduction.

Mutalif Roz, director of the region's health commission, said China's family planning policy for ethnic minorities was looser than that for Han, and the country had not formulated any such policy for a single ethnic group.

Implementing the family plan-

ning policy in Xinjiang was an objective need for sustainable development that coordinated population and economic, social and environmental resources, Mutalif said.

Xinjiang is an arid region with severe desertification problems. Its average water yield per square kilometer was 48,300 cubic meters in 2018, only 16.7 percent of the national level, according to official data.

In southern Xinjiang, farmland has become a scarce resource due to rapid population increase. In 2018, farmland per capita in the four prefectures in southern Xinjiang was 68 percent of the world average.

To resolve the problems of water and farmland allocation and improve everyday life, Xinjiang needed to implement the policy, Mutalif said.

In 2017, Xinjiang revised its population and family planning regulations, extending the same policy to all people: urban couples can have two children and rural couples can have three.

After implementing the policy in Xinjiang, pressure from a rapid rise in population was alleviated, and the health of people, particularly women and children, improved, Mutalif said.

Population development trends indicate that higher socioeconomic development levels are accompanied by greater self realization and better prenatal and postnatal care, with corresponding decreases in birthrate and population growth rate, he added.

Mutalif said Xinjiang's birthrate, mortality rate and the population's natural growth rate were all lower in 2018 than in 1978.

As for women mentioned in the report including Zamira Dawut, Mihrigul Tursun and Tursunay Zinavdin, who allegedly suffered "unlawful detention" and were forced to undergo compulsory sterilization by the government. Ilijan Anayt, spokesman for the regional government, said Zenz played tricks by inviting "actresses" to beef up his claims.

"The 'actresses' gave their 'performances' in 80 percent of Xinjiang-related hype and obeyed the orders of the 'backstage directors', making up new 'lines' every time," Ilijan said.

"The reports related to those 'actresses' are all fake news."

Tursunay said: "Adrian Zenz is keen on making up lies on Xinjiang affairs and slandering China. His earlier reports and remarks have been proven to be false."

Xinhua

# Samsung leader Jay Y. Lee indicted in South Korea on allegations linked to 2015 merger

SEOUL

SOUTH Korean prosecutors indicted the Samsung Group's Jay Y. Lee yesterday on suspicion of accounting fraud and stock price manipulation in connection with a 2015 merger, dealing a new blow to the head of one of Asia's most valuable companies.

Lee (pictured), who has already served jail time in connection with

a separate case, and 10 other current and former Samsung executives were indicted over the merger of two Samsung affiliates that helped Lee assume greater control of the group's crown jewel, Samsung Electronics.

The indictment paves the way for Lee, 52, to undergo trial on the allegations. He will not be detained as a Seoul court denied a request from prosecutors in June for an arrest war-

rant.

But the court said prosecutors seemed to have secured a considerable amount of evidence and it was appropriate to send the case to trial.

The decision comes as President



Moon Jae-in rallies big business during a recession driven by the novel coronavirus, and at a time the public might be more interested in controlling the disease and reviving livelihoods than punishing the family-run conglomerates, known as chaebol, that dominate the economy.

Charges against Lee included the practice of unfair transaction and manipulation of market prices under

the Capital Markets Act, breach of trust during the course of business, and false disclosure and accounting fraud under the External Audit Act, prosecutors said in a statement.

"We took into account the gravity of the issue, which disturbed the order of the capital market," said Lee Bok-hyun, senior prosecutor at the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office.

Agencies

# Russia denies NATO statement about its Su-27 fighter violating Danish border

MOSCOW

THE Su-27 fighter, Russia scrambled to identify the US Air Force B-52H strategic bomber, was flying over the neutral waters of the Baltic Sea, without violating the Danish border, Russia's Defense Ministry's spokesman told reporters yesterday.

"The Defense Ministry has denied the statement of the North Atlantic Alliance about the violation of the Danish state border by Russia's Su-27 fighter," the official said.

Earlier, NATO issued a statement that a B52 bomber of the United States Air Force was intercepted by a Russian Su-27 fighter in international airspace over the Baltic Sea. According to the statement, the Russian fighter followed the B52 well into Danish airspace over the island, committing a significant violation of airspace of a NATO nation.

The Defense Ministry noted that the flight was carried out in strict accordance with the international airspace regulations, without violating the borders of other states. This is confirmed by means of objective control, the ministry stressed.

On August 31, Russian airspace control over the neutral waters of the Baltic Sea detected three air targets approaching the Russian state border. To identify them, three Su-27s from the air defense forces of the Baltic Fleet were scrambled.

Crews of Russian fighters identified the aerial targets as US Air Force B-52H strategic bombers. Russian fighters returned to their home base after the American aircraft left the Russian state border.

# India to observe 7-day mourning after ex-president's demise

NEW DELHI

A SEVEN-DAY state mourning will be observed in India as a mark of respect to former president Pranab Mukherjee who died in New Delhi on Monday, said an official announcement.

"During the period of state mourning (Aug. 31-Sept. 6) the national flag will fly at half-mast on all buildings throughout India, where it is flown regularly and there will be no official entertainment."

The date, time and venue of the state funeral will be intimate later," said a statement issued by the federal home ministry. Mukherjee was tested positive for COVID-19 on August 10, after which he was admitted to a hospital where he also underwent a brain surgery.

On August 19 he developed lungs infection too. He remained in coma and was on a ventilator support at the hospital. "With a heavy heart this is to inform you that my father Pranab Mukherjee has just passed away in spite of the best efforts of doctors of RR Hospital and prayers from people throughout India. I thank all of you," tweeted his son Abhijit Mukherjee.

Mukherjee, 84, was the country's 13th President, from 2012-2017. Last year, India's highest civilian award "Bharat Ratna" was bestowed on him. He had two sons and a daughter. Son Abhijit and daughter Sharmistha Mukherjee are into active politics and belong to the main opposition party, the Indian National Congress.

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind expressed condolences at Mukherjee's demise. "Sad to hear that former president Pranab Mukherjee is no more. His demise is passing of an era."

A colossus in public life, he served Mother India with the spirit of a sage. The nation mourns losing one of its worthiest sons. Condolences to his family, friends & all citizens," said Kovind in a tweet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too expressed his sadness. He tweeted: "India grieves the passing away of Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He has left an indelible mark on the development trajectory of our nation. A scholar par excellence, a towering statesman, he was admired across the political spectrum and by all sections of society."

Before being the country's Head of State for five years, Pranab Mukherjee had an illustrious political career spanning over five decades, being a member of the INC.

He held several portfolios, including defence, external affairs, commerce, finance, besides others, under several former prime ministers, including Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Narsimha Rao and Manmohan Singh.

Agencies



On August 19 he developed lungs infection too. He remained in coma and was on a ventilator support at the hospital. "With a heavy heart

# Intelligent weather forecast helps prevent, alleviate natural disasters

DUE to continuous rainfall, Panping village, located in Changde, Central China's Hunan Province, was struck by landslides in July, which destroyed the roads and caused several houses to collapse. Fortunately, the natural disaster didn't cause any casualty.

Thanks to a weather warning issued by the Beidou satellite monitoring system, the local government had already evacuated the residents.

Weather forecast and warning have become increasingly accurate with the in-depth application of a new generation of information technology in the field of meteorology.

How to achieve higher resolution, reach results faster, and make more accurate forecast has posed a new challenge on modern atmospheric science, said Zhu Wenjian, a senior

engineer at the National Meteorological Center of the China Meteorological Administration (NMCCMA).

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) possesses powerful computing capabilities, domestic meteorological industry has paid more attention to the integration of AI technology into the field, according to Zhu.

The NMCCMA has employed AI in quantitative precipitation forecasts, typhoon searching and other aspects and reached good results, Zhu added.

Many regions in China have actively promoted the construction of a complete smart weather forecast system in recent years.

Last September, Tianjin rolled out a smart weather decision-making service platform, which was developed by the meteorological bureau of the

municipality.

The platform can retrieve weather data on the minute level in real time and quickly generate comparison charts.

Tianjin meteorological bureau has also developed a severe convective weather identification and warning model together with Tianjin University, which could automatically identify hail, heavy rainfall and gale.

In June, the meteorological department of East China's Jiangsu Province completed the construction of and put into operation the first seven stations of an intelligent observation system for weather phenomena.

By capturing meteorological videos with multiple cameras and adopting intelligent algorithm and image technology, the system could automati-

cally observe weather phenomena, including the cloud cover, frost and snow depth.

The smart weather system built by Chongqing, which includes intelligent detection, forecast, service and disaster prevention platforms, has played an important role in preventing and alleviating disasters during the flood season.

The intelligent detection platform is connected with eight observation satellites, four Doppler radars and more than 2,000 ground meteorological observation stations through Internet of Things (IoT), and then uses cloud computing to help the Chongqing meteorological department collect and analyze a huge volume of data.

With the intelligent forecast platform, the Chongqing meteorological

bureau issued relevant forecasts for the flood season at the very beginning of the year, allowing the city to make preparations for flood control.

In fact, the application of AI in the meteorological industry is merely at an early stage and the technology will surely be employed in more application scenarios.

In addition to helping with disaster prevention and mitigation and promoting more accurate weather forecasting, smart weather systems can also serve the local economy and facilitate the construction of smart cities.

The Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region meteorological bureau has recently introduced a weather index service for night markets, which could be helpful for the recovery of the local night economy.

Based on detailed and intelligent grid forecast and warning, the weather index has set up a rating system on weather conditions, which could be accessed by citizens through online platforms such WeChat and Sina Weibo.

Shanghai is among the first in China to use smart weather to serve the delicacy management of the city.

It is now able to give weather warnings specific to downtown areas, while it couldn't specify the scope and time of rainfall and other weather phenomena in the past.

By launching a weather app, Shanghai allows citizens to select their locations and then check the hourly weather within an area of three square kilometers for the next 12 hours.

People's Daily



# The African quantity

By Gao Jianbo, Zhong Feiteng & Shu Zhan

AFRICA, the vast and beautiful land thought to be the birthplace of civilization, has a population of about 1.28 billion, a little less than that of China or India. And yet, according to Immanuel Wallerstein's world-systems theory, African countries have long been considered peripheral to world affairs, unlike the core countries that are mainly in the West and headed by the United States, the global hegemon of the past several decades.

Mired in troubled economies, it is hard, if not impossible, for them to contribute substantially to the further advancement of civilization. This status-quo will remain entrenched if relations of non-African countries are basically considered a zero-sum game.

We can imagine a future in which Africa is as developed and rich as Europe. What an economic engine and consumption power it would be by then! However, at present, in terms of GDP, the five regions of Africa – East, South, West, North and Central – are equivalent, respectively, to the GDP of Finland, Poland, Switzerland, Switzerland (again), and Ukraine. The room for development in Africa is enormous, and yet the challenges ahead are also formidable.

In the past, the United States, along with some European and Asian countries, including China, have engaged heavily in helping African countries through various means. China in particular, has provided help in medicine, commercial and concessional loans, training and scholarships, humanitarian aid, youth volunteers, debt relief, budget support, turnkey projects (infrastructure, factories), aid-in-kind and technical assistance.

In fact, since 2000, China has been one of the five largest humanitarian aid providers among non-DAC countries. Over the past two decades, express railways operating within and across some African countries have been built by China. By the end of 2009, China had helped build nearly 200 schools across the African continent, including two or more primary schools for each of the continent's 53 countries. With regard to medical assistance, it is especially worth noting China's staunch fight against Ebola in the three West African countries from the end of 2014 to the beginning of 2016, when Ebola was essentially eliminated.

It has been argued by a group of researchers at the World Bank that China's aid and investment are good things for Africa and usually preferred by African countries. Chinese assistance consists mostly of export credits and loans for in-



fracture (often at little or no interest), which are fast, flexible and largely without conditions.

In a recent article, Joshua Meservy of the Heritage Foundation criticized China for building some badly needed office space for government employees in some African nations. He called it "palace diplomacy."

But with so much construction in Africa already finished, some projects still underway and many others in planning, what is wrong with building offices in some African countries, some of which still have to pay rent to their former colonial overlords even today?

To help Africa prosper, it is critical to rely on science and development-oriented international cooperation. Concerned with whether Sino-African trade may have exacerbated resource dependence in Africa, a researcher in Turkey, Dr. Alexis Habiyaemye, found that by helping African countries reduce existing infrastructure bottlenecks, deals swapping natural resources for infrastructure have enabled African countries to diversify. As in Angola, Sub-Saharan Africa has recorded unusually strong growth rates.

The finding can be readily corroborated. Exports are strongly correlated with GDP across the nations of the African continent, and Chinese trade

with African countries has increased dramatically in recent years, both significant contributors to growth. Indeed, without external assistance, the economies of Africa would have a more difficult path that is easily impeded by natural disasters and social shocks.

However, it is hard, if not impossible, for the West to provide assistance to Africa with no strings attached at the present time because of the high costs and associated risks accompanying the projects the West would offer. Unconstrained by the need for short-term profit and well able to manage labor costs, China is one of the few countries at present that can still afford to provide largely condition-free assistance to Africa.

Moreover, as a developing country, China has made one of the fastest transitions from low-income to moderately high-income.

An important contributor to China's rapid development was its emphasis on infrastructure construction in the early stages of development. Surely, China has obtained a lot of invaluable assistance in capital, technology and management skill from the World Bank and multilateral institutions for infrastructure construction. It is willing to share this experience with its African brothers.

**Earth is just a pale blue dot, as Carl Sagan sentimentally put it:**

"On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives.

The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroy-

er of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every 'superstar,' every 'supreme leader,' every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there – on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."

With natural disasters, including earthquakes, tropical cyclones, tornadoes, flooding, droughts, locust plagues, forest fires – many of which have been induced by extreme weather caused by climate change, occurring in far greater intensity and frequency than before – and especially COVID-19 still ravaging the United States, Latin America, India, Africa and other places, it is time to stop politicizing everything.

With great determination and sacrifice by its citizens, China brought the COVID-19 pandemic under control. How wonderful would it have been if the whole world were free of the virus in a few months?

It can be done, but it calls for a concerted global effort. Similarly, where the development of Africa is concerned, the whole world must come together and coordinate efforts.

*(Gao Jianbo is a professor of geographical science, Beijing Normal University; Zhong Feiteng is a professor in National Institute of International Strategy, CASS; Shu Zhan is Director of Center for African Studies, China Foundation for International Studies. This article was first published on China-US Focus, an open-platform website dedicated to sharing opinions and thoughts on China-US relations, on August 21, 2020.)*

## Suga leads Japan PM race as ruling party simplifies voting

TOKYO

JAPAN'S top government spokesman, Yoshihide Suga, moved a step closer to becoming the next premier after the ruling party decided yesterday on a slimmed-down leadership vote that favors the long-time lieutenant of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Suga (pictured) has also won the backing of the largest faction of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), media reported, making him a strong front-runner to replace Abe, who abruptly announced on Friday he was stepping down for health reasons.

Suga has not publicly announced his candidacy for leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) but has indicated privately that he intends to run, a source told Reuters.

Media reported he would formally announce his intention to run on today.

The party's leader will almost certainly become prime minister because of its

majority in the lower house of parliament.

Suga, 71, is widely expected to stay the policy course set out by Abe, including the "Abenomics" strategy aimed at reviving the economy and keeping it afloat amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A self-made politician, Suga was chosen by Abe in 2012 for the pivotal role of chief cabinet secretary, acting as top government spokesman, coordinating policies and riding herd on bureaucrats.

Suga's most likely rivals for the top spot will be former defense minister Shigeru Ishiba and ex-foreign minister Fumio Kishida.

Ishiba and Kishida, currently policy chief of the LDP, both announced their candidacies yesterday. But Defense Minister Taro Kono, who had been expected to run, had decided not to, Kyodo news reported.

The LDP general council's decision to keep rank-and-file party members out of the leadership vote gives Suga, with



his powerful backers, a leg-up in the race. Ishiba, who is more popular with voters, as well as hundreds of other party members had opposed the format.

Announcing his candidacy, Ishiba said it was "very regrettable" that all LDP members would not be able to vote for their leader. He has said the decision would be bad for both democracy and the party.

Kishida, who was long seen as Abe's preferred successor but

scores low in voter polls, emphasized his experience in economics and foreign policy, saying at a news conference he would do his "utmost for the nation and the people".

He said the slimmed-down leadership race was in line with party rules and Japan must continue with fiscal stimulus.

"As the battle with coronavirus appears to be prolonged, we cannot expect a recovery in demand for a while. As such, bold fiscal and monetary measures must continue," Kishida said.

**Avoid political vacuum**

LDP Secretary-General Toshihiro Nikai, whose faction is backing Suga, said a simplified vote, by party MPs from both chambers of parliament and heads of local chapters, would be taken in the interest of speed.

"We must elect a new leader as soon as possible to avoid creating a political vacuum," Nikai told reporters.

LDP General Council chief Shunichi Suzuki said the vote was unanimous, with some worrying that a prolonged process would place a burden on Abe's

health.

"If we hold a full-spec election, it would take two months to complete," he told reporters, adding that policymaking on budget and coronavirus measures would also suffer.

On Monday, younger LDP legislators had met with Nikai to present a demand from more than 140 MPs and about 400 local party lawmakers for a full-scale vote. Several local chapters including Osaka had also demanded the same.

The LDP is expected to hold its leadership vote on Sept 14, with an official announcement due on Wednesday.

Financial markets also favour and appear to have factored in a win by Suga.

"He is considered to be a very effective policy leader within the party and bureaucracy ... and was key to Abe's successful tenure," said John Vail, chief global strategist at Nikko Asset Management.

"Suga's experience with the virus situation, including his appropriate push-back on complete shutdowns, is key, as this is Japan's greatest concern right now," he added.

Agencies

## New school year in China begins with strict COVID-19 measures

BEIJING

WITH a mixture of nerves and excitement, many students in China kicked off a new school year yesterday.

For about 200 first-graders at Chengdu Garden (International) Primary School, southwest China's Sichuan Province, a brief ceremony was held yesterday morning to mark a special moment – their first day at school.

Each pupil has a ribbon tied on their left wrist symbolizing hope for the new beginning.

"It's like a little rabbit is in me today, and it is jumping up and down all the time," whispered a little girl. Sitting with hands folded on the desk, she sometimes gently bit her lower lip, waiting anxiously for her first class.

"Dad gave me the balance bike I've been dreaming of for entering school," she said. "I will definitely study hard."

"I'm already missing my baby, and I don't know if he can adapt well," said a parent surnamed Ma. Besides a full set of stationery, she also purchased masks, paper towels and hand sanitizer for her son. "I am worried about him and hope he will have a good day."

At 7:40 am, a kindergarten in Wuhan, a city once-hit hard by the novel coronavirus, welcomed its first batch of kindergartners. Hu Meng, a teacher, greeted every one of the 18 kids in her class. "Hello, Ms. Hu!" The lively kids cheered back.

"I'm so excited! I have missed them so much!" she said.

According to Hu, she and four other teachers began preparing for the new semester since May. After rounds of disinfection and epidemic prevention



Students have an English class at Wuhan Senior High School in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province yesterday the first day of the new school year. XINHUA

drills, the kindergarten finally opened yesterday, and comics and light-hearted slogans on epidemic prevention can be seen everywhere in public areas.

Official data show that a total of 2,842 kindergartens, primary and secondary schools in Wuhan opened their doors yesterday to welcome about 1.4 million students.

According to Wang Chifu, deputy director of the city's education bureau, primary and secondary school students in Wuhan should carry masks with them, but they do not have to wear them at school.

Wuhan currently has no confirmed COVID-19 cases. Nationwide, there were a total of 216 confirmed COVID-19 cases on the Chinese mainland

as of Monday. Though the COVID-19 epidemic has waned in China, schools at all levels still took strict anti-epidemic measures to safeguard the health of students.

At about 7 am, senior students at Wuhan No. 49 Middle School stepped onto campus for a new semester. After having their temperatures taken, they were guided to their classrooms along a specially-designed route. Ten minutes later, students from another grade entered the school through another route.

"The safety and health of teachers and students are our top priority," said Yin Weiguo, a school official. "A thorough disinfection has been conducted in all classrooms, canteens, dormitories and toilets and will be carried

out every day. Anti-epidemic supplies such as masks and hand sanitizers are also available in each classroom."

Similar measures are being implemented in schools across the country, with students in Shanghai, Sichuan, Jiangsu, Guangdong and Yunnan also ushering in their new semesters yesterday.

The Chengdu Education Bureau issued a notice, requiring schools to reopen in a staggered schedule amid intensive COVID-19 prevention and control measures. Students and staff should report their health conditions and are advised to avoid unnecessary traveling outside the province 14 days prior to the new semester.

Xinhua

## Macron warns Lebanese leaders of sanctions if reforms are not swift

BEIRUT

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has warned Lebanese politicians they risk sanctions if they fail to set the nation on a new course within three months, stepping up pressure for reforms in a country collapsing under the weight of an economic crisis.

Visiting Lebanon for the second time in less than a month, Macron marked the country's centenary by planting a cedar tree, the emblem of a nation that is facing its biggest threat to stability



since the 1975-1990 civil war. "It's the last chance for this system," Macron told POLITICO in an interview while travelling to Beirut on Monday. "It's a risky bet I'm making. I am aware of it ... I am putting the only thing I have on the table; my political capital." Macron said he was seeking "credible commitments" and a "demanding follow-up mechanism" from Lebanon's leaders, including a

legislative election in six to 12 months.

Should they fail to shift direction in the next three months, he told POLITICO, punitive measures could be imposed, including withholding bailout money and sanctions on the ruling class.

Lebanese politicians, some of them former warlords who have overseen decades of industrial-scale corruption, face a daunting task with an economy in meltdown, a swathe of Beirut in tatters after the Aug. 4 port blast and sectarian tensions rising.

## French military officer suspected of spying for Russia

PARIS

FRENCH prosecutors have launched an investigation against a lieutenant colonel of the French Armed Forces, who is suspected of handing over important data to the Russian special services, French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly told Europe-1 radio station on Sunday.

"I can confirm that the court's investigation has started against a high-ranking officer over suspicion of handing over [crucial information] or inflicting damage to security. A respective procedure was launched against him since the Ministry of the

Armed Forces has initiated checks by the prosecution," Parly said. "We have taken all necessary security measures. Now it is important that the judicial system carries out its work in accordance with the principle of secrecy of the investigation."

"Only the judicial system can confirm" the motives of the officer's actions and rule if there is a crime, the minister said.

According to the report, the officer was serving at an Italian military base. He was detained by the staff of France's General Directorate for Internal Security (DGSI) when he was planning to come back to Italy.





Coast Region's Baobab Primary and Nursery School's pupils show their dancing skill during the school's bonanza, which took place at the school's premises at Mapinga, Bagamoyo over weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Paul has 28, helps Thunder force Game 7 against the Rockets

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

CHRIS Paul and the Thunder had their backs to the bubble wall, a tougher spot than usual when facing elimination.

This time meant lots of packing, getting ready for a potential return home after a long time away. They weren't interested in their trip – or their season – ending.

"We're not ready to go yet," Paul said.

He made sure they wouldn't.

Paul gave the Thunder at least one more game at Disney, scoring 15 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter for a 104-100 victory over the Houston Rockets on Monday night in Game 6 of a Western Conference first-round series.

Paul made two free throws with 13.1 seconds left and the game tied at 100, and Danilo Gallinari added two more after a turnover by Russell Westbrook to finish it off.

Game 7 will be Wednesday night, with the winner advancing to face the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers. James Harden said the Rockets' mindset won't change.

"To go win," he said. "It's simple."

It gives the West two Game 7s, with Denver and Utah set to play theirs on Tuesday.

In a game that was close all the way – neither team led by double digits – the Thunder bounced back from a blowout in Game 5. And nobody handles close games better than Paul, who led the NBA with 150 points in clutch situations, defined as the last five minutes of a game in which the point differential is five or fewer points.

"We expect him to make those shots, especially at the end of the game," Gallinari said.

**Gallinari added 25 points.**

Harden had 32 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for the Rockets, while Robert Covington had 18 and Westbrook 17 in his second game back from a right quadriceps strain.

But they combined for 12 of the Rockets' 22 turnovers, saying Houston has lost the close games more than Oklahoma City won them.

"It's kind of been on us, to be completely honest," Westbrook said.

Houston got its most dominant playoff

victory in Game 5, winning 114-80 after holding Oklahoma City to 31.5% shooting. But the Thunder shook that off, just as they did a 2-0 deficit in the series.

Westbrook scored five straight points to open the third and the Rockets would get the lead as high as nine in the period. But Gallinari kept it from getting any worse and then Lu Dort, a dreadful 3 for 16 overall and 0 for 9 from 3-point range in Game 5, had a layup and two 3s for an 8-0 run that ended the quarter and sent Oklahoma City to the fourth with a 77-75 lead.

Oklahoma City extended it to eight, but Houston wiped that out with an 18-4 run that provided a 98-92 lead. Paul answered with consecutive 3-pointers to knot it again, and he later unknotted it for good.

Most of the first half was played within a margin of just a few points either way. The Thunder continued to misfire, hitting just 41.7% overall and going only 3 for 15 on 3-pointers.

But they defended well and the Rockets didn't crack 30 points until more than 4 1/2 minutes into the second quarter. Harden scored six straight points late in the half and Eric Gordon hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer for a 51-48 lead.

Meanwhile, Jimmy Butler kept hearing the same message from teammates in every conversation Monday night.

"Win the game."

He listened to them, and delivered.

Butler scored 14 of his playoff career-high 40 points in the fourth quarter, Goran Dragic added 27 and the Heat clamped down defensively in the final three quarters to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 115-104 in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series on Monday night.

"I felt like I took it up a level in the fourth quarter," Butler said. "If that needs to happen every game, I've got to be able to do it. But we've got so many guys capable of doing it for us."

Bam Adebayo had 12 points, 17 rebounds and six assists for the fifth-seeded Heat, who are 3-1 overall against the top-seeded Bucks this season. Tyler Herro added 11 points for Miami, which improved to 5-0 in the postseason. AP



Yanga's Ghanaian forward, Michael Sarpong (R), negotiates his way past Burundi's Aigle Noir player in an international friendly encounter, which took place in Dar es Salaam early this week. The clash was also a climax of a week of charity activities conducted by Yanga, known as 'Wananchi Week'. Yanga won 2-0, with Sarpong netting one of the goals. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Thrill of SBL sponsorship for Taifa Stars

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

THE psycho-socio hangover brought about by the novel Covid-19 among sports fans across the world aptly explains the significant role that sports play among millions of enthusiasts.

Sports play a role that indisputably enhances the actual rhythm of life in its social and material dimensions.

The closure of stadia in most of the countries, coupled by players playing in empty stadiums under strict health restrictions in the few countries that have allowed sports to continue, albeit in low key, have temporarily created a lull among fans, players and other stakeholders, among them sports' sponsors.

Perhaps, the global sports sponsorship turf has borne the biggest brunt because, according to international sports marketing agency, Two Circles, the global sponsorship is set to dip by US dollars 17.2 billion from US dollars 46.1 billion in 2019 to US dollars 28.9 (37% year-on-year decrease) in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

While that is true for the global statistics, all might not be lost for sports fans in Tanzania, for, on the one hand, only limited Covid-19 restrictions have been imposed in the country.

The approach has, for that matter, enabled the fans, especially devotees of the 'beautiful game' (soccer), to continue savouring some of the greatest sporting moments in the country.

Sports' sponsors such as Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) are, on the other hand, resiliently establishing themselves as consistent soccer sponsors, despite the ravages of the scourge across the global business sector.

It is a heartening sacrifice for the beer-maker at a time most of the brands across East Africa, Africa and indeed the entire world, are either terminating or completely withdrawing sponsorships as the pandemic continues to eat into their business prospects.

Tanzania's senior national men's soccer team, Taifa Stars, have



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars', take part in training in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for recent African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

been, for example, the beneficiary of SBL sponsorship, through the Serengeti Premium Lager brand.

The squad is enjoying the trappings of full sponsorship that has made the team and, indeed, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) financially stable.

The sponsorship has also, within the last three years, catapulted the senior national team to top-flight continental soccer.

The team qualified for and participated in the prestigious African Cup of Nations (AFON) finals held in Egypt last year, after a 39-year hiatus.

On May 12, 2017, the SBL inked a sponsorship deal worth 2.1bn/- with TFF, spanning three years, effectively making the brewers the Taifa Stars' official sponsors.

John Wanyancha, SBL's Corporate Relations Director, said of the sponsorship: "We took this important step knowing very well the important role that sports play in the nation's socio-economic development."

"We believe that by supporting Taifa Stars, we are contributing to not only the growth of the sports sector but also in reinvigorating local football, a game that Tanzania and the world in general hold so dear."

Wanyancha stated that the sponsorship re-affirmed the brewers' commitment to sup-

port the sports sector in the country.

He noted that sports are not only entertaining and uniting to the fans but are also a source of income to the youths.

Granted, the sponsorship not only provides a livelihood to the players and their families but also provides the team with the much needed running costs.

The backing, moreover, provides the side's players with the relevant local, regional and international exposure, hence giving them an opportunity for exploring greener pastures in their career.

Moreover, in a country where fandom (passion for sports), especially soccer, borders on 'soccer mania', Serengeti Premium Lager sponsorship has triggered a new-found excitement among fans.

The sponsorship has ensured seamless fixtures for the senior national team that had hitherto been reeling from inadequate resources to enable it honour regional and international tournaments.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, stated that had it not been for Serengeti Premium Lager sponsorship, Taifa Stars would not have achieved the enviable feats it has so far.

He disclosed that it would have been an arduous task due to the financial handicaps the

federation was contending with before the sponsorship.

Karia noted: "Before the Serengeti Premium Lager sponsorship, we had serious financial strains that stalled most of our strategic plans."

"With the sponsorship, our team and management have, though, had less strain and, as a result, the players and the technical bench are able to concentrate on their assignments, enabling us to achieve exemplary performance in most of our fixtures."

Notably, besides giving SBL a stamp of respectability as a responsible corporate citizen, the beer-maker, through the sponsorship, elevates the mood and the spirit of the nation through providing fun, enjoyment and excitement.

The SBL's financial support has, further, helped to forge good relationships, family cohesiveness, peak experience, loyalty and the thrill of the moment, given soccer exemplifies many of the qualities that a brand akin to SBL wants to be associated with.

Sponsorships, on the whole, allow companies to engage with their customers in an inclusive, rather than intrusive way, being at the heart of action right where the passion and the attention of the fan is.

## Domestic athletics event to commence soon

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

ACCORDING to media reports, the prestigious National Athletics Championships are set to commence mid-next month in Dar es Salaam.

Hopes are soaring that the pre-eminent national athletics spectacle will provide thrills and spills aplenty, probably because the last time the premier event was staged was way back in 2015.

As the countdown clock to D-Day continues to wind down, some major challenges have displeasingly cropped up.

One such challenge is the worrying fact that the sport's governing body, Athletics Tanzania (AT), has already expressed trepidation over the fact that not enough regions have completed their registration to compete in the hugely anticipated tournament.

That being said, though, fans of athletics on the domestic sports patch are champing at the bit for the gigantic competition to finally commence after a five-year hiatus.

And, since during recent years, we have witnessed jubilantly the rise of Alphonse Simbu and company to stardom, hope springs eternal then, that this year's championships will unveil a few gold nuggets in the rough



Domestic athletes battle it out in a 400m race of a recent competition, organized by Athletics Tanzania (AT), at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

across a variety of athletics disciplines.

From domestic athletics, let us now cast our gaze further afield. With the global realm of football still reverberating with the fallout from Lionel Messi's recent bombshell announcement that he would like to leave Barcelona, many people who are positively ga-ga about sports and pundits alike have been pondering on what Messi's departure from the cathedral-like Nou Camp stadium means for the Catalans, La Liga and the pint-sized Argentinean attacking marvel's career prospects himself.

Indeed, this writer has been no exception as well. One fruit born from my musings on this matter, which is the major talking point in the 'people's game' at the moment concerns the topic of legacy which football greats leave behind in their wake.

Clearly, it is patently obvious that Messi's place in the pantheon of Barcelona all-time legends is assured.

It was at Barcelona where the little man (no pun intended) near-singlehandedly shepherded the club to taste the heady glory of winning the coveted UEFA Champions League trophy a record four times.

It was with the Catalans that Messi carted home a mind-boggling six FIFA Ballon d'Or gongs, which are awarded annually to the world's most supreme football player.

So, indisputably, Messi's legacy at Barcelona is cast-iron in nature. That, however, set me off on another trail of thought, which was: do African players, most especially Tanzanian players ever consider the legacy which they would like to leave behind as they go about training and prepping for new matches as well as new league campaigns?

I am positive that many of them do. Nevertheless, to those who do not, this writer would like to encourage them to try and frequently reflect upon how they would like people to remember them in this simple and utterly entrancing sport of football.

If they are brimming with talent, would they

like to add more shine to their reputations as being regarded as not only hard-working but disciplined as well as Messi's famous arch-foe Cristiano Ronaldo?

And, even if they are not regarded as prodigious talent, would they not still like to be remembered as a kind and encouraging teammate, who was still utterly dedicated to improving his craft of football?

Admittedly, in this age of rising fear brought on by COVID-19 and other challenges, it can be easy to lose sight of our long-term goals.

But, that is still no excuse because like a sage once said: "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail".



## Messi more popular than coronavirus

LONDON

COVID-19 has been the bane of 2020, a historic event that has changed the world forever. But for a brief five hours or so last Tuesday, the hullabaloo surrounding Messi's request to leave Barcelona superseded "coronavirus" in terms of world interest ... at least on Google Trends.

Searches for "Messi" hovered globally at interest level five -- according to Google Trend's "interest" algorithm -- at 12:24 p.m. E.T., but after the shock news that he could be moving on, searches for "Messi" rocketed to 100 within just two hours and eight minutes. In that same afternoon period, "coronavirus" went from a steady 59 ranking worldwide down to 54.

All of Latin America, aside from Guyana and the Dominican Republic, the vast majority of Africa and even China searched more for "Messi" than "coronavirus" on Aug. 25. Europe was, perhaps surprisingly, split. Spain and Portugal leaned towards "Messi," along with Poland and Scandinavia, but Italy, France, Germany and the UK Google users all searched more for "coronavirus." In the United States, there were over 500,000 searches for "Messi," although COVID-19 beat the 33-year-old 70-30, while California was the state closest to edging Messi past coronavirus, with a 37-63 split.

Interestingly, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Burkino Faso were the countries most weighted towards Messi, while the related terms to searches for "Messi" brought up some new vocabulary to many of us: "burofax," "burofax Messi" and "Messi fax." -- Tom Marshall

Meanwhile, Gerard Pique, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba will all get a second chance at Barcelona despite the overhaul planned this summer, sources have told ESPN.

President Josep Maria Bartomeu didn't name any of them among the players that are not for sale in an interview with the club's television channel earlier this month, sparking rumours they were all expendable.

However, sources say new Barca coach Koeman has communicated to all three that they will have a role to play under him next season. The Dutch coach wants to maintain a core of La Masia players, although they may have to work hard to keep their places in the team.

Busquets, 32, has already responded by returning to training early. Barca were due back in for preseason on Monday but the midfielder has been back at the training ground since Wednesday to get a head start on his teammates.

A number of other Barca players will not be handed a reprieve. Reports this week suggest Koeman told Suarez, Ivan Rakitic, Arturo Vidal and Samuel Umtiti they can all find new clubs. -- Sam Marsden and Moises Llorens

On the other hand, Arturo Vidal has hit out at Barcelona, criticising

the club's management on and off the pitch, and hinted that he would be open to a return to Serie A amid links with Inter Milan.

The Chile midfielder, 33, is one of the players Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu and new coach Ronald Koeman are willing to let go this summer.

Vidal featured in Barcelona's 8-2 Champions League quarterfinal thrashing at the hands of Bayern Munich, and hinted at the reasons for that defeat in an interview with Daniel Habib on YouTube.

"Barcelona have to change their way of thinking," he said. "Football has evolved a lot, the DNA is being left behind, other teams are improving in other ways. Football is now more physical, it's about more strength and speed, and technique sometimes becomes less important.

"In the end you pay the price when you face an organised team, a team that has a winning mentality, with players who prepare themselves physically, and who have a strong playing system. That ends up costing you when you're weak mentally and in terms of energy. That's what happened."

Vidal also criticised Barca's recent squad planning and transfer strategy, after sporting director Eric Abidal resigned earlier this month to be replaced by Ramon Planes.

"Barcelona have to change a lot of things. A team that I think is the best in the world can't have 13 professional players and the rest be youngsters," he said, referring to their threadbare squad towards the end of last season. "Every team has 23 players to fight for a place, to grow and get better every day. When they don't advance, when you think that with your DNA you can always win, you're very mistaken."

Vidal joined Barcelona from Bayern in 2018 and before that spent four seasons at Juventus, winning four Serie A titles.

He has been heavily linked with a reunion with his coach there, Antonio Conte, now at Inter -- and suggested he would also be willing to link up with former teammate Andrea Pirlo, now in charge of Juve.

"He was incredible as a player. Imagine him as a coach," he said. "If he or Juventus call me, I'd be happy, but you have to stay calm. If it happens, it happens. I've got a lot of affection for Juventus and Andrea."

Meanwhile, Ivan Rakitic will leave Barcelona to return to his former club Sevilla, sources have told ESPN.

The midfielder -- who signed for Barca from Sevilla in 2014 -- has a year left on his contract at Camp Nou, but he does not form part of the plans new coach Ronald Koeman's has for next season.

Sources have told ESPN that Rakitic's agents have now agreed the terms of his departure with Barca, and he will join Sevilla for a nominal fee.

(Agencies)

## Italian clubs covet Messi but seek cheaper options

MILAN

WHILE some Serie A clubs are eyeing Lionel Messi longingly, their mantra as they prepare for the transfer window is "financial prudence".

The notion of Messi resuming his rivalry with Cristiano Ronaldo is appealing. And Italy offers possible tax advantages for Messi, who has had issues in that area in Spain.

The Italian media has fuelled the dreams of Serie A fans by reporting this summer that his father Jorge Messi had bought an apartment in Milan.

In recent seasons, even the top Serie A clubs have generally avoided competing in the transfer market with the wealthiest clubs in Spain, England and France and the coronavirus crisis has many clubs insisting they will be even more careful.

Italian clubs value experience and, at 35, Ronaldo, one of the few stars to arrive from abroad for a big fee in recent seasons, will

remain the headliner at Juventus.

But the club have recognised that before they set off in pursuit of a 10th consecutive title they need to rejuvenate an ageing squad.

They have brought in 41-year-old Andrea Pirlo for his first head coaching job and acquired 24-year-old Brazilian Arthur from Barcelona in a deal which saw 30-year-old Miralem Pjanic go the other way, covering nearly all of the theoretical 72-million-euro (\$86-million) fee.

Juventus are taking 22-year-old American Weston McKennie from Schalke on loan and allowing 33-year-old Frenchman Blaise Matuidi to leave for David Beckham's Inter Miami.

They are reportedly trying to usher out 33-year-old Sami Khedira and 32-year-old Gonzalo Higuain.

Higuain, whom Juve snatched from Napoli in 2016 for 90 million euros, reportedly wants a payoff to cover the final year of his contract before leaving.

AFP

# Messi, Barcelona love story has turned sour. Can they fix this without going to court?

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

THE problem with analyzing the future of Lionel Messi is that, after 20 years, his relationship with Barcelona lies somewhere between the professional and the romantic. You can use reason and logic on the first part to come up with plausible scenarios.

You can't account for the second, partly because it's intensely personal (and this is perhaps the most private superstar in recent sports history) and partly because it's irrational and mutable, in the way emotional relationships so often are.

So let's do the comparatively easier rational part first, shall we?

Messi signed a contract that expires on June 30, 2021. The final season of that contract, in 2020-21, was meant to be an "option year" -- he could choose to break off his deal and become a free agent simply by informing the club by June 10, 2020. That's when everybody assumed the 2019-20 campaign would be over ... except, of course, we had the COVID-19 pandemic and 2019-20 stretched all the way into August. Thus, Messi's camp argues, so should his right to exercise his option to leave as a free agent.

(Note here that -- and this is the downside to not having transparency -- Spanish radio station Onda Cero claims that any such deadline is nonsense anyway and that, having seen Messi's contract, it simply states "at the end of the 2019-20 season." As ever, in the cacophony of leaks and rumours surrounding the club, it's hard to know what's accurate.)

In any case, as you'd expect, Barcelona feel differently, which is why -- unless some agreement is reached -- this is heading to the courts in Spain.

Once it became clear that the sea-



Lionel Messi

son would spill over past June 30 (the date when most player contracts expire), FIFA issued a legal opinion saying that it would be sensible to extend contracts through to the end of the season since that was the original intent and nobody could have predicted the pandemic. The problem is this is just a legal opinion and is subordinate to national employment law, as FIFA themselves recognized. So, basically, they have no jurisdiction.

La Liga, via their ebullient president, Javier Tebas, issued their own view and sided with Barcelona, which is precisely what you'd expect. They're running a business and, having lost Neymar and Cristiano Ronaldo in recent seasons, this is the last thing they need. Of course, they have no jurisdiction either, other than the ability to refuse to issue a domestic trans-

fer license, which is moot because if he leaves, he's going abroad.

If it does come down to lawyers, it will be settled in the Big Boys' court and, in a brilliant move that shows they mean business, Messi's team hired a law firm that previously looked after a fair chunk of Barcelona's affairs. Logic suggests, though, that a protracted legal battle hurts both sides.

Messi is 33 and isn't getting any younger. Every day he doesn't play and train is a day he's not getting back. And every day that passes makes him less valuable, whether to Barcelona or to a prospective new club.

In Barca's case, it's even worse. Taking your star player to court for breach of contract (which is what, in their view, he's doing by not showing up for training) in an effort to get him to stick around for another season before you lose him

as a free agent anyway next June is not a good look. And it only gets worse when you consider there will be presidential elections coming up in March.

Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu has reached his term limits (and in any case has offered to step aside if it helps keep Messi at the Camp Nou), but whoever replaces him risks inheriting an even worse dumpster fire.

So to avoid mutual self-harm, the rational thing to do is reach a resolution without waiting for the courts to rule one way or another. But here, you get to what Messi really wants. People far more knowledgeable than me insist his mind is made up and he wants to leave. If that's the case, it's simply a question of money, as in how much can Barcelona demand in compensation and how much would Messi demand from his new club.

His current deal, once you factor in image rights and ancillary income, nets him well in excess of €100 million a year. For context, that's roughly one-fourth of the total wage bill at Manchester City (to mention one of the clubs with which he has been linked).

Can you make a business case that he'll generate more than that, even factoring in "fuzzy" metrics such as brand value? Maybe, but if you then have to pay a transfer fee on top of it, it becomes difficult. And that, incidentally, is

why some scenarios had Messi moving partly in exchange for players, such as Angelino, Bernardo Silva, Riyad Mahrez and/or Eric Garcia. It's still a post-COVID-19 economy, and, despite temporary relaxation, financial fair play is still around.

This would be a whole heck of a lot easier if Messi took a pay cut or made his deal more bonus-heavy. And, I guess, it's an option even though it would send what feels like an unconscionable message: he was so desperate to leave the Camp Nou that he took less money to play elsewhere.

The upshot? Messi, who has only ever worn two jerseys -- Barcelona and Argentina -- would get a fresh start at a new club in a new country, an experience he might otherwise be denied. Barca would suddenly have financial breathing space and, perhaps, a batch of young players. With new elections, they could hit the reset button and start over. Let's we forget, this club was around a long time before Messi arrived and will continue to exist long after he's gone.

Then there's the other rational (some might say cynical) reading: this is a gigantic power play. Messi is disgusted and annoyed by the shambolic way the club have been run and feels disrespected and taken for granted (his rare public statements make this pretty clear), and what he really wants is change.

## Liverpool and Thiago seem like a perfect match. Why isn't a deal happening?

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

IT is the transfer story that won't go away, but of all the summer sagas, Thiago Alcantara from Bayern Munich to Liverpool is the one that is least likely to happen ... for now.

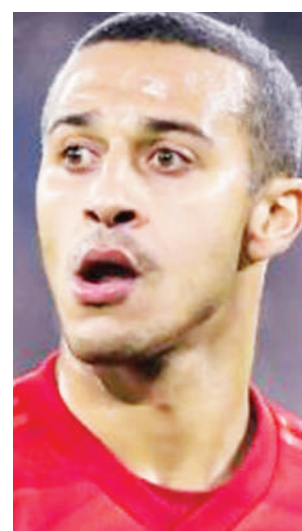
Within that league table of "will they / won't they?" deals, you can include Lionel Messi from Barcelona to Manchester City and the ongoing interest from Manchester United in Borussia Dortmund winger Jadon Sancho, yet both have a better chance of getting over the line than Thiago signing on the dotted line at Anfield before the Premier League's transfer deadline of Oct. 5.

All three potential transfers have sizeable obstacles to clear before they can be concluded, but while Thiago to Liverpool should be the most straightforward of them all, it is proving to be the one that is toughest to crack.

First of all, don't make the mistake of believing that Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has no interest in adding Thiago to his title-winning squad. In normal circumstances, without clubs being hit hard by the financial impact of COVID-19, a £27m deal for a world-class, attacking midfielder, with the pedigree of playing for Bayern, Barcelona and Spain, would be a straightforward transfer. It doesn't matter that, at 29, Thiago does not quite fit the profile of a Liverpool signing under Klopp.

Klopp wants to freshen up a squad that has added just two senior players -- £7.25m forward Takumi Minamino and £11.75m left-back Kostas Tsimikas -- since winning the Champions League in June 2019. The old adage of strengthening while at the top has largely been ignored at Anfield since Liverpool started off on their year-long trophy hunt by beating Tottenham in Madrid to win their sixth European Cup, and Saturday's penalty shootout defeat against Arsenal in the Community Shield at Wembley exposed the need for new blood within Klopp's squad.

The German knows he needs fresh faces to spice up competition for places and ensure that his players can see that the club is determined



Thiago Alcantara

to build on recent success. But it is also a reality at Anfield that no major signings will arrive this summer until, or unless, a senior player leaves and therefore brings money in through a transfer fee or frees up space on the wage bill.

The financial constraints created by the pandemic saw Liverpool miss out on Timo Werner, who ultimately left RB Leipzig for Chelsea after Klopp admitted that the money was not there for the champions to complete

a £47.7m deal for the Germany striker.

Liverpool are losing approximately £3m every time Anfield hosts a game behind closed doors and they, like every other Premier League club, must pay a rebate of around £20m to the league's broadcasters due to the disruption caused by COVID-19. Before a ball has even been kicked in the 2020-21 season, Liverpool are already over £30m down in terms of money they had expected to earn. That figure will climb with every Anfield fixture that is played without paying spectators, which is why a deal for Thiago remains firmly on hold, despite the need for a player of his creative talents in Klopp's squad.

There is a key that can unlock the door, but it is in the hands of Georginio Wijnaldum, the Dutch midfielder who has been a pivotal figure in Liverpool's glittering years. Wijnaldum played a central role in winning all of the Champions League, UEFA Super Cup, FIFA Club World Cup and Premier League trophies.

But the 29-year-old is out of contract in June 2021 and no progress has been made on negotiating a new one. Sources have told ESPN that both club and player have a significant difference in their opinion on the terms of any new deal, but there's no suggestion of a fallout and Klopp wants Wijnaldum to stay at the club and risk losing him on a free transfer next summer if he must.

Barcelona are keen to sign the Dutchman, with new coach Ronald Koeman developing a huge admiration for his consistency and versatility during his time as Netherlands coach, but the player is in no rush to leave Anfield.

If Wijnaldum stays, Liverpool cannot, and will not, push forward in any attempt to sign Thiago, who is also out of contract next summer and has refused to sign a new one with the Champions League winners. If Wijnaldum leaves, sources have told ESPN that Liverpool would then be likely to make a move for Thiago -- if speculation linking him

with Manchester United does not result in a move to Old Trafford prior to that.

United's attention towards Thiago is understood to be nothing more than that of interested bystanders, with manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer having priorities elsewhere, while there may be an element that their involvement is being overplayed by those aiming to nudge Liverpool into action. But as it stands now, with the new season less than two weeks away, it will need a first-team player to leave Liverpool before the club looks to sign Thiago. Wijnaldum is not pushing to leave and Liverpool are happy for him to stay, so it's difficult to see a breakthrough.

Results on the pitch are the one element that could change everything, however. If Liverpool make an unconvincing start to the defence of their title, a new signing may become a necessity. Of course by then, Messi may be tearing it up in a blue shirt at the Etihad and Sancho could be settling in at Old Trafford.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# Soccer clubs quite active as transfer period ends

## SPORT

**Messi, Barcelona love story has turned sour. Can they fix this without going to court?**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Evergreen FC players take part in warm up shortly before facing Ilala Queens in a Mainland Women First Division League match, played in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

from Kagera Sugar and Ismail Aziz from Tanzania Prisons.

Yanga Chairman, Mshindo Msolla, disclosed last weekend his club has this season signed players who will bring glory to the club as their aim is to win all local tournaments.

"Our aim is to reclaim our lost glory on the domestic and international football scene, we have signed players that we believe they will do the much needed job, I can assure all our supporters and fans that we have a team which is capable of winning any tournament locally and do well on the international scene," he said.

Yanga, who finished second in the concluded Premier League with 72 points, released 14 players and have signed several foreign professionals and domestic players.

The foreign professionals roped in by Yanga include Carlos Carlinhos from Inter Club of Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita Club players, Mukoko Tonombe and Tuisila Kisinda, Burkinabe Yacouba Songne from Ghana soccer giants, Medeama, and Ghananian Michael Sarpong who was playing for Rayon Sport of Rwanda.

Tanzanian players, who have signed for Yanga, are Kibwana Shomari from Mtibwa Sugar, Yasin Mustafa from Polisi Tanzania, Bakari Mwamnyeto from Coastal Union, Abdallah Shaibu, who was playing at MFK of Serbia, Zawadi Mauya from Kagera Sugar, Farid Mussa from CD Tennerife of Spain and Waziri Junior from Mbao FC.

Premier League champions Simba SC have signed foreign professionals, Chris Mugalu and Larry Bwalya both from Zambia, Joash Onyango from Gor Mahia of Kenya, and domestic players Charles Ilanfy, who was with KMC FC, David Kameta from Lipuli FC and Mohammed Ame from Coastal Union.

Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck, said his side signed good players but he predicted a tough season as all teams in the Premier League have bolstered their squads.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE 2020/21 season main transfer window in Tanzania closed on Monday, with nearly all Mainland Premier League, First Division League (FDL), Second Division League (SDL) and women football teams being active on the market.

This season's main transfer window opened on August 1 and came to an end on Monday.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) have yet to issue the number of transfers completed by the time the window closed.

The two bodies also failed to disclose the amount of money which was involved during the window.

Available reports, however, indicate that there was sanity during registration, apart from few cases during the period that saw last season's Premier League top four teams being active on the market by bolstering their squads with new faces.

The coming season kicks off on Sunday and there is no available official information on the highest recorded transfer fee and the lowest.

However, a source at TFF said one of the three top clubs, namely Simba, Yanga and Azam FC, signed a foreign player at 230m/-.

He avoided being drawn to disclose the club which coughed the highest fee, saying a confidential clause was attached.

In recent years, the buying of homegrown players has not exceeded 120m/- for each of the players, while the lowest price for the players is 1m/-.

The just ended transfer window saw no big transfers involving local players.

The notable ones, which saw prominent local players change teams, include defender Bakari Mwangeto leaving Coastal Union for Yanga, striker Waziri Junior roped in by Yanga from Mbao FC.

In other signings, midfielder Awesu Ally left Kagera Sugar for Azam FC, defender Mohammed Ame left Coastal Union for Simba SC, Namungo FC striker Reliants Lusajo headed to KMC FC.

The only challenge during the just closed player transfer window came in the form of Ghana-

ian winger, Bernard Morrison, who last season played for Yanga for six months, and has now joined Simba SC.

Yanga announced to have signed the player for a period of two years, the Ghanaian though disputed this saying he did not sign a new contract with the Jangwani Street based side.

He reported the matter to TFF who, through the federation's Legal, Ethics and Players Status Committee, found that the contract that Morrison signed with Yanga has many shortfalls.

The committee, hence forth, declared the player a free agent. He signed a two-year contract with Simba.

Yanga were not satisfied with the TFF ruling and have since taken the matter to world soccer governing body, FIFA.

Namungo FC who will represent the country in CAF Confederation Cup and finished fourth in the last season's Premier League with 60 points, have bolstered their squad by signing Ghanaian Steven Sey from Singida United, Haruna Mshamte on loan from Simba SC and Frank Magingo from Mwadui FC.

The Lindi-based outfit has moreover roped in defender Am-

ani Kyata from Kariobaghi Sharks of Kenya, midfielder Fred Tangalu from Lipuli FC and fullback Jaffary Mohamed from Yanga.

Others players signed by Namungo FC are midfielder Abdulhalim Humud from Mtibwa Sugar, striker Sixtus Sabilo from Polisi Tanzania, winger Shiza Kichuya from Simba and winger Iddi Kipagwile on loan from Azam FC.

Namungo FC head coach, Thierry Hitimana, said he has assembled a squad which is capable of competing in both domestic and international competitions.

"I'm sure the players which we have added in our squad will be of great help to the club in both local and international events," he said.

Azam FC, who finished third with 70 points, have added new players in their squad including foreign professionals, Prince Dube from Highlanders of Zimbabwe, midfielder Ally Niyonzima from Rayon Sport of Rwanda and Alain Thierry from Cameroon.

The club has further signed Tanzanians Ayoub Lyanga from Coastal Union, David Kissu from Gor Mahia of Kenya, Awesu Ally

**5 EATV WEDNESDAY**  
11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
13:30 Kaili Za Wana  
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funkuka  
15:30 Nirvana (r)  
16:00 Skongga (r)  
16:30 #HASTAG  
17:00 55LEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

**TONIGHT @ 7:00**  
EATV SAA 1  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**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**

## Yanga need more friendly matches, says head coach

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

YANGA'S head coach, Zlatko Krmpotic, yesterday met the side's players, who will turn out for the club in the coming season.

The club's last foreign professional signing, Burkina Fasso's Yacouba Songne, went for training with his team mates the same day.

Songne, a fearsome goal getter, has been recruited from Ghana soccer big guns, Medeama.

The dreadlocked forward headed to his new outfit's training venue at Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) in Dar es Salaam after he had jetted into the city on Sunday and was welcomed by plenty of the side's fans that had thronged the Julius Nyerere International Airport.

Krmpotic stated his club is proceeding with the training sessions after he had secured all of the players.

He expressed his dismay over failure by his outfit to get more friendly games because of limited time.

"It would have been better for us had we got more friendly matches but we have a short time prior to the Premier League kick off, we are proceeding with preparations and I believe things will go as planned," Krmpotic disclosed.

The tactician stated more friendlies could have given him a clear picture of his side's competence, had the squad got at least two to three weeks of preparations. He disclosed they for that matter have to go for preparations without playing friendly clashes.

"I have a program which I have prepared in training, we will this time use it, all we are focusing on now is seeking good coordination," he said.

Yanga's manager, Hafidh Saleh, disclosed that Krmpotic had zeroed in on an international friendly match, pitting Yanga against Burundi's Aigle Noir, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, but time is limited.

Yanga will, in their first game of the coming Mainland Premier League, entertain Mbeya's Tanzania Prisons in Dar es Salaam on September 7.

## Ndanda FC ropes in Ngassa, Mtibwa Sugar sign Kessy

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

THE 2020/21 season's main transfer period in Tanzania came to an end at 5:59pm yesterday, with Mtwara's Ndanda FC and Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar doing crucial last minute signings.

Ndanda FC, recently relegated to First Division League (FDL), roped in winger Mrisho Ngassa that had been released by Yanga.

Fullback, Hassan Kessy, who had been turning out for Zambia's Nkana FC, has made his way back to Mtibwa Sugar, an outfit he had played for in the past.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, stated sides which successfully made signings are the ones which did so on time.

"The main transfer period

has ended, those who were roped in by sides are players who sealed their moves on time, I believe teams have completed all of players' registration procedures," he stated.

"If there is something which has cropped up after the culmination of the transfer period, procedures will followed, all I'm saying is the transfer window has been closed."

Ndanda FC confirmed Ngassa's signing. The winger had featured for the side in the top flight several years before.

"We have completed Ngassa's registration, we need competent, experienced players in our participation in the FDL, given they will help us make our way back to the Mainland Premier League," Ndanda FC information officer, Idriss Bandari, noted.

He mentioned players that have also been roped in by the

Mtwara side as fullbacks Paul Ngalema and William Lucian 'Gallas'.

Mtibwa Sugar have, in the transfer window's last minute, roped in experienced fullback, Hassan Kessy, from Nkana FC.

The Manungu-based club's official social media account said the outfit has managed to land the player that had also featured for Simba and Yanga, prior to joining Zambia premier league outfit Nkana FC.

Mtibwa Sugar have further recruited Zanzibar Premier League top scorer, Ibrahim Hamad Hilika, from the Isles club Zimamoto.

The goal getter, who is an offspring of former famous midfielder for Malindi and Zanzibar national team, Zanzibar Heroes, Hamad Hilika, has inked a two-year contract with Mtibwa Sugar.



Mrisho Ngassa



Yanga head coach, Zlatko Krmpotic (R), and the club's Chairman, Mshindo Msolla, watch the side's international friendly game against Burundi's Aigle Noir, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Yanga won 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

